DEVELOPING SPEAK`ING SKILLS THROUGH MODERN DIGITAL TOOLS AND INTERACTIVE METHODS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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ANNOTATION

This article investigates the role of modern digital tools and interactive methods in developing speaking skills in foreign language learning. In today's technology-driven educational environment, speaking proficiency is considered one of the most important components of communicative competence. However, learners often face difficulties such as lack of practice opportunities, anxiety, and limited real-life communication exposure. To address these challenges, the integration of digital platforms and interactive teaching strategies has become essential.

The study highlights the use of tools such as Duolingo, Quizlet, and online communication platforms, combined with interactive methods including role-play, debates, discussions, and task-based learning. The findings suggest that these approaches significantly improve students' fluency, confidence, and communicative competence. The article concludes that technology-enhanced and interactive instruction creates a more engaging and effective environment for speaking skill development.

In foreign language learning, speaking is widely considered the most challenging skill due to its spontaneous and interactive nature. Unlike reading or writing, speaking requires real-time processing of language, quick thinking, and confidence in communication. Traditional classroom environments often provide limited opportunities for meaningful speaking practice, which can result in low fluency and high anxiety among learners. Therefore, modern educational approaches increasingly emphasize the integration of digital tools and interactive methods to enhance speaking performance.

The emergence of digital technologies has significantly expanded opportunities for language practice beyond the classroom. Applications such as Duolingo provide structured speaking exercises, pronunciation practice, and interactive dialogues that help learners improve their oral skills. Similarly, Quizlet can be used to reinforce vocabulary, which is essential for fluent speech production. In addition, video conferencing tools and online communication platforms enable real-time interaction with teachers and peers, creating authentic speaking environments.

One of the most effective methods for developing speaking skills is role-play. This technique allows students to simulate real-life situations such as ordering food, giving presentations, or conducting interviews. Through role-play activities, learners gain confidence and improve their ability to respond spontaneously. Another highly effective method is group discussion, where students exchange ideas on specific topics, practice argumentation, and develop critical thinking skills.

Shadowing technique is a language learning method in which learners listen to a native speaker's speech and simultaneously or immediately repeat what they hear without pausing. This technique was originally developed in interpreting training but has been widely adopted in second language acquisition due to its effectiveness in improving oral skills. Shadowing focuses on real-time repetition, which helps learners develop pronunciation accuracy, natural intonation, stress patterns, and speech rhythm.

Unlike traditional repetition exercises, shadowing requires learners to process and produce language simultaneously, which strengthens the connection between listening and speaking skills. It also enhances auditory memory and improves learners' ability to recognize and reproduce natural speech patterns. For this reason, shadowing is considered a highly effective technique in developing speaking fluency and reducing hesitation in foreign language communication.

Debates also play an important role in speaking development, as they encourage learners to express opinions, defend arguments, and use persuasive language. Task-based learning further enhances speaking skills by engaging students in meaningful tasks that require communication to achieve a specific goal. These interactive methods shift the focus from passive learning to active language use, thereby improving fluency and accuracy.

Digital tools further enhance these methods by providing instant feedback and opportunities for repetition. For instance, speech recognition technologies help learners improve pronunciation and intonation. Recording and playback features allow students to evaluate their own performance and identify areas for improvement. This combination of technology and pedagogy creates a more supportive learning environment.

However, despite these advantages, several challenges exist. Learners may experience anxiety when speaking in a foreign language, especially in online environments. Technical issues such as poor internet connection may also hinder effective communication.

Additionally, overreliance on digital tools may reduce spontaneous human interaction if not properly balanced.

In addition, the integration of modern digital tools and interactive methods significantly enhances speaking skill development in foreign language learning. These approaches improve fluency, confidence, and communicative competence by providing learners with meaningful and frequent speaking opportunities. Future research should focus on examining long-term effects and exploring how artificial intelligence and advanced speech technologies can further improve speaking instruction.

In conclusion, the integration of modern digital tools and interactive methods plays a crucial role in developing speaking skills in foreign language learning. These approaches transform traditional language instruction into a more dynamic, student-centered, and communicative process. As a result, learners become more confident, fluent, and active participants in spoken communication.

Digital tools such as Duolingo and Quizlet, along with online communication platforms, provide learners with continuous opportunities for oral practice. These technologies enable students to engage in pronunciation exercises, real-time conversations, and interactive speaking tasks that simulate authentic communication situations. As a result, learners can improve both fluency and accuracy in a more engaging and flexible environment.

Interactive methods such as role-play, group discussions, debates, and task-based learning further enhance speaking development by encouraging spontaneous language use. These strategies not only improve linguistic competence but also foster critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative skills. Moreover, they reduce speaking anxiety by creating a supportive and interactive classroom atmosphere.

However, the effectiveness of these methods depends on proper instructional design, teacher guidance, and adequate technological resources. Without structured implementation, learners may not fully benefit from digital and interactive tools.

The shadowing technique has proven to be a powerful instructional method for enhancing speaking skills in foreign language learning. By requiring learners to immediately repeat native speech, it strengthens pronunciation accuracy, fluency, and prosodic features such as stress and intonation. Moreover, it improves listening comprehension and supports the development of automatic speech production. When integrated with digital tools and interactive classroom activities, shadowing becomes even more effective, as learners receive continuous exposure to authentic language input and immediate practice opportunities. Therefore, shadowing contributes significantly to bridging the gap between receptive and productive language skills.

Overall, this study confirms that combining digital technologies with interactive pedagogical strategies significantly improves speaking skills in foreign language learning. Future research should explore the integration of artificial intelligence, speech recognition

systems, and virtual reality environments to further enhance speaking instruction and provide more immersive learning experiences.

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