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MODERN APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This paper explores modern approaches in English language teaching, focusing on student-centered methods, technology integration, and personalized learning. Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) and Task-Based Learning (TBL) enable learners to use English in real-life contexts, complete meaningful tasks, and develop essential skills such as creativity and teamwork. Digital tools and adaptive platforms provide flexible learning, immediate feedback, and tailored instruction to meet individual needs. Combining these methods makes language learning more interactive, effective, and motivating, helping students build confidence and achieve their full potential.

Keywords: Modern Language Teaching, Student-Centered Learning, Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Task-Based Learning (TBL), Technology Integration, Personalized Learning, English Language Education.

Introduction:

In recent years, modern language teaching has shifted towards student-centered approaches that emphasize active participation and the use of technology. Approaches such as Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) and Task-Based



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Learning (TBL) allow learners to use English in real-life situations, complete meaningful tasks, and develop essential skills like teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking. At the same time, digital tools and personalized learning have transformed language education by providing flexible access to lessons, immediate feedback, and tailored instruction according to individual needs. By combining interactive methods with technology and personalized learning, modern English education becomes more engaging, effective, and motivating, helping students build confidence and achieve their full potential.

Student-Centered Learning: CLT and TBL in Modern English Teaching

Firstly, modern approaches focus on student-centered learning and active participation. In this method, students play a key role in the learning process, while the teacher acts as a guide rather than a controller. This shift allows learners to become more independent and responsible for their own progress. For example, Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) encourages learners to use English in real-life situations through discussions, role plays, and conversations. As a result, students can improve their speaking and listening skills more effectively and gain confidence in using the language. Moreover, this method helps learners overcome fear of making mistakes, which is a common problem in traditional classrooms.

In addition, Task-Based Learning (TBL) allows learners to complete meaningful tasks such as problem-solving, group projects, or giving presentations in English. These activities require students to use language in a practical way, which makes learning more purposeful and engaging. Furthermore, TBL develops essential skills such as teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking. Therefore, these approaches are highly beneficial as they make learning more interactive, practical, and enjoyable for students.



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Principles of Task Based Language Teaching . Ajitha S Pisharady, Dr Ravi Kumar J G.

Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) is a learner-centered approach that allows students to learn at their own pace and according to their needs, with minimal teacher intervention. The teacher's main role is to design instructional materials and provide guidance. David Nunan (2007) proposed seven principles for TBLT: scaffolding, task dependency, recycling, active learning, integration, creation, and reflection. "Scaffolding" guides learners toward independence, "task dependency" ensures each task is linked to the previous one, and "recycling" allows students to use language in various contexts. "Active learning" engages learners in tasks such as role plays, discussions, or debates. "Integration" combines form, meaning, and communication within tasks. "Creation" encourages learners to use language creatively, while "reflection" provides opportunities to review and apply learned language in different contexts.

In TBLT, the task is the basic unit and should be learner-focused with clear outcomes. Students learn by doing, errors are allowed, and motivation should be high. While meaning is the primary focus, form should not be neglected. Each task must have a clear purpose and expected result; otherwise, it is only an activity, not a true task. Structured task sequences in lesson plans are essential to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

The Role of technology and Personalized Learning in Modern English Education

Secondly, the use of technology and personalized learning has become essential in modern language teaching. In recent years, digital tools such as mobile applications, online platforms, and interactive software have transformed the way students learn English. These tools allow learners to access lessons anytime and anywhere, which increases flexibility and makes learning more convenient. For example, language apps often provide exercises in listening, reading, writing, and



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speaking, and they give immediate feedback, helping students correct their mistakes and monitor their progress. This instant response motivates learners to practice more and take responsibility for their own learning.

Moreover, personalized learning plays a crucial role in meeting the diverse needs of students. Teachers can adapt lessons according to each learner's proficiency level, interests, and preferred learning style. Some students may benefit from visual materials, while others prefer audio or interactive exercises. By tailoring lessons in this way, students are more engaged, feel confident, and make faster progress. Technology also supports personalization, for instance through adaptive learning platforms that adjust difficulty based on performance.

Overall, combining technology with personalized learning makes English education more efficient, enjoyable, and effective. It encourages independent learning, keeps students motivated, and ensures that each learner can achieve their full potential in mastering the language.

Gerda Urbaite At Journal: Euro-Global Journal of Linguistics and Language Education.

Technology Integration in Modern Language Learning

In the mid-20th century, the audio-lingual method introduced the use of audio recordings and language laboratories, allowing students to practice listening and speaking skills more effectively. This approach was one of the first attempts to integrate technology into language education, providing repetitive exercises beyond traditional classroom methods. With the rapid development of the Internet, learners gained access to a vast range of digital resources, including videos, podcasts, online dictionaries, and language forums. These tools promoted self-directed learning and enabled students to engage with authentic language materials from native speakers worldwide.

In recent years, modern language learning platforms such as Duolingo, Rosetta Stone, and Babbel have further transformed the learning experience. By

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combining multimedia content, interactive exercises, and gamification strategies, these platforms offer personalized lessons tailored to each learner's proficiency level and interests. Additionally, 21st-century technologies such as mobile applications, virtual classrooms, and online courses have made language learning more flexible and accessible. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, tools like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google Meet became essential for conducting real-time online classes, facilitating group discussions, presentations, and collaborative activities.

Overall, the integration of technology in language education has revolutionized the way students learn, making lessons more engaging, adaptable, and convenient, while supporting independent study and enhancing global communication skills.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, modern language teaching emphasizes student-centered approaches, practical task completion, and the integration of technology. Methods like Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) and Task-Based Learning (TBL) encourage learners to actively use English, develop critical skills, and gain confidence. At the same time, digital tools and personalized learning cater to individual needs, provide immediate feedback, and promote independent study. By combining interactive teaching methods with technology and tailored instruction, educators can create a more engaging, effective, and motivating learning environment, enabling students to reach their full potential in mastering the language.

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