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USING INTERACTIVE METHODS IN TEACHING ENGLISH

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Abstract: *Teaching English as a foreign or second language has always required adaptation to the changing needs of learners and the evolving world. Today, the traditional methods of teaching, which rely heavily on lectures, rote memorization, and repetition, are no longer sufficient to fully engage students or develop their communicative competence. Interactive teaching methods have increasingly become essential in the modern classroom, as they foster greater student participation, motivation, and language proficiency. By making the classroom more dynamic, teachers not only help students learn the language more effectively but also equip them with vital skills required in an interconnected global society.*

Keywords: *interactive learning, student engagement, communication skills, group work, collaboration, motivation, learner-centered, formative assessment, active participation, classroom interaction.*

Interactive methods in English teaching emphasize active participation, collaboration, and meaningful use of language. They create a learner-centered environment in which students take an active role in their own learning process. In such classrooms, teachers act not merely as information providers but as facilitators, guiding students through activities that mirror real-life language use. Opportunities abound for students to practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing in genuine contexts, which makes their learning process more memorable and practical. One of the key elements of interactive teaching is communication. In an interactive classroom, students are encouraged to communicate as much as possible using the target language. This approach breaks away from the traditional model, where students might spend a lot of time listening passively or repeating after the teacher. Instead, students in an interactive class are given tasks that require them to negotiate meaning, express their ideas, and solve problems with their peers. This creates a rich language environment, exposing students to a variety of inputs and outputs which are vital for language acquisition [1].

Additionally, interactive activities are designed to cater to different types of learners, recognizing that students have varied learning styles and preferences. For instance, some

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learners might prefer visual aids, while others might benefit more from auditory or kinaesthetic activities. Interactive teaching often involves games, discussions, role-plays, debates, pair and group work, and creative writing, among other strategies. This variety allows teachers to reach a wider range of students and keeps the lessons engaging. Moreover, such activities often integrate skills instead of teaching them in isolation, better simulating real-life language use. Interactive teaching methods also provide continuous feedback to learners. As students participate in discussions or complete tasks, teachers can immediately assess their strengths and areas for improvement. This formative assessment is invaluable as it informs instructional decisions and allows for timely intervention. Feedback in a supportive, collaborative environment encourages learners to take risks and make mistakes, essential elements of language learning. Rather than fearing errors, students see them as part of the process, which ultimately fosters greater fluency and confidence. The use of interactive methods in English teaching has significant impacts on students' motivation. When lessons are engaging and learners have a sense of ownership over their progress, they are more likely to be intrinsically motivated. Motivation is a key factor in language learning success. Interactive classrooms often foster a sense of community and belonging, as students work together towards common goals. This supportive atmosphere inspires learners to participate actively, develops their social skills, and enhances their self-esteem.It is also important to highlight the role of technology in supporting interactive teaching. Modern classrooms, equipped with computers, smartboards, and internet access, provide endless opportunities for interaction. Teachers can use online resources, multimedia materials, and collaborative platforms to enrich their lessons with authentic materials and global perspectives. Technology can also facilitate communication beyond the classroom, enabling students to connect with native speakers or international peers, further broadening their exposure and practice. Moreover, interactive methods foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In contrast to memorizing rules or vocabulary, students are challenged to apply their knowledge in new situations, analyze information, reflect on their understanding, and adapt their strategies. Through group work and open-ended tasks, learners develop the ability to negotiate, compromise, and resolve conflicts – skills that are not only essential in language learning, but also in life [2].

Classroom management is another aspect positively affected by interactive methods. When students are engaged and actively participating, disruptive behavior typically decreases. The structure of interactive activities often provides clear roles and expectations, reducing opportunities for negative behavior. Additionally, students who feel valued and respected in a collaborative environment are more likely to behave positively and contribute meaningfully to class activities. Assessment in interactive language classes takes on various

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forms. Traditional tests and exams are complemented by continuous, formative assessments such as portfolios, self-reflections, peer assessments, and presentations. Such diversified assessment methods provide a more comprehensive picture of students' abilities and progress. Teachers are better able to tailor their instruction and offer individualized support when they have rich, ongoing data about their learners' performance. One of the enduring challenges in language teaching is catering to mixed-ability classes. Interactive methods can be very effective in differentiating instruction. Activities are easily adapted for learners at varying proficiency levels, providing additional support or challenge as needed. Collaborative tasks can be designed to encourage peer teaching, with stronger students helping those who are struggling. This not only benefits the weaker students but also helps more advanced learners consolidate their knowledge by explaining concepts to others. Furthermore, interactive teaching can foster a positive attitude towards English among learners. When lessons are fun, meaningful, and related to students' lives and interests, they are more likely to develop a lifelong interest in the language. A positive classroom environment, where students are active participants, reduces anxiety and builds confidence. As learners see their own progress and understand that they can use English to communicate and achieve their goals, their intrinsic motivation grows [3].

Teacher development is also crucial in implementing interactive methods effectively. Teachers must be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resources to design and facilitate interactive activities. Professional development opportunities, such as workshops, seminars, and collaboration with colleagues, can help teachers stay up-to-date with the latest methodologies and adapt their practice as needed. Reflective practice, where teachers regularly evaluate and adapt their teaching, is essential to continuously improve classroom interaction. Incorporating culture into English lessons is another important aspect of interactive teaching. Since language and culture are inseparable, including cultural elements in class discussions, activities, and materials enriches students' understanding and appreciation of the language. It also helps students develop intercultural competence, a vital skill in today's globalized world.Policies and curriculum design should support interactive teaching approaches. Curriculum planners and administrators need to value communicative competence and provide teachers with the time, training, and resources needed to implement such methods effectively. Assessment policies should also reflect the importance of oral communication, group work, and other interactive skills, rather than focusing solely on traditional measures of language knowledge [4].

Interactive methods in English teaching require careful planning and flexibility. Teachers must anticipate potential challenges, such as larger class sizes, limited resources, or varying levels of student participation. Solutions include dividing classes into smaller groups,

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rotating activities, or using simple materials creatively. Teachers should also foster a positive classroom culture where mistakes are seen as learning opportunities, and every student feels comfortable participating. Finally, interactive teaching methods prepare learners not just for exams, but for real-world use of English. The ability to communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and adapt to new situations is what learners need to succeed in academic, professional, and personal contexts. As such, interactive methods do not simply teach the mechanics of the language; they develop well-rounded, confident, and adaptable users of English [5].

Conclusion:

In conclusion, using interactive methods in teaching English transforms the learning experience from passive reception to active engagement. By fostering communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and motivation, interactive classrooms prepare learners to use English confidently and effectively in a variety of contexts. The teacher's role as a facilitator, the integration of technology and culture, flexible assessment strategies, and ongoing professional development all contribute to the success of interactive approaches. As the world continues to change, English teachers who embrace interactive methods will best serve the needs of their students and prepare them for success in the global community.

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