THE ROLE OF COMPARATIVE METHODOLOGY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING: A MODERN PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract: This paper examines the development of foreign language teaching methodology and its application in contemporary educational settings, particularly in academic lyceums. It explores various teaching approaches, including communicative and comparative methods, and highlights their role in enhancing language competence. Special attention is given to the challenges and advantages of teaching in academic lyceums, where learners possess diverse linguistic backgrounds and learning needs. Additionally, the study emphasizes the importance of formative assessment as a continuous and learner-centered evaluation strategy that supports effective language acquisition. The paper argues that integrating innovative methodologies with formative assessment practices leads to improved student engagement, autonomy, and communicative competence.

Keywords: methodology, communicative approach, comparative method, academic lyceum, formative assessment, innovation, language teaching

Introduction

In the context of rapid global development and technological advancement, foreign language education has undergone significant transformation. Modern pedagogy increasingly emphasizes innovation, learner-centered approaches, and communicative competence. As highlighted in the original discussion, methodology plays a central role in shaping the effectiveness of language teaching and learning processes.

Foreign language learning is not merely the acquisition of linguistic knowledge but also a means of developing intercultural awareness and communicative skills. In countries where multilingualism is encouraged, students typically learn their mother tongue, a second language, and one or more foreign languages. Unlike the natural acquisition of the first language, foreign languages are usually learned in structured, classroom-based environments, which require well-designed methodologies.

Theoretical Background of Language Teaching Methodology

Methodology in language teaching refers to the system of principles, methods, and techniques used to facilitate learning. It answers the fundamental question: How should a language be taught? In contrast, didactics focuses on what should be taught.

The concept of "method" originates from the Greek word methodos, meaning a way or path toward achieving a goal. Over time, various teaching methods have emerged, including:

Grammar-translation method
Direct method
Communicative language teaching (CLT)
Comparative (contrastive) method
Intensive and interactive approaches

Among these, the communicative approach has gained prominence since the 1970s, emphasizing real-life communication and functional language use. It views language as a tool for interaction rather than a static system of rules.

Comparative Methodology in Language Teaching. Comparative methodology involves analyzing similarities and differences between the learner's native language and the target language. This approach helps students: Understand grammatical structures more clearly, avoid common errors influenced by the mother tongue, develop deeper linguistic awareness. By comparing languages, learners can build connections that facilitate comprehension and retention. This method is particularly effective in multilingual contexts, where students already possess knowledge of multiple linguistic systems.

Teaching Methodology in Academic Lyceums: Challenges and Benefits

Benefits of teaching English in academic lyceums offers several advantages:

Higher Academic Motivation to students in academic lyceums are often more goal-oriented and motivated, which creates a productive learning environment. Developed Cognitive Skills to learners typically demonstrate stronger analytical and critical thinking abilities, enabling the use of advanced methodologies such as comparative analysis and problem-based learning. Opportunities for Skill Integration in academic lyceums allow teachers to integrate speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills through interactive tasks and projects. Challenges, however, several challenges must also be considered:

Mixed Proficiency Levels among students may have varying levels of language competence, making it difficult to apply a single teaching approach effectively. Limited Authentic Language Environment as noted in the original text, foreign languages are often learned in artificial classroom settings, limiting real-life communication opportunities. Traditional Teaching Habits some institutions still rely on outdated, teacher-centered methods, which may hinder the implementation of innovative approaches. Assessment Pressure is a strong focus on summative exams can reduce opportunities for creative and communicative teaching.

The Importance of Formative Assessment in Language Teaching using formative assessment plays a crucial role in modern language education. Unlike summative assessment, which evaluates learning outcomes at the end of a course, formative assessment is continuous and process-oriented. Key Functions of Formative Assessment: provides ongoing feedback to students, helps teachers adjust instruction, encourages learner autonomy, supports self-assessment and reflection, benefits in Academic Lyceums. In academic lyceum settings, formative assessment is especially valuable because it: addresses individual learning differences, promotes active participation, enhances motivation and confidence, develops critical thinking skills, examples include: peer assessment, self-assessment checklists, reflective journals, classroom discussions and feedback. By incorporating formative assessment into daily teaching, educators can create a supportive learning environment where students actively monitor their progress.

Discussion

The integration of comparative methodology and communicative approaches creates a balanced framework for effective language teaching. While comparative analysis strengthens linguistic understanding, communicative methods ensure practical application.

In academic lyceums, where students are expected to achieve higher levels of proficiency, combining these methodologies with formative assessment leads to more meaningful learning

outcomes. Teachers must adapt their strategies to meet learners' needs while maintaining a focus on interaction and reflection.

Conclusion

Foreign language teaching methodology continues to evolve in response to global educational trends. The use of comparative and communicative approaches provides a strong foundation for developing linguistic and communicative competence. In academic lyceums, despite certain challenges, the implementation of innovative teaching strategies and formative assessment practices significantly enhances learning effectiveness.

Ultimately, successful language education depends on a balanced combination of methodology, innovation, and continuous assessment, ensuring that students become autonomous and competent users of the language.

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