

COMMUNICATIVE APPROACH TO TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Annotation: In this article, some problems in learning and teaching foreign languages, solutions, some communicative methods in teaching these languages, the results of these methods and their role in the educational system are discussed.

Keywords: Authentic communication, Meaningful interaction, Language functions, Contextualized learning, Fluency and accuracy, Task-based learning, Language skills integration, Interpersonal skills, Cultural awareness, Collaborative learning, Task authenticity, Error correction.

Аннотация: В данной статье обсуждаются некоторые проблемы изучения и преподавания иностранных языков, пути их решения, некоторые коммуникативные методы обучения этим языкам, результаты применения этих методов и их роль в системе образования.

Ключевые слова: Аутентичное общение, Значимое взаимодействие, Языковые функции, Контекстуализированное обучение, Беглость и точность, Обучение на основе задач, Интеграция языковых навыков, Межличностные навыки, Культурная осведомленность, Совместное обучение, Аутентичность задач, Исправление ошибок.

Introduction. in January 2022, learning and teaching foreign languages on a global scale varied widely depending on factors such as educational systems, cultural attitudes towards language learning, economic development, and technological advancements. Here are some general trends:

1. *Growing Importance:* With globalization, the importance of learning foreign languages has increased. Many individuals recognize the benefits of being bilingual or multilingual in terms of job opportunities, cultural understanding, and personal growth.

2. *Technological Advancements:* Technology has revolutionized language learning, making resources more accessible and interactive. Online platforms, mobile apps, and language learning software offer a wide range of materials and activities for learners of all levels.

3. *Increased Accessibility:* The internet has made it easier for people to access language learning resources, connect with native speakers for language exchange, and participate in online courses and tutoring sessions regardless of their geographical location.

4. *Diverse Approaches:* Language teaching methods have evolved, with a shift towards communicative approaches that focus on real-life language use and interaction rather than rote memorization of grammar rules and vocabulary.

5. *Emphasis on Immersion:* Immersion programs, where learners are surrounded by the target language in authentic contexts, are becoming more popular as they provide intensive exposure and practice.

6. *Global English Dominance:* English remains the most widely taught and learned foreign language globally, largely due to its status as the lingua franca of business, science, and technology. However, there is also increasing interest in learning other languages such as Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, French, and Arabic.

7. *Cultural and Linguistic Diversity:* Efforts to preserve and promote minority and indigenous languages are gaining attention, both within educational systems and through grassroots initiatives. This reflects a growing recognition of the value of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

8. *Educational Policies:* Government policies play a significant role in shaping language education. Some countries have implemented bilingual education programs or introduced foreign language learning at an early age, while others may face challenges due to limited resources or political factors.[1] Overall, while there are still disparities in

access to quality language education and variations in approaches across different regions, there is a general trend towards greater awareness of the importance of language learning and more diverse opportunities for individuals to engage with foreign languages.

Methods. Communicative approaches in teaching foreign languages prioritize the development of communicative competence, which involves the ability to use language effectively in real-life situations to achieve communicative goals. These approaches focus on meaningful interaction, authentic language use, and the development of all language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) within a communicative context. Here are key features of communicative approaches:

Authentic Communication: Emphasis is placed on using language for genuine communication rather than simply learning grammar rules and vocabulary in isolation. Learners are encouraged to engage in activities that mirror real-life situations, such as role-plays, discussions, problem-solving tasks, and information-gap activities.

Functional Language Use: Language is taught and learned in terms of its functions and purposes. Instead of focusing solely on grammatical structures, learners are exposed to language functions such as making requests, expressing opinions, giving directions, and negotiating meaning.

Interactive Learning: Communicative approaches promote interaction among learners and between learners and teachers. Pair and group work are common strategies used to provide opportunities for meaningful communication, collaboration, and negotiation of meaning.

Contextualized Learning: Language is presented and practiced in meaningful contexts that reflect the learners' interests, needs, and experiences. This helps learners understand how language is used in different social, cultural, and situational contexts.

Focus on Fluency and Accuracy: While communicative approaches prioritize fluency and the ability to communicate meaningfully, they also address accuracy. However, accuracy is seen as a result of meaningful practice and communication rather than an end in itself. Errors are viewed as a natural part of the learning process and are corrected in a supportive and constructive manner.

Task-Based Learning: Task-based learning is often used as a central component of communicative approaches. Tasks are activities that require learners to use language to achieve a specific goal or complete a meaningful task. Examples include planning a trip, solving a problem, or creating a presentation.

Integration of Language Skills: Language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are integrated rather than taught in isolation. Learners are encouraged to use all four skills together in authentic communication tasks, reflecting the interconnected nature of language use in real-life contexts.

Cultural Awareness: Communicative approaches often include a focus on cultural aspects of language use, helping learners develop intercultural competence and sensitivity to cultural differences in communication styles, norms, and expectations.[2]

Overall, communicative approaches in teaching foreign languages aim to empower learners to use language effectively for communication purposes, promote active engagement and interaction, and foster a deeper understanding of language and culture.

Results. The communicative approach in teaching foreign languages has been widely studied and has shown several positive outcomes for learners. Here are some key results of employing the communicative approach:

Increased Communication Skills: Learners who are taught using communicative approaches typically demonstrate improved proficiency in speaking and listening skills. They become more confident and proficient in using the language to communicate effectively in real-life situations

Authentic Language Use: Communicative approaches emphasize the use of language in authentic contexts, leading to learners' ability to understand and produce language that is more natural and appropriate for real-life communication.

Enhanced Fluency: By focusing on meaningful communication rather than accuracy alone, communicative approaches help learners develop fluency in the target language. They become more adept at expressing themselves spontaneously and engaging in conversations without hesitation.

Improved Language Retention: Learning through meaningful communication and interaction enhances learners' retention of language forms and structures. When language is learned in context and used purposefully, it tends to be remembered more effectively over time.

Development of Interpersonal Skills: Communicative approaches encourage collaboration, negotiation of meaning, and social interaction among learners. As a result, learners develop not only linguistic skills but also interpersonal skills such as cooperation, empathy, and cultural awareness.

Motivation and Engagement: The emphasis on meaningful communication and task-based activities often leads to higher levels of motivation and engagement among learners. They are more likely to be actively involved in the learning process and to see the relevance of language learning to their lives.

Cultural Awareness and Understanding: Communicative approaches typically incorporate cultural aspects of language use, helping learners develop a deeper understanding of the target culture(s) and promoting intercultural competence.

Transferability to Real-Life Situations: Learners who are taught using communicative approaches are better able to transfer their language skills to real-life situations outside the classroom. They can apply what they have learned to communicate effectively in various contexts, such as travel, work, or social interactions.[3] Overall, the communicative approach has proven to be effective in helping learners develop practical language skills, foster meaningful communication, and prepare them for real-life language use in diverse contexts.

Discussion. The communicative approach to teaching foreign languages is one of the most popular teaching methods today. It focuses on developing study skills through the active use of language in communicative situations. One of the main principles of the communicative approach is the emphasis on teaching real communication situations that may arise in everyday life. Students learn to use language to communicate, not just to memorize grammar rules and vocabulary. One implementation of the communicative approach is a task-game, where students must work in groups or pairs to complete a task

using a foreign language. Such exercises help students develop communication skills and practice language in real-life situations. However, there are also critics of the communicative approach. Some teachers feel that this method focuses too much on communication, ignoring the importance of grammar and vocabulary. Also, some students may find it difficult to apply communication skills in real life, especially if they do not have sufficient basic knowledge of the language. However, the communicative approach remains a popular and effective method of teaching foreign languages, which helps students develop communication skills and apply them in practice.[4]

Conclusion. The communicative approach to teaching foreign languages plays a key role in the school education system, as it focuses on the practical use of language in real communication situations. As a rule, the purpose of studying a foreign language at school is to develop communication skills in this language, and not just to acquire knowledge of its grammar and vocabulary. The communicative approach promotes the development of students' learning skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. It also involves working on authentic texts and situations that allow students to use the language in practice, which increases their motivation and interest in learning a foreign language. In addition, the communicative approach contributes to the development of intercultural competence of students, since it involves studying not only the language, but also the culture of countries where this language is official. This helps students understand and respect differences between cultures and countries, and improves their ability to communicate interculturally. Thus, the communicative approach to teaching foreign languages plays an important role in the school education system, as it contributes to the development of communication skills, intercultural competence and motivation of students to learn a foreign language.

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