ADVANTAGES OF USING INTERACTIVE METHODS IN MOTHER TONGUE LESSONS

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Abstract: This paper examines the advantages of employing interactive teaching methods in mother tongue (native language) lessons. As education systems shift toward student-centered learning, interactive strategies such as group discussions, role-playing, games, peer teaching, and multimedia tools have proven effective in enhancing learners' linguistic competence and communicative abilities. These methods not only increase student engagement but also foster creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking skills. Through analysis of practical classroom applications and pedagogical research, this study highlights how interactive approaches can improve the quality of native language instruction and contribute to more meaningful, dynamic learning experiences.

Keywords: interactive methods, mother tongue education, student-centered learning, active learning, language skills, communicative competence, classroom engagement, collaborative learning.

In today's educational landscape, the focus has shifted from traditional, teacher-centered instruction to more student-centered and interactive approaches. This transformation is particularly significant in the teaching of the mother tongue, where the goal is not only to teach grammar and vocabulary, but also to develop students' ability to use the language effectively in real-life contexts. Interactive teaching methods are designed to actively involve learners in the learning process, making them participants rather than passive recipients of knowledge.

Mother tongue lessons provide an ideal platform for the implementation of interactive methods. Since language is inherently social and communicative, activities that encourage dialogue, cooperation, and creative expression can greatly enhance the effectiveness of instruction. Techniques such as role-playing, debates, storytelling, problem-solving tasks, and the integration of digital tools help create an engaging and stimulating classroom environment.

Moreover, interactive methods align well with modern educational goals, such as fostering critical thinking, promoting collaboration, and nurturing autonomous learners. When students are encouraged to express their ideas, listen to others, and reflect on different perspectives, they develop deeper language competence and socio-linguistic awareness. These skills are essential not only for academic success but also for effective communication in broader social contexts.

This paper explores the pedagogical benefits of interactive methods in mother tongue education, providing both theoretical insights and practical examples to demonstrate how these strategies can transform language teaching into a more active, student-centered, and meaningful experience.

Interactive teaching methods have become essential in modern language education due to their ability to enhance student engagement, critical thinking, and communication skills. In the context of mother tongue instruction, these methods offer distinct advantages that go beyond grammar drills and vocabulary memorization. They promote deeper comprehension, meaningful participation, and active use of language in real-life situations.

When learners are placed at the center of the learning process, they are more likely to become motivated, confident, and creative users of their native language. This can be achieved through a variety of interactive approaches such as peer collaboration, storytelling, discussion circles, role-playing, and language games. These activities not only make lessons more enjoyable but also increase retention of linguistic concepts by involving learners cognitively, emotionally, and socially.

Role-playing and dramatization help students embody characters and practice expressive language in realistic contexts. Acting out a dialogue or performing a scene from a local folk tale, for example, gives students the opportunity to explore tone, emotion, and vocabulary in a meaningful way. This method strengthens both verbal and non-verbal communication while building empathy and imagination.

Collaborative work is another effective strategy. When students work together to complete a task—such as writing a group story, analyzing a poem, or preparing a class presentation—they engage in natural conversation, negotiation, and problem-solving. These interactions allow them to practice active listening, clarify ideas, and build upon each other's contributions, which are key components of communicative competence.

Reading and writing tasks can also be made interactive. Instead of reading alone and answering comprehension questions, students might engage in group prediction activities, share opinions about a text, or rewrite a story from a different point of view. Writing assignments can be done collaboratively, with peers offering feedback, editing, and brainstorming together. These practices turn reading and writing into dynamic, socially constructed processes rather than solitary exercises.

Incorporating multimedia tools further enhances the effectiveness of interactive methods. Videos, podcasts, audio stories, and digital presentations bring visual and auditory variety to lessons, catering to different learning styles. Digital storytelling platforms allow students to combine text, images, and narration to tell personal or cultural stories, thereby strengthening both technical and linguistic abilities.

Gamification adds motivation and excitement to the classroom. Simple language games, quizzes, competitions, and classroom challenges help students practice grammar, spelling, and vocabulary in a fun and low-pressure setting. These methods encourage participation from even the most hesitant learners and support language acquisition through repetition and engagement.

Project-based learning is another valuable approach. When students undertake long-term tasks such as producing a class newspaper, researching the history of their local dialect, or interviewing elders about oral traditions, they apply language skills in meaningful contexts. These projects foster critical thinking, creativity, and cross-disciplinary knowledge while reinforcing the value of the mother tongue in preserving cultural identity.

Equally important is the socio-cultural relevance of interactive methods. Using proverbs, riddles, folk songs, and local narratives helps students appreciate their linguistic heritage and see their native language as a living expression of their culture. This sense of identity and belonging enhances their emotional connection to the language, encouraging them to use it with pride and purpose.

Overall, interactive methods transform the classroom into a lively, collaborative, and learner-centered space where language is not just studied but lived and experienced. By focusing on meaningful communication and student participation, these strategies prepare learners to use their mother tongue effectively in both academic and everyday contexts.

Interactive teaching methods offer numerous advantages in the effective instruction of the mother tongue. By actively involving students in the learning process, these strategies enhance linguistic competence, encourage self-expression, and build essential 21st-century skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. Rather than passively receiving knowledge, students become engaged participants, using language in meaningful and relevant contexts.

The integration of role-play, discussion, group work, games, multimedia tools, and project-based learning makes language lessons more dynamic and student-centered. These methods not only strengthen grammar and vocabulary acquisition but also support cultural awareness, identity development, and emotional connection to one's native language. In turn, this fosters a greater appreciation for linguistic heritage and improves long-term retention.

To fully realize the benefits of interactive teaching, educators must be equipped with the necessary training, resources, and pedagogical support. When implemented thoughtfully, interactive methods have the potential to transform the classroom into a space where the mother tongue is not only taught effectively but lived, shared, and celebrated.

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