GENERAL-THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Abstract. This article examines key theoretical and practical aspects of foreign language teaching. It explores prominent language acquisition theories, pedagogical approaches, and methodological considerations that shape effective language instruction. The discussion encompasses various facets of language learning, including communicative competence, intercultural communication, assessment, and the role of technology. Furthermore, the article addresses challenges and opportunities in the field, emphasizing the importance of ongoing professional development for language educators.

Keywords: psychology, effective instruction, emphasized habit, communicative competence, meaningful feedback.

ОБЩИЕ ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКИЕ И ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЕ ВОПРОСЫ ПРЕПОДАВАНИЯ ИНОСТРАННЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ

Аннотация. В этой статье рассматриваются ключевые теоретические и практические аспекты преподавания иностранных языков. В ней рассматриваются известные теории усвоения языка, педагогические подходы и методологические соображения, которые формируют эффективное обучение языку. Обсуждение охватывает различные аспекты изучения языка, включая коммуникативную компетентность, межкультурную коммуникацию, оценку и роль технологий. Кроме того, в статье рассматриваются проблемы и возможности в этой области, подчеркивая важность постоянного профессионального развития для преподавателей языка.

Ключевые слова: психология, эффективное обучение, подчеркнутая привычка, коммуникативная компетентность, содержательная обратная связь.

Introduction. Foreign language teaching is a complex and multifaceted endeavor, drawing upon insights from linguistics, psychology, pedagogy, and sociocultural studies. Understanding both the theoretical underpinnings and practical implications of language

acquisition is crucial for designing effective instruction that caters to diverse learners and promotes communicative competence.

Theoretical Foundations:

Several prominent theories inform current language teaching practices:

1. **Behaviorism:** Early approaches rooted in behaviorism emphasized habit formation through repetition and reinforcement. While still relevant in certain contexts, such as pronunciation drills, this theory has largely been superseded by more cognitive and communicative approaches.

2. **Cognitivism:** This perspective emphasizes the mental processes involved in language learning, such as attention, memory, and problem-solving. Cognitive theories highlight the importance of meaningful learning and learner autonomy. (1)

3. **Constructivism:** Constructivist theories posit that learners actively construct their own understanding of language through interaction and experience. This emphasizes the importance of creating opportunities for authentic communication and learner-centered activities. (2)

4. **Sociocultural theory:** This perspective emphasizes the social and cultural context of language learning. It highlights the role of interaction and scaffolding in language development and the importance of understanding cultural nuances. (*3*)

Pedagogical Approaches and Methodologies:

Various pedagogical approaches translate these theoretical principles into classroom practice:

- 10-Communicative Language Teaching (CLT): CLT prioritizes communicative competence, focusing on developing learners' ability to use language effectively in real-life situations. It emphasizes fluency and interaction over grammatical accuracy. (4)
- 11-**Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT):** TBLT centers instruction around meaningful tasks that require learners to use the target language to achieve a specific outcome. This approach promotes learner engagement and encourages authentic language use. (5)
- 12-Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL): CLIL integrates language learning with the teaching of another subject, such as science or history. This

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approach provides a meaningful context for language acquisition and enhances learners' cognitive development. (6)

Practical Considerations:

Effective language teaching also involves addressing various practical considerations:

1. **Developing communicative competence:** This encompasses not only linguistic knowledge but also sociolinguistic and strategic competence, enabling learners to use language appropriately and effectively in diverse contexts.

2. **Fostering intercultural communication:** Language learning is inextricably linked to culture. Effective instruction should promote intercultural understanding and sensitivity.

3. **Assessment:** Assessment should align with instructional goals and provide meaningful feedback to learners. It should encompass both formative and summative assessment, evaluating various aspects of language proficiency.

4. **Integrating technology:** Technology can enhance language learning by providing access to authentic materials, facilitating communication, and personalizing instruction. *(7)*

Challenges and Opportunities:

The field of language teaching faces ongoing challenges and opportunities:

- 10-Meeting the needs of diverse learners: Classrooms are increasingly diverse, requiring teachers to differentiate instruction and cater to varying learning styles and needs.
- 11-**Preparing learners for a globalized world:** Language education needs to equip learners with the intercultural communication skills necessary to navigate an interconnected world.
- 12-Leveraging technology effectively: Integrating technology meaningfully and ethically requires ongoing professional development and critical evaluation of its impact on learning.

Conclusion:

Effective foreign language teaching requires a nuanced understanding of both theoretical principles and practical considerations. By integrating insights from language acquisition theories, adopting appropriate pedagogical approaches, and addressing the challenges and opportunities in the field, language educators can create engaging and effective learning experiences that empower learners to achieve communicative competence and intercultural understanding. Continuous professional development and a commitment to reflective practice are essential for staying abreast of current research and best practices in language teaching.

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