



THE METHOD OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

In the 21st century, learning foreign languages is being much more famous and common day by day. The significance of the issue with structuring early foreign language education. Features and benefits of early foreign language instruction; Contextualization of early foreign language instruction; Possibility of developing foreign speech activity abilities in the circumstances of early foreign-language instruction. As a result, the study highlighted the significance of the issue of early foreign language teaching, which opens up a fresh perspective on the issues surrounding the intellectual development of primary school pupils.

As a result of our research, we found advantages of teaching and learning foreign languages in early ages. When children in their early ages, their memory will be in a good position and learning process will be even painless. However, as well as having positive side, teaching young children sometimes creates problems and challenges.

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INTRODUCTION

The increasing importance of globalization has led to a growing demand for individuals who are proficient in multiple languages. To meet this demand, many schools are implementing foreign language programs, particularly in elementary schools. Research has shown that children who are exposed to foreign languages at an early age have better cognitive abilities and are more likely to develop a love for learning and the benefits of learning a foreign language at a young age are well-documented, including enhanced cognitive abilities and improved social skills. However, teaching foreign languages to young learners comes with its own set of challenges. In this paper, we will examine the method of teaching foreign languages in elementary school, including the benefits of early language learning, the challenges of teaching foreign languages to young learners, and effective teaching strategies.

Benefits of Early Language Learning:

Learning a foreign language at an early age provides children with numerous cognitive, academic, and social benefits. One of the primary benefits of learning a foreign language at an early age is that young children have a greater capacity for language acquisition. Studies have shown that young children are able to acquire new languages more easily than adults, as their brains are still developing and have not yet formed rigid language patterns (Ferjan Ramirez et al., 2017). Early language learning has also been shown to enhance cognitive abilities, including memory, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. For example, a study conducted by Antoniou et al. (2013) found that bilingual children outperformed monolingual children on tasks that required working memory and inhibitory control. Additionally, children who learn a second language are better able to appreciate and understand different cultures, which can lead to improved social skills and greater empathy. One more positive point of learning foreign languages at early age is that kids have a remarkable capacity for remembering data when they are young, and their brains are built to automatically process new information, that's why learning progress will be far easier.

Challenges of Teaching Foreign Languages to Young Learners:

Despite the numerous benefits of early language learning, teaching foreign languages to young learners comes with its own set of challenges. One of the primary challenges is finding qualified teachers who are trained to teach foreign languages to young learners. Many elementary school teachers are not trained in foreign language instruction, which can lead to ineffective teaching strategies and limited language exposure for the students. Additionally, young children have shorter attention spans and may struggle to focus for extended periods of time which can make language instruction more difficult. Furthermore, children at the elementary school level may not have the language skills required to fully comprehend a foreign language, which can make the learning process more difficult. Another the hardest issues affecting classrooms for young learners has to do with pedagogy. The popularity of English as a global language has led to the idea that learners should focus

more on developing their communication skills than on learning the language itself. As a result, communicative ability has been emphasized in contemporary curriculum for young learners.

Effective Teaching Strategies:

Knowing what to teach, how to teach it, when to teach it, to whom to teach it, why to teach it, and even where to teach are all essential components of a truly great teacher. To overcome the challenges of teaching foreign languages to young learners, educators should implement effective teaching strategies. One such strategy is to incorporate fun and engaging activities into the curriculum. Games, songs, and stories can be used to introduce new vocabulary and grammar concepts, while keeping the children entertained and interested. For example, a study conducted by Huang et al. (2020) found that incorporating music and games into the language curriculum increased students' motivation and engagement. Another effective strategy is to use visual aids, such as pictures and videos, to help children understand new concepts. Visual aids can help make the language more tangible and relatable for young learners, which can enhance their comprehension and retention of the material. Repetition is also important, as it helps reinforce new vocabulary and grammar rules. Finally, it is important to create a positive and supportive learning environment, where children feel comfortable making mistakes and asking questions. Teachers should provide constructive feedback and praise for effort, rather than solely focusing on correct answers.

One effective teaching method that incorporates many of these strategies is the Total Physical Response (TPR) method. TPR is a teaching method that was developed by James Asher in the 1970s, which focuses on using physical movements to reinforce language learning. In the TPR method, the teacher gives commands in the target language, and the students respond with physical actions. TPR, in another sense, refers to the practice of moving while speaking. For example, the teacher might say "stand up" in the target language, and the students would stand up. TPR incorporates repetition, visual aids, and physical movement, which can enhance comprehension and retention of the language (Asher, 2018).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, teaching foreign languages to young learners in elementary school is a valuable educational experience that provides numerous benefits. While there are challenges to teaching foreign languages to young learners, effective teaching strategies can overcome these obstacles. By creating a fun and engaging learning environment, using visual aids, and incorporating repetition, educators can help children develop a love for learning foreign languages and prepare them for success in the global community.

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