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***Abstract:** The author analyzes the innovative and modern methodology of assessing speaking ability, as well as, types of tasks and exercises to evaluate the learners' interactive and productive skills.*

***Key words:** method, speaking, productive, interactive, assessment, evaluation, tasks, exercise, dialogue, debate, discussion, public speech*

Assessment of speaking is considered to be a subjective type of assessment aiming to evaluate the student's performance which is complex and qualitative, using questioning which have more than one correct answer or more ways to express it. Types of subjective questions: 1) Short answers 2) Definitions. 3) Scenario questions. 4) Opinion questions

Placement test before starting a speaking course. A placement test should applied before starting any language course in which speaking is a priority. The test must aim to determine how well the learners are doing in this speaking skills. You can use some of these forms of assessment to obtain those results:

- A short and informal chat
- A description of an image

You can use some of these forms of assessment to obtain those results:

- A series of questions about a specific topic.

In assessment of speaking communicative language competence and pragmatic factors are estimated. Assessing pragmatic factors such as:

1) Fluency (express oneself spontaneously in natural flow smoothly and fluently, almost effortlessly). This means speaking easily, reasonably quickly and

without having to stop and pause a lot.

2) Coherence (grammatically and semantic interconnected speech). Coherence means clear (understandable), smoothly flowing (logic), well-structured speech.

3) Lexical resource includes the body of words, vocabulary used in a particular language. The adequacy of repertoire related to the task, topic.

4) Grammatical range includes the degree of grammar accuracy, mistakes, clear and flexible formulation of ideas.

5) Pronunciation includes the act or result of producing the sounds of speech, including articulation, word stress, sentence stress, rhythm and intonation.

6) Interaction (communication). Available range of discourse functions, response, turn-taking, initiating, maintaining conversation, discussion and student's ability to express his ideas.

7) Task achievement. The degree of addressing, expansion and developing the aspects of the given task and being on topic.

What is also involved in assessing speaking skill ? A) Getting a message across. B) Organizing a message for the listener. C) Using a range of language for different purposes. D) Being accurate, so there are no misunderstandings. E) Being fluent, so a listener is not 'waiting. F) Being intelligible (clear, understandable). G) Contributing to keeping the conversation going. Reliable and valid speaking test

Reliable assessment produces stable and consistent results. Reliability obtained by administering the same test twice over a period of time to a group of individuals. The scores can then be correlated in order to evaluate the test for stability over time.

Valid test refers to how well and correct a test measures what it is aimed to measure. Different exam formats to assess speaking skills. Different tasks to assess speaking skills. More key criteria in assessing speaking.

- 1) Being objective
- 2) Giving reliable assessment across different test takers (reliable test)
- 3) Timing (time-management)

More key criteria in assessing speaking. 4) Making a task clear and unambiguous. 5) Transparency (informing learners about learning objectives and assessment criteria appropriate their age and experience (level). 6) An action oriented approach (assessing performance in productive and interactive speaking activities) which reflect what the learners need to do in the language.

Key criteria in assessing speaking. Communicative language activities: Productive speaking activities such as monologue, describing picture. Communicative language activities: Productive speaking activities like storytelling making presentation. Communicative language activities: Productive speaking activities like making public speech, giving personal information;

Spoken interaction. Interactive speaking activities such as dialogue, interview. Interactive speaking activities such as discussion of a topic, comparing concepts, pictures. 3 types of activities to assess speaking skills .1) Responsive speaking. 2) Interactive speaking. 3) Extensive speaking. 1) Responsive speaking

Question and answer: Students respond questions that the test administrator asks. 3 types of activities to assess speaking skills. 2) Interactive speaking. Interview: It is a face-to-face exchange between a test administrator and a test taker or between 2 test-takers. 2) Interactive speaking. Role play is a common pedagogical activities used in communicative English classes. 2) Interactive speaking

Discussions and conversations: These two speaking tasks provide a level of authenticity and spontaneity that other assessment techniques may not provide. 3) Extensive speaking. Oral presentations are the most common task for evaluating extensive speaking, these are evaluated based on content and delivery. 3) Extensive speaking. Picture-cued story telling: Students describe a story based on series of pictures that they previously saw. 3) Extensive speaking. Re-telling a story, news event: Students are asked to tell a story of a new of something they heard or read.

Conclusion. Key criteria in assessing and testing spoken English. Transparency. An action oriented approach. Conducting communicative language activities: Productive and interactive speaking activities. Communicative language

competence like fluency, range, coherence. Lexical and grammar accuracy. Interaction (communication). Pronunciation. Task achievement.

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