

TEACHING ENGLISH IN A REAL CLASSROOM: "MY INTERNSHIP JOURNEY "

Musurmonova Shaxina

A student of Chirchik State Pedagogical University

Scientific advisor: Yusupova Mukhabbat Anatolevna

PhD, associate professor of Chirchik State Pedagogical University

Abstract: This article reflects on my internship experience teaching English in a real classroom setting, providing an in-depth look at the challenges and rewards of practical teaching. During my internship, I had the opportunity to observe and participate in various teaching activities, gaining firsthand experience in lesson planning, classroom management, and student engagement. Through active involvement, I was able to develop a deeper understanding of effective teaching methods and adapt them to meet the diverse needs of students. The experience highlighted the importance of flexibility, patience, and communication in creating a positive learning environment. This reflection aims to offer insights into the complexities of teaching English in schools, emphasizing the significance of practical experience in shaping a future educator's career.

Keywords: English teaching, internship experience, classroom management, language instruction, lesson planning, student engagement, teaching methods, classroom observation.

INTRODUCTION

Teaching English in a real classroom setting presents a unique opportunity for aspiring educators to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. My internship journey provided invaluable insights into the everyday realities of language teaching, from lesson planning and classroom management to engaging diverse learners. This experience not only enhanced my understanding of effective teaching strategies but also highlighted the challenges that come with catering to varied student needs and maintaining an interactive learning environment. In this

article, I will reflect on my internship journey, exploring the key lessons learned, the methods employed, and how this experience has shaped my approach to teaching English. Through this reflection, I aim to shed light on the practical aspects of language education and the crucial role of hands-on experience in preparing future educators.

FINDINGS

Adapting Teaching Methods: One of the key findings from my internship was the importance of adapting teaching methods to suit the diverse learning styles of students. I observed that a combination of interactive activities, group discussions, and visual aids significantly enhanced student engagement and comprehension. This flexibility in teaching approach allowed me to meet the varying needs of students and foster a more inclusive classroom environment.

Classroom Management Challenges: Managing a classroom effectively was a significant challenge during my internship. Maintaining discipline while encouraging active participation required balancing authority with empathy. I learned that clear rules, consistent routines, and positive reinforcement were essential in creating a respectful and productive learning atmosphere.

Student Engagement and Motivation: Engaging students in learning activities was crucial to their language development. I found that when lessons were made relevant to students' interests and experiences, their motivation to participate increased. Incorporating real-life scenarios and practical applications of language use helped students see the value of learning English, which in turn boosted their enthusiasm and commitment.

Developing Teaching Skills: The internship was a pivotal moment in my development as a future educator. Through hands-on teaching, I improved my skills in lesson planning, time management, and adapting content delivery to various proficiency levels. Additionally, receiving feedback from experienced teachers helped me refine my teaching techniques and gain confidence in my abilities.

Importance of Reflective Practice: Regular reflection on my teaching practices was instrumental in identifying areas for improvement. Keeping a teaching journal allowed me to analyze what worked well and what needed adjustment. This reflective practice helped me become more aware of my teaching style and the impact it had on student learning, guiding me toward continuous improvement.

Building Student-Teacher Relationships: Establishing positive relationships with students was crucial for creating a supportive learning environment. I discovered that showing genuine interest in students' progress and providing encouragement fostered trust and a sense of belonging, which were key factors in their willingness to engage and take risks in language learning.

Real-World Application of Language Skills: Encouraging students to apply their language skills in real-world contexts was a significant aspect of my teaching. Role-plays, presentations, and interactive tasks allowed students to practice English in meaningful ways, enhancing their confidence and ability to use the language outside the classroom.

CONCLUSION

My internship journey in teaching English provided a profound understanding of the complexities and rewards of language education. Through practical experience, I learned the significance of adapting teaching methods to meet diverse student needs, the importance of effective classroom management, and the value of fostering student engagement and motivation. The challenges I faced, such as managing a dynamic classroom and maintaining student interest, were instrumental in developing my teaching skills and confidence.

Reflecting on this journey, I realize that building strong student-teacher relationships and encouraging the real-world application of language skills are pivotal in creating a supportive and effective learning environment. This experience has not only enhanced my practical teaching abilities but also reinforced the importance of continuous reflection and improvement in my teaching practice. As I move forward in

my career as an educator, the lessons learned from this internship will serve as a foundation for my growth, guiding me to create enriching and impactful learning experiences for my future students.

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