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The role of motivation in improving english speaking skills among university students

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Abstract. This thesis explores the role of motivation in improving English speaking skills among university students. Speaking is often considered the most challenging skill for English language learners due to anxiety, lack of confidence, and limited practice opportunities. Motivation plays a crucial role in overcoming these challenges. This study analyzes how intrinsic and extrinsic motivation influence students' willingness to speak English, their confidence level, and overall speaking performance. The research highlights effective strategies to enhance motivation and promote active speaking practice in academic settings.

Introduction. English speaking ability is an essential component of language proficiency, particularly for university students who aim to succeed academically and professionally. However, many learners struggle with speaking due to psychological barriers such as fear of making mistakes and low self-confidence.

Motivation is a key factor that determines learners' engagement and persistence in language learning. Motivated students are more likely to practice speaking, participate in discussions, and seek opportunities to use English outside the classroom. This thesis investigates the importance of motivation in developing English speaking skills among university students.

Types of Motivation in Language Learning

Motivation in language learning can be divided into intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation refers to learners' internal desire to learn a language for personal satisfaction, interest, or enjoyment. Students with intrinsic motivation often show higher levels of engagement and confidence in speaking activities.

Extrinsic motivation, on the other hand, involves external factors such as grades, exams, career goals, or social recognition. While extrinsic motivation can encourage students to practice speaking, intrinsic motivation tends to produce more sustainable learning outcomes.

Impact of Motivation on Speaking Skills

Motivation directly affects learners' willingness to communicate in English. Highly motivated students are more willing to take risks, make mistakes, and learn from them. This willingness leads to improved pronunciation, fluency, and accuracy over time.

Moreover, motivation reduces speaking anxiety. When learners feel motivated and supported, they are less afraid of negative evaluation and more confident in expressing their ideas in English.





Strategies to Increase Motivation in Speaking Classes

Teachers play a significant role in motivating students. Using interactive activities such as debates, role-plays, and group discussions can create a supportive speaking environment. Providing positive feedback and focusing on communication rather than perfection also increases learners' motivation. Incorporating real-life topics and students' interests into speaking tasks further enhances motivation and engagement.

Conclusion. Motivation is a fundamental factor in improving English speaking skills among university students. Both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation influence learners' confidence, participation, and speaking performance. By creating a motivating learning environment and encouraging meaningful communication, educators can significantly enhance students' speaking abilities.

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