

TEACHING AND LEARNING GRAMMAR: TEACHING GRAMMAR FOR COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE

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Annotation: *This article examines the role of grammar in foreign language teaching and learning, with special attention to communicative and learner-centered approaches. It explains how grammar supports accuracy, meaning, and effective communication and how grammatical competence develops over time. The article analyzes traditional and modern methods of grammar instruction and highlights the importance of context, noticing, practice, and feedback. It argues that grammar should be taught as a meaningful system rather than as a set of isolated rules.*

Key Words: *Grammar, foreign language teaching, communicative grammar, grammatical competence, form and meaning, language awareness, accuracy and fluency*

Аннотация: *В данной статье рассматривается роль грамматики в преподавании и изучении иностранного языка с особым вниманием к коммуникативным и ориентированным на учащегося подходам. В статье объясняется, как грамматика обеспечивает точность, смысл и эффективное общение, а также как со временем формируется грамматическая компетенция. Анализируются традиционные и современные методы обучения грамматике и подчеркивается значение контекста, осознания (noticing), практики и обратной связи. Утверждается, что грамматику следует преподавать как осмысленную систему, а не как набор изолированных правил.*

Ключевые слова: *грамматика, преподавание иностранного языка, коммуникативная грамматика, грамматическая компетенция, форма и значение, языковая осознанность, точность и беглость речи*

Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqolada chet tilini o'qitish va o'rganishda grammatikaning roli kommunikativ va o'quvchiga yo'naltirilgan yondashuvlarga alohida e'tibor qaratgan holda tahlil qilinadi. Unda grammatikaning aniqlik, ma'no va samarali muloqotni qanday ta'minlashi hamda grammatik kompetensiyaning vaqt o'tishi bilan qanday rivojlanishi tushuntiriladi. Maqolada grammatika o'qitishning an'anaviy va zamonaviy usullari ko'rib chiqilib, kontekst, til birliklarini anglash (noticing), mashq va qayta aloqa (feedback)ning ahamiyati yoritiladi. Grammatika alohida qoidalar majmuasi sifatida emas, balki mazmunli tizim sifatida o'qitilishi kerakligi ta'kidlanadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *grammatika, chet tilini o'qitish, kommunikativ grammatika, grammatik kompetensiya, shakl va ma'no, tilga ongli munosabat (language awareness), aniqlik va ravonlik*

INTRODUCTION

Grammar plays a central role in language learning because it provides the system that allows speakers to express meaning in an organized and understandable way. Without grammar, communication would be unclear and inefficient. Learners need grammar to understand how words are combined into sentences and how ideas are connected (Thornbury, 1999). For this reason, grammar has always been a major component of foreign language teaching.

In earlier approaches, grammar was often taught through rules and mechanical exercises. However, research in second language acquisition has shown that knowing rules does not automatically lead to communicative ability (Ellis, 2006). As a result, modern language teaching emphasizes the importance of learning grammar through meaningful use. Grammar is now seen as a resource for communication rather than a list of structures to memorize (Larsen-Freeman, 2003).

The Role of Grammar in Language Learning

Grammar organizes language and makes meaning clear. It allows speakers to express time, number, possibility, and relationships between ideas. According to Ur (2012), grammatical knowledge helps learners produce sentences that are both accurate and appropriate. Grammar also supports comprehension because learners use grammatical clues to interpret what they read and hear. Furthermore, grammar helps learners recognize patterns in language. When students understand how grammatical forms work, they can better process new input and make sense of unfamiliar sentences (Thornbury, 1999). This ability increases their independence and confidence as language users.

Traditional and Modern Approaches to Teaching Grammar

Traditional grammar teaching focused on explanation and repetition. Teachers presented rules and students practiced them through written exercises. Although this method helped learners understand grammatical forms, it often did not prepare them for real communication (Ellis, 2006).

Modern communicative approaches emphasize learning grammar through use. Learners are encouraged to use grammatical structures in speaking, writing, and interaction. This allows grammar to develop naturally as part of communication (Larsen-Freeman, 2003). Another modern method is inductive learning, where students discover rules by examining examples, which increases engagement and retention.

Form, Meaning, and Use

Effective grammar teaching must include three elements: form, meaning, and use. Form refers to the structure of a grammatical item, meaning refers to what it expresses, and use refers to when it is appropriate (Larsen-Freeman, 2003). For example, learners must know not only how to form the present perfect tense but also what it means and when it is used. Teaching grammar in context helps learners connect these three aspects. Texts, dialogues, and real-life situations show how grammar works in authentic communication (Ur, 2012).

Practice, Feedback, and Noticing

Practice is essential for grammar learning. Learners need opportunities to use grammar in both controlled and free activities. Repeated exposure helps grammar become automatic (Ellis, 2006). Feedback also plays an important role because it guides learners toward more accurate language use. Noticing is another key factor in grammar acquisition. When learners consciously notice grammatical forms in input, they are more likely to acquire them (Schmidt, 1990). Teachers can support noticing by highlighting structures in reading and listening materials.

Conclusion

In conclusion, grammar is a fundamental part of language learning and teaching. It provides the structure that makes communication meaningful and clear. Research shows that grammar is best learned when it is taught in context, connected to meaning, and practiced through communication.

By combining form, meaning, use, practice, and awareness, teachers can help learners develop strong grammatical competence and greater confidence in using the language. Moreover, effective grammar instruction encourages learners to become more autonomous and reflective about their language use.

When students understand how grammatical structures function, they are better able to notice patterns in new language input and apply rules creatively in different contexts.

Grammar should therefore be viewed not only as a set of rules but as a dynamic tool that supports comprehension, expression, and critical thinking.

Ultimately, integrating grammar into communicative and meaningful learning experiences helps learners achieve both accuracy and fluency, preparing them to use the language confidently in real-life situations.

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