



CHALLENGES OF TEACHING ENGLISH TO STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT NATIVE LANGUAGES

Keldiyarova Shakhrizoda Uchqunovna

English teacher, Kimyo International University in Tashkent

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15038764>

Annotation: This article explores the challenges faced by educators when teaching English to students with diverse native languages. It highlights the linguistic barriers that arise due to phonetic, grammatical, and lexical differences between English and students' first languages. Additionally, the article discusses cultural differences that may affect language acquisition, including variations in communication styles, learning habits, and educational backgrounds. The importance of effective teaching strategies, such as individualized instruction, communicative language teaching, and multimodal approaches, is also examined. Furthermore, the role of motivation and psychological factors in second language acquisition is considered, offering insights into how teachers can create an inclusive and supportive learning environment to enhance students' success in learning English.

Keywords: English language teaching, multilingual classrooms, linguistic challenges, phonetic difficulties, grammatical differences, cultural diversity in education, second language acquisition, teaching strategies, individualized learning, student motivation.

INTRODUCTION

Teaching English to students with different native languages presents a range of challenges for educators. Language learning is influenced by various factors, including phonetic, grammatical, and lexical differences between English and the students' mother tongues. Additionally, cultural diversity plays a crucial role in shaping students' learning styles, communication preferences, and levels of engagement in the classroom. Teachers must also address psychological factors such as motivation, confidence, and language anxiety, which can significantly impact language acquisition.

In multilingual classrooms, instructors often encounter difficulties in providing equal support to all students, as each learner may have unique struggles based on their linguistic background. Moreover, certain sounds, sentence structures, and idiomatic expressions in English may not exist in the learners' native languages, making it harder for them to grasp the nuances of the language.

To overcome these challenges, educators employ various teaching strategies, including individualized instruction, communicative language





teaching (CLT), and technology-enhanced learning. Creating an inclusive and engaging learning environment is essential for helping students develop their language skills effectively. This paper explores the main difficulties in teaching English to students with different native languages and examines effective methods to enhance the learning experience.

Linguistic Challenges in Teaching English

One of the most significant difficulties in teaching English to students with different native languages is the linguistic barrier. Each language has its unique phonetic, grammatical, and lexical structures, which can create challenges for learners.

1 Phonetic and Pronunciation Difficulties

Students from different language backgrounds may struggle with English pronunciation due to the absence of certain sounds in their native languages. For example, Japanese learners often find it difficult to differentiate between /r/ and /l/ sounds, while Arabic speakers may struggle with /p/ and /b/. These phonetic differences can lead to miscommunication and require targeted pronunciation training.

2 Grammatical Differences

English grammar structures may be significantly different from those of students' native languages. For instance, Chinese lacks verb tenses, making it challenging for native Chinese speakers to use past and future tenses correctly in English. Similarly, speakers of Slavic languages might struggle with English articles ("a," "an," "the"), as their native languages do not have a similar system.

3 Vocabulary and Idiomatic Expressions

Lexical differences also create difficulties for learners. Some words and phrases in English may not have direct translations in other languages, leading to confusion. Additionally, idiomatic expressions, phrasal verbs, and collocations can be particularly challenging for students from different linguistic backgrounds.

Cultural and Psychological Challenges

Apart from linguistic differences, cultural and psychological factors also affect English language learning.

1. Cultural Differences in Communication and Learning Styles

Students from high-context cultures (such as Japan, China, and Arab countries) may rely heavily on indirect communication and nonverbal cues, whereas English is more direct and explicit. This difference can lead to misunderstandings in conversation and writing. Furthermore, some cultures





emphasize rote memorization, while others encourage interactive and analytical learning. Teachers must recognize these differences and adapt their methods accordingly.

2. Motivation and Language Anxiety

Motivation plays a crucial role in language learning, but students' enthusiasm may vary based on personal, cultural, or educational factors. Some students may fear making mistakes or feel anxious about speaking in front of others, which hinders their progress. Creating a supportive and encouraging classroom environment is essential to boosting students' confidence and motivation.

Effective Teaching Strategies

To address these challenges, teachers can implement various strategies tailored to the needs of multilingual classrooms.

1. Individualized Instruction

Recognizing that students have different learning needs, teachers should provide individualized feedback and support. Differentiated instruction, where activities are tailored to suit different proficiency levels, can help all students progress at their own pace.

2. Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

CLT focuses on interaction and real-life communication rather than rote memorization of grammar rules. Role-playing, group discussions, and problem-solving activities can help students improve their speaking and listening skills in a natural context.

3. Multimodal Learning Approaches

Using a variety of teaching methods, such as visual aids, audio resources, interactive technology, and hands-on activities, can cater to different learning styles. Digital tools, including language-learning apps and online collaboration platforms, can further enhance students' engagement and comprehension.

4. Encouraging Cultural Exchange

Promoting cultural exchange within the classroom can help students appreciate different perspectives and feel more comfortable using English in diverse settings. Activities such as storytelling, presentations about students' cultural backgrounds, and language exchange programs can enrich the learning experience.

Conclusion

Teaching English to students with different native languages is a complex but rewarding task. Educators must navigate linguistic, cultural, and





psychological challenges while implementing effective teaching strategies. By using individualized instruction, communicative methods, and multimodal approaches, teachers can create an inclusive and dynamic learning environment. Addressing these challenges with patience and adaptability will ultimately help students become more confident and proficient in English.

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