



MODERN APPROACHES TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING: TECHNOLOGY, AUTHENTIC MATERIALS AND TASK-BASED LEARNING

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Abstract

The article discusses the growing importance of foreign language learning in modern society and its role in personal and professional development. It highlights how knowledge of foreign languages, especially English, facilitates intercultural communication access to global knowledge and participation in international cooperation. The article also emphasizes the influence of globalization on language use and the increasing need for intercultural competence. Modern approaches in language teaching, including the use of technology, authentic materials, and task-based learning are described as effective methods for improving language proficiency.

Keywords: Foreign languages, learning, English, intercultural competence, authentic materials, technology, language teaching, competence.

Introduction

In contemporary society, mastering foreign languages has become a crucial component of personal and professional development. Competence in a foreign language allows individuals to explore the cultural heritage, customs, and intellectual achievements of other nations while enhancing cognitive abilities, creativity, and memory. Such skills are essential for effective collaboration across scientific, political, cultural, and artistic domains. Today, knowledge of foreign languages is considered a fundamental requirement for professional proficiency.

The ongoing trends of globalization have given rise to a hybrid global culture, characterized by the blending of national traditions and intensified international cooperation. These phenomena influence multiple aspects of human life, including governance, economic systems, social relations, education, culture, language, and sports. Consequently, intercultural interactions are becoming increasingly frequent



and multifaceted, encompassing academic exchanges, international conferences, research internships, joint business ventures, tourism, exhibitions, and international competitions. Thus, foreign language proficiency has become a prerequisite for successful adaptation in diverse social and professional environments.

Among foreign languages, English occupies a central role as a global lingua franca. Scholars predict that, in the near future, language barriers may diminish, and English will serve as the primary medium for international communication. The significance of English has steadily increased, making it difficult to envision a university graduate without at least a basic understanding of the language. Proficiency in English facilitates career advancement, improves access to global knowledge networks, and enhances intercultural engagement.

The Practical Necessity of English and Foreign Languages; The utility of foreign language learning extends across multiple domains. First, it enables individuals to understand global communication dynamics and participate effectively in international relations. Second, it provides access to knowledge, professional opportunities, and cultural content that is largely available in English. For instance, most academic journals, online resources, and global news outlets are published in English, making language proficiency crucial for research, professional growth, and lifelong learning. Mastery of English also allows individuals to experience films, literature, music, and other cultural artifacts in their original form, preserving nuance and meaning. In professional contexts, English proficiency is often a requirement for employment in multinational corporations, international organizations, and research institutions. Employees with strong English skills are more likely to attain higher-level positions, receive competitive salaries, and engage in global business negotiations and correspondence. Consequently, English competence directly influences career mobility and facilitates communication with diverse populations worldwide.

Modern Approaches to Foreign Language Learning; Recent researches emphasize the integration of **digital tools and authentic materials** in foreign language teaching. Online platforms, interactive language apps, virtual classrooms, and multimedia resources provide learners with real-life contexts to practice communication. Studies show that exposure to authentic materials such as films, podcasts, blogs, and social media posts enhances linguistic competence, pragmatic skills, and cultural



understanding moreover, technology enables personalized learning experiences, allowing learners to progress at their own pace while receiving instant feedback.

Task-based language teaching (TBLT) and communicative approaches further encourage practical application. By engaging learners in meaningful projects, simulations, and collaborative tasks, these methods promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and intercultural awareness. Learners not only acquire vocabulary and grammar but also develop the ability to navigate diverse social contexts effectively

Intercultural Competence; Language learning today goes beyond linguistic proficiency. It is closely linked to intercultural competence, which allows individuals to communicate respectfully and effectively across cultural boundaries. Understanding cultural norms, social conventions, and worldview differences enhances empathy, reduces stereotypes, and strengthens international collaboration. For instance, students who study abroad or participate in online exchange programs develop skills to negotiate meaning, interpret nonverbal cues, and adapt language to diverse settings

Despite its benefits, foreign language acquisition is not without challenges. Learners may encounter difficulties due to limited exposure, insufficient practice, or lack of motivation. Effective teaching strategies, including scaffolding, task-based learning, and blended learning approaches, are essential to support learners and ensure meaningful engagement. Furthermore, integrating cultural insights into the curriculum can help learners contextualize language use, making the learning process more relevant and impactful.

In conclusion, foreign language learning is indispensable in the 21st century, shaping cognitive development, professional capabilities, and intercultural understanding. Competence in languages such as English equips individuals with the tools to navigate an interconnected world, access diverse knowledge sources, and engage meaningfully in global communication. The use of technology, authentic materials, and task-based approaches enhances linguistic proficiency while fostering intercultural competence. As globalization continues to reshape social, economic, and cultural landscapes, foreign language mastery remains a vital asset for personal growth, academic success, and professional achievement.



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