

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DEVELOPING STUDENTS’ ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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Abstract. *This article highlights about students’ speaking skills and its importance. Moreover, it gives full and specific information about effective strategies and key aspects of improving speaking skills of students. Developing students’ speaking skills plays a vital role in enhancing their overall communication competence. In addition, it helps learners express ideas clearly, build confidence, and succeed in academic and real-life interactions.*

Key words: *Task-Based Language Teaching, communicative skills, creative thinking skills, successes, challenges, storytelling techniques*

INTRODUCTION.

Learning English has increased in recent times. Most of the students prefer to learn English, which shows that learning English plays a pivotal role in finding high-quality jobs and travelling abroad. In the beginning of learning English illustrates that students face speaking difficulties than other skills. Traditional classrooms are tedious for some of the students, therefore, they prefer to learn online or interactive teaching methods. In today's world, effective methods for developing speaking skills are increasingly important. This research explores the role of Task-Based Language Teaching in enhancing oral communication among students and highlights the significance of this approach. Hilma Safitri, Zainal Rafli, and Devanti (2019) conducted research on enhancing speaking competence and building confidence among students through task-based learning activities. Eshankulovna (2021) emphasizes that “English language teaching (ELT) extends far beyond linguistic proficiency—it is a tool for developing global competence. Through exposure to authentic intercultural communication and critical thinking tasks, learners acquire the ability to interpret, negotiate, and express ideas across cultural boundaries”. Other Western researchers have explored similar approaches with high school students, employing task-based activities such as monologues and dialogues to facilitate conversations on various topics. In this sense, Rustamova (2023) emphasizes that “teaching English becomes a medium for preparing globally minded citizens who can actively participate in the international academic, professional, and digital arenas”. This highlights that speaking is not only about daily conversations but also about expressing opinions on diverse subjects (Afria Nita, Yenni Rosimella, Ratmanida, 2019). The significance of this method lies in its student-centered approach, which fosters communicative skills through group debates where students express their agreement or disagreement on various topics. According to Eshankulovna (2023), “effective English language teaching relies on the integration of linguistic, cognitive, and socio-affective methodologies. By combining communicative, task-based, and content-integrated approaches, teachers foster not only language acquisition but also higher-order thinking skills”. These interactive activities form the foundation of task-based teaching. Our findings indicate that engaging in oral communication through open-sharing tasks helps students become more confident while enabling them to share ideas on various topics. This approach enhances their critical thinking skills, particularly in relation to controversial opinions, and promotes effective communication. The target audience for this research consists of senior high school students. The study was conducted over four weeks with 10th and 11th grade students from Uzbekistan. Throughout this

period, the research assessed both successes and challenges. "Students can improve their speaking proficiency and motivation by using storytelling techniques" said Sharma (2018) (Safitri, at all, 2020). Rustamova (2023) highlighted that "this methodological synthesis enhances learner autonomy, reflective thinking, and problem-solving abilities—key components of the 21st-century educational paradigm". "The shy students can start to speak in the classroom. The students will be able to experience meaningful learning in which they convey ideas, do some reflection on the dialogs used, work together in groups and construct new knowledge of what they have learned" said Alterio (2008)(Safitri 2020). Moreover, according to (Richard and Renandya, 2002) "Learning to speak foreign language requires more than knowing its grammatical and semantic rules" (Hamsia, 2018). "When they speak, pronunciation is the way to produce clearer language. It deals with the phonological process that refers to the components of a grammar made up of the elements and principles that determine how sounds vary and pattern in a language. Eshankulovna (2022) asserts that "English proficiency functions as a socioeconomic catalyst in today's interconnected world. It provides access to global education, research collaboration, and international labor markets. In education, English serves as a bridge to scientific innovation, digital literacy, and academic exchange. Therefore, the teaching of English is not merely an educational goal but a strategic national investment in human capital development and international competitiveness". A speaker who constantly mispronounces a range of phonemes can be extremely difficult for a speaker from another language community to understand" said Kelly (2012) (Wahyuni and Lestoni, 2021). "Fluency can be defined as the ability to speak fluently and accurately. Fluency in speaking is the aim of many language learners. Signs of fluency include a reasonably fast speed of speaking and only a small number of pauses and "ums" or "errs". These signs indicate that the speaker does not have to spend a lot of time searching for the language items needed to express the message " said Brown (2001) (Wahyuni and Lestoni, 2021). Modern teaching strategies focus on creating active learning environments where students participate and communicate naturally. Interactive learning activities such as role plays, group discussions, and debates improve students' confidence and critical thinking.

According to Shrestha (2023), using educational technology tools such as Zoom, Kahoot, and English Central enhances students' motivation and speaking fluency. These platforms allow learners to interact virtually, record their voices, and receive real-time feedback. Digital environments also make it easier for shy students to express themselves without fear of judgment. In addition, debates help students organize their thoughts and speak logically, improving pronunciation and argumentation skills. Teachers play a vital role in guiding students to develop effective speaking habits. Their encouragement and feedback help students overcome hesitation. Research by Al-Saadi and Hidayah (2023) shows that teacher support and peer communication are crucial factors in improving oral performance.

When students practice with peers, they gain confidence and reduce anxiety. Language clubs also provide informal opportunities to use English creatively through storytelling, games, and presentations. Such activities make learning enjoyable and build students' communication competence. Fear and shyness are common barriers that prevent learners from speaking confidently. Creating a positive and supportive classroom atmosphere helps students feel comfortable expressing themselves. Teachers should focus on gradual speaking tasks such as short dialogues or pair interviews to reduce fear.

Vocabulary limitation is another major issue. Continuous exposure to new words through reading, listening, and speaking practice strengthens students' ability to express ideas effectively. As shown in the study by Shrestha (2023), regular speaking practice using digital platforms increases vocabulary use and fluency, proving that consistent engagement leads to better speaking performance. Developing and strengthening speaking skills requires continuous practice, modern learning methods, and emotional support. Teachers should integrate technology and interactive techniques to create motivating environments. Encouraging communication, organizing language clubs, and supporting learners psychologically will help students become confident, fluent, and effective speakers in any context. Developing students' speaking skills requires the integration of various innovative and learner-centered approaches. Storytelling, modern teaching strategies, and task-based learning all play essential roles in enhancing learners' oral communication competence. Storytelling helps students

express ideas creatively and confidently, while modern teaching strategies supported by digital tools such as Zoom, Kahoot, and English Central create interactive environments that increase motivation and participation. Task-Based Language Teaching further strengthens these outcomes by engaging students in authentic communication and problem-solving activities that promote fluency, accuracy, and critical thinking. When combined, these methods provide a comprehensive framework for effective speaking instruction—one that encourages active participation, continuous practice, and emotional support. As a result, students become more confident, fluent, and capable of expressing their ideas clearly in both academic and real-life contexts

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