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GRABBING AND HOLDING INTEREST: INNOVATIVE METHODS IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

BILICHAK O.I. Grabbing and holding interest: innovative methods in teaching foreign languages. *It is revealed in the article the importance of teaching a foreign language effectively, as well as new teaching techniques which can be applied during the lesson. Interactive teaching methods help to build effective and active interaction during the lesson, where the special attention is paid upon students interaction with each other. Different methods of interactive learning and teaching that involve students in interactive activities in the classroom are becoming so important and widely used nowadays. Modern interactive methods in teaching foreign languages during the lesson are described and the influence of using modern techniques in learning process is analysed, as well as different kinds of interactive technologies are found. The most important task is to create comfort conditions for cognitive activity, in which every student feels support and its importance and progress. Interactive activities consist of the dialogue during the lesson, mutual understanding of different problems. Interactive teaching methods include: discussions, internet research, use of YouTube resources, interactive whiteboards, brainstorming activities, presentation of new material using power point and other presentation software. By embracing technology, personalization, collaboration, continuous assessment educators can create meaningful learning experience the grab and hold student interest, ultimately leading to successful language acquisition and cultural understanding.*

Key words: *interactive, discussion, research, activity, methods, teaching process.*

О.І. БІЛІЧАК. Захоплення та утримання інтересу: інноваційні методи навчання іноземних мов. У статті розкривається важливість ефективного навчання іноземної мови, а також нові методики навчання, які можна застосовувати під час уроку.

Інтерактивні методи навчання допомагають побудувати ефективну та активну взаємодію під час уроку, де особлива увага приділяється взаємодії учнів один з одним. Різні методи інтерактивного навчання та викладання, які залучають учнів до інтерактивної діяльності на уроці, стають настільки важливими та широко використовуваними в наш час. Описано сучасні інтерактивні методи навчання іноземних мов на уроці та проаналізовано вплив використання сучасних методик у навчальному процесі, а також виявлено різні види інтерактивних технологій. Найважливішим завданням є створення комфортних умов для пізнавальної діяльності, в яких кожен учень відчуває підтримку, свою важливість і прогрес. Інтерактивна діяльність складається з діалогу під час уроку, взаєморозуміння різних проблем. Інтерактивні методи навчання включають: дискусії, дослідження в Інтернеті, використання ресурсів YouTube, інтерактивних дошок, мозковий штурм, презентацію нового матеріалу за допомогою Power Point та іншого програмного забезпечення для презентацій. Використовуючи технології, персоналізацію, співпрацю, безперервне оцінювання, викладачі можуть створити значущий досвід навчання, який захопить і утримає інтерес студентів, що зрештою призведе до успішного засвоєння мови та культурного розуміння.

Ключові слова: *інтерактив, дискусія, дослідження, діяльність, методи, навчальний процес.*

Formulation of the problem. Nowadays the importance of teaching a foreign language effectively has increased significantly, that means that teachers have to teach in a way they have never taught before. It is up to the educator to decide which teaching techniques can be applied during the lesson. The main methodological innovations today are mainly applied with the help of interactive methods. Interactive teaching methods help to build effective and active interaction during the lesson, where the special attention is paid upon students interaction with each other. Applying new effective methods of teaching a foreign language has become necessary. Among the advanced methods in modern educational process of teaching English, much attention is paid to interactive methods based on student-oriented approach, the aim of which is to think and respond quickly, as well as to improve communicative skills [1, 55].

The term “interactive learning technology” is usually associated with a computer or multimedia learning. Modern technologies try to find the best ways to reach the goal. The main features of interactive methods of teaching a foreign

language can be: activity, situational training activities, developing students' attention, imagination, observation, creativity, critical thinking, logic, efficiency, curiosity and persistence in reaching the goal [2]..

Different methods of interactive learning and teaching that involve students in interactive activities in the classroom are becoming so important and widely used nowadays.

The aim of the article is to reveal the importance of using interactive methods in teaching foreign languages during the lesson and analyse the influence of using modern techniques in learning process, as well as to find different kinds of interactive technologies.

Main results of the study. The aim of every teacher is to find modern resources and incorporate them effectively in a proper way to make sure that learners learn as much as they can and apply their knowledge as much as they can. This even means that teacher should teach in a way he has never taught before. Interactive technology tools should be used as aids to the curriculum, not the curriculum itself.

Among modern methods in educational process of learning English, a lot of attention is paid to interactive methods, the main aim of which is to develop the ability to think and respond quickly, as well as to improve communicative skills. The main essence of interactive learning is based on the constant active interaction, among all the students. This means mutual learning, where the teacher and student work equally. The word "interactive", where "inter" means "mutual", and "act" means work, operate, affect – that generally means organisation of effective conditions of learning, active cooperation in the class. The most important task is to create comfort conditions for cognitive activity, in which every student feels support and its importance and progress. Interactive activities consist of the dialogue during the lesson, mutual understanding of different problems.

Interactive teaching methods include: discussions, internet research, use of YouTube resources, interactive whiteboards, brainstorming activities, presentation of new material using power point and other presentation software.

Discussions. Discussion is very important as it helps students to process information, exchange information and opinions, discuss arguments for and against. Any lesson based on discussion is effective if students are interested in the topic, have some basic knowledge, and the teacher has planned the lesson in advanced. Every student should have their own point of view on the discussed topic as well as to be able to make conclusions. It is up to the teacher to choose various techniques: description of a situation, questions, using videos, role play of the situation, giving opinions.

Discussion can motivate our students, it is a great chance to discuss different things they are really interested in. Discussion activities encourage critical

thinking, are excellent preparation for speaking tests, that helps to express opinions in English. Preparing for discussion lessons the teacher has to be aware of how can students participate in such a lesson. If they are not interested, they will simply get bored. If it is in-class discussion, make sure that the room is set up so that participants can see each other. It is not a bad idea to have some rules in the discussion class. The teacher should point out main questions and focus on ideas and skills. Establish the facts on which the discussion will be based.

The learners should be given clear instructions and rules and be given enough time for discussion. If possible the group shouldn't be very big, for everyone have a chance to speak [3,3]. An effective kind of discussion is a "round table" technique, where 10-15 students are seated around the table discussing a peculiar topic. The aim of the activity is to speak, collect information, solve problems, find solutions and the ways to reach the goal. During such an activity students have eye contact, they feel to be involved and important, so it stimulates conversation. The task of the teacher is not to answer your own questions, but to encourage students to be active learners.

There are some basic rules to follow to prepare for class discussions. It is a good idea to elicit questions from students in order to make a good and effective discussion. Here are some guidelines:

- a discussion is not a series of monologues, but a crossflow of interactive ideas; listening attentively is crucial. Very often people fail in the workplace and in relationship, because they are not able to listen to other people attentively. Listening is a basis of good discussion;

- participants should be given time to think;

- too much agreement will kill a discussion. If a person agrees with everything, so there is nothing to discuss. Successful discussion needs feedback from both sides;

- everyone should be given an equal chance to speak and equal time allowance [4;30].

One of the biggest problems teachers might face during discussion lessons is having students who tend to dominate every lesson and every discussion. As soon as the teacher notices such situation in his class, some action should be taken. It is a good idea to explain the student after the lesson that you appreciate his enthusiasm and level of English, but explain that he should give other students space to talk [4;51].

Internet Research. The internet is the greatest source of information not in book form. Both teachers and students can find almost anything they want on the internet. They can read online newspapers or broadcasting associations like the BBC or CNN, they can find lyrics or access history sites, they can find film guides or joke sites. There are two kinds of sites, which are worth talking about:

using encyclopedias. Encyclopedia sites provide an overview and background information on every education topic imaginable;

webquests. This is a particular type of information, which is provided by a kind of (Internet based) extended project called a webquest. This employs internet resources for students to use for researching, but rather than have students search on the Internet for themselves, in a webquest the teacher has prepared an introduction and then give students “clickable” sites to visit [5;191].

Rapid development of the Internet in the 1990s has a wide impact on the learning and acquisition of knowledge by students in the aspect of learning foreign languages. From this moment the Internet becomes an extraordinary source of information. The Internet also provides an answer to almost any question. Most teachers believe that they can benefit a lot from using the Internet resources, as it is used as a way of obtaining information, restoring knowledge and sharing experiences with other teachers from other countries.

Scientists believe that Internet provides not too expensive method of learning a foreign language that meets the need of students in the XXI century. The increase of computer-based communication through the Internet has changed more than anything else.

The main advantage is the provision of the teacher with a large number of training resources via the Internet. Teachers can easily obtain various materials for teaching students. The next advantage of using the Internet as a means of teaching a foreign language is the opportunity to improve one's own knowledge, skills in a foreign language directly for the teacher. The third advantage is the opportunity for a teacher to come into contact with colleagues from other countries, develop skills of writing and speaking, exchange experiences and information with teachers from other educational institutions. Finally, through the Internet, teachers can obtain information related to the publication of materials based on teaching foreign languages. Many publishers, such as Longman or the Oxford University Press, often publish catalogues of their publications on websites.

As for the students, the Internet provides them with opportunities for exposure to natural and authentic language use, not only during but also outside the class. There is a great number of information and unlimited resources that teachers can use in getting students to make worksheets for class or in homework assignments. The Internet has become a vital part of life and learning how to use it is an essential skill.

Students also develop basic information technology skills simultaneously and increase their competence in the highly competitive market place. As the Internet offers a variety topics it is appealing and can satisfy a diverse audience. The information available is current and frequently updated. Using the Internet is fun as websites are full of animation, colours, sounds, pictures, interactive forms and digital video clips.

Brainstorming activities. Encourage students to think and focus on a topic expressing their free flow of ideas. Brainstorming encourages students to think more freely and creatively, it allows learners to remember what they know, as well as to teach each other. This activity is especially popular nowadays, when it is quite difficult for the learners to find ideas on any topic and it enables students to perform various tasks with much more confidence.

Brainstorming is very effective way of getting even shy learners involved in topic and promotes better task interaction. It can be either teacher led involving the whole class or with learners in pairs or small groups, communicating among themselves or as combination of both – starting with a teacher-led class brainstorm which students continue in pairs [6,66].

When conducting brainstorm in the classroom with a small or whole group of students the teacher should remember that there are no wrong answers, not to analyse students ideas and try to get as many ideas as possible. These tasks can help students speak without fear and show respect for each other. It is very important to involve all students to express their ideas.

It is up to every teacher to decide how to brainstorm in order to make the process meaningful, effective and inspire students with creative ideas. The teacher can ask students to talk about the qualities of the leader, how to describe a specific animal or to describe household chores (and who does them in your home), how to learn English in class, after school activities and many other useful ideas [6,67]. Group brainstorming can promote creative thinking, bring the team together and share ideas. Brainstorming's main purpose is to create new ideas without criticizing any thoughts. The main aim of brainstorming is to encourage the free flow of ideas without judgement and to unlock creative potential to solve complex problems.

Interactive whiteboards. Technology has become widely accessible to teachers in the last few years. To increase their professional development teachers should use technology. Whiteboards are proved to support many different learning styles and are used in variety of learning environments. Interactive whiteboards (IWB) allow teachers to display images onto an electric screen from a computer, using a projector. IWB is a multi-purpose, touch sensitive surface with a set of loudspeakers. An image is projected onto the board from a data projector. On a IWB you can typically:

- write or draw with a special pen;
- save what you have done for a later retrieval;
- change or erase what you have written or start a new page;
- show images, documents and other resources on your computer;
- annotate previously prepared word-processor texts;
- view videos and images by using the board as a large computer monitor;

access the internet projecting the image full-board the class;
revisit saved digital boards, pages from your lesson and print them out as handouts for your students;

display and run automated content. There are often many ready-made templates to easily create engaging automated exercises and activities – eg quizzes, puzzles, tests;

use commercial IWB materials. Many coursebooks offer IWB versions with animated pages and interactive exercises [7;335].

There are two main types of IWB: fixed and portable. Fixed- is an electronic board which is fixed to the wall, usually in a place of a normal board. Portable- a small box that can be placed at the bottom of a standard non-interactive whiteboards to add interactivity. You can use IWB as a live working surface in class, as a display screen to show things you prepared or found prior to the lesson or as a mixture of both [7;336].

Using IWB during English lessons has many advantages. It is simple and reusable. They are great for explaining new materials, reading texts, ranking activities, different vocabulary exercises. IWB are non-messy to use, as marker leaves no dust and can be easily wiped off. Whiteboards encourage participation, they are invaluable teaching tools that facilitate the input of everyone involved, they make the learning process more enjoyable and make the lesson revision more convenient.

YouTube as a Media in English Language Teaching. Media is one of the most important tools that can help the teacher in the teaching and learning process in class. YouTube can be used as learning media, here one can find education videos for different levels and needs. Teaching using media can encourage students to take more responsibility for and control over their learning, engage in joint planning of the syllables and take longer-term perspectives on their learning. YouTube is one of the effective media because inside there, we can find many videos that can support us while teaching in a class. The use of ideas in YouTube can help students to improve their speaking skills and also can give them the motivation to learn more. The improvement is proven by students' speaking acquisition and also the score that they will gain. The teacher chooses the appropriate video on the syllabus that is applied [8; 29-33].

Conclusion. The landscape of foreign language teaching is evolving, with educators embracing innovative methods to capture and sustain learner engagement. Innovative methods go beyond merely teaching grammar and vocabulary. By embracing technology, personalization, collaboration, continuous assessment educators can create meaningful learning experience the grab and hold student interest, ultimately leading to successful language acquisition and cultural understanding.

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