MODERN METHODS OF TEACHING ENGLISH

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Abstract: This article examines modern methods of teaching English and their role in the educational process. Special attention is given to the comparison between traditional and modern teaching approaches. The paper analyzes Communicative Language Teaching, Task-Based Learning, Content and Language Integrated Learning, the Flipped Classroom model, and the use of digital technologies. Each method is explained with its advantages and simple classroom examples. The study concludes that modern methods improve students' motivation and develop their communicative competence.

Keywords: English language, teaching methods, CLT, TBL, CLIL, digital technologies, learning.

Teaching English has changed significantly over the last decades. In the past, the main focus was on grammar rules, translation, and memorization. However, in today's world, English is used as a global language for communication, education, and work. This has created a need for more practical and interactive teaching methods.

Traditional methods are still used in many classrooms, but they are often not enough to prepare students for real-life communication. Modern approaches focus more on speaking, listening, and using language in real situations. According to Harmer[1], effective language teaching should combine both accuracy and fluency.

This article explores the most important modern methods of teaching English and explains why they are more effective in today's educational context.Traditional teaching methods, such as the Grammar-Translation Method, focus mainly on grammar rules and translation exercises. Students often learn vocabulary lists and do written exercises. This approach helps develop reading and writing skills but does not prepare students for real communication.

In contrast, modern methods focus on communication and interaction. Richards and Rodgers[2] state that modern language teaching aims to develop communicative competence, not just knowledge of grammar. Students are encouraged to speak, work in groups, and use language in meaningful contexts.

The main difference is that traditional methods are teacher-centered, while modern methods are student-centered. This shift makes learning more engaging and effective.

Communicative Language Teaching is one of the most popular modern methods. It focuses on using language for real communication. Students learn how to express their ideas, ask questions, and interact with others.

Advantages: CLT improves speaking and listening skills. It also increases students' confidence because they use language actively. Example: The teacher gives students a role-play activity, such as ordering food in a restaurant. Students practice dialogues and interact with each other.

Analysis: This method is effective because it creates a real-life context. As Harmer[1] explains, communication helps students remember language better and use it naturally.

Task-Based Learning focuses on completing meaningful tasks using English. According to Nunan[3] and Willis[4], tasks should reflect real-life situations.

Advantages: Students develop problem-solving skills and learn language naturally while completing tasks. Example: Students are asked to plan a trip. They must discuss destinations, prices, and activities in English. Analysis: TBL is effective because students focus on meaning, not just form. Language becomes a tool for achieving a goal, which increases motivation.

CLIL combines learning a subject with learning a language. For example, students study history or science in English. Coyle, Hood, and Marsh[5] highlight that CLIL develops both language and thinking skills. Advantages: Students learn vocabulary in context and improve their academic skills. Example: A teacher explains a simple science topic in English, using visuals and key terms. Analysis: CLIL is effective because it connects language with real knowledge.

The Flipped Classroom model changes the traditional lesson structure. Students study theory at home (videos, texts), and practice in class. Bergmann and Sams[6] introduced this approach. Advantages: More time for practice and interaction during lessons. Students learn at their own pace. Example: Students watch a grammar video at home. In class, they do exercises and discuss examples. Analysis: This method is effective because class time is used more productively. Students become more independent learners.

Technology plays an important role in modern education. Tools such as online platforms, mobile apps, and multimedia help make learning more interactive. Dudeney and Hockly[7] emphasize that technology supports flexible learning. Advantages: Students can learn anytime and anywhere. Technology also provides authentic materials like videos and podcasts. Example: Using apps like Duolingo or watching English videos with subtitles. Analysis: Technology increases motivation and engagement. It also gives access to real language used by native speakers.

Conclusion: Modern methods of teaching English are more effective than traditional ones because they focus on communication, interaction, and real-life use of language. Approaches such as CLT, TBL, CLIL, Flipped Classroom, and digital technologies help students become active learners. These methods not only improve language skills but also increase motivation and confidence. Teachers should combine different approaches depending on students' needs. In conclusion, the future of English teaching lies in flexible, student-centered methods that prepare learners for real communication in a global world.

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