METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE COMMUNICATIVE APPROACH IN TEACHING ENGLISH

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Abstract. *This article explores the methodological foundations of the communicative approach in teaching English as a foreign language within the framework of international academic standards. The study examines the historical development, theoretical background, and practical implementation of the communicative approach, emphasizing its role in enhancing learners' communicative competence. Particular attention is paid to its impact on learner motivation, interaction patterns, and the overall effectiveness of modern language education. The research highlights how this approach contributes to the development of fluency, pragmatic competence, and real-life communication skills.*

Keywords. *communicative approach, English language teaching, methodology, communicative competence, interactive learning, foreign language education, pedagogical strategies*

Introduction

The communicative approach has emerged as one of the most influential methodologies in the field of English language teaching. In contrast to traditional grammar-based methods, it prioritizes meaningful interaction and the functional use of language in authentic contexts. In the era of globalization and digital communication, learners are required not only to possess linguistic knowledge but also to demonstrate the ability to use English effectively in real-life situations. This necessity has led to a significant shift towards student-centered and communication-oriented teaching models.

Theoretical Framework

The concept of the communicative approach was introduced in the early 1970s, primarily through the works of Dell Hymes, who proposed the notion of communicative competence. This concept extends beyond grammatical accuracy and includes sociolinguistic appropriateness, discourse competence, and strategic competence. Later, Canale and Swain elaborated this framework, emphasizing the integration of linguistic and functional aspects of language use.

The communicative approach advocates for the use of authentic materials, learner interaction, and task-based activities that replicate real-world communication. It encourages

students to engage in meaningful exchanges rather than mechanical drills, thereby promoting deeper cognitive processing and long-term retention.

Methodological Implications

From a methodological perspective, the communicative approach transforms the role of both teacher and learner. The teacher becomes a facilitator and guide, while learners actively participate in constructing knowledge through interaction. Classroom practices include role-plays, simulations, group discussions, problem-solving tasks, and project-based learning activities.

Furthermore, this approach fosters a supportive learning environment where errors are viewed as part of the developmental process. This perspective reduces learners' anxiety and increases their confidence, which ultimately leads to more effective language acquisition.

Advantages over Traditional Methods

Compared to traditional teaching methods that focus primarily on translation and grammatical drills, the communicative approach offers a more holistic and practical model. It integrates the four language skills — speaking, listening, reading, and writing — and encourages learners to use language creatively and spontaneously. This results in improved fluency, greater learner autonomy, and enhanced motivation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the communicative approach represents a vital component of modern English language teaching methodology. Its emphasis on real-life communication, learner interaction, and functional language use aligns with the requirements of international educational standards. Therefore, its implementation significantly contributes to the development of competent, confident, and autonomous language users.

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