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**THE ROLE OF MOTIVATION IN LEARNING ENGLISH AS A  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

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**Annotation:** This article examines the importance of motivation in learning English as a foreign language (EFL). Motivation is one of the most influential factors affecting learners' success in language acquisition. The paper discusses different types of motivation—intrinsic and extrinsic—and how they influence learners' attitudes, performance, and achievement in English. It also highlights the role of teachers in fostering and maintaining students' motivation through effective teaching methods, feedback, and classroom environment.

**Keywords:** motivation, English language learning, EFL students, intrinsic motivation, extrinsic motivation.

In the modern globalized world, English has become an international language used for communication, education, and professional development. As a result, learning English as a foreign language (EFL) has gained great importance worldwide. However, the success of language learning depends not only on teaching materials and methods but also on the learner's motivation. Motivation gives learners the energy and desire to learn, practice, and achieve their goals. Without motivation, even the best teaching techniques may fail to produce positive results.

#### 1. Definition and Types of Motivation

Motivation can be defined as the internal drive that pushes individuals to act toward achieving specific goals. In the context of EFL learning, motivation determines how much effort a learner will invest in acquiring language skills. Gardner and Lambert (1972) identified two main types of motivation: instrumental and integrative.

- Instrumental motivation refers to learning English for practical reasons, such as getting a job, passing an exam, or studying abroad.

- Integrative motivation involves learning English to communicate with people from other cultures or to become part of the English-speaking community.

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In addition, modern psychologists distinguish between intrinsic (learning for personal satisfaction or interest) and extrinsic (learning for external rewards like grades or recognition) motivation.

#### 2. The Role of Motivation in EFL Learning

Motivation affects all aspects of language learning, including attention, participation, persistence, and achievement. Highly motivated learners are more likely to practice regularly, overcome difficulties, and continue learning even when progress seems slow. In contrast, learners with low motivation often lose interest quickly and achieve lower results.

According to Dörnyei (2001), motivation influences not only the amount of effort learners put into studying but also the strategies they use and their attitudes toward language learning. For example, motivated students are more willing to communicate in English, read English materials, and engage in language-related activities outside the classroom.

#### 3. Teachers' Role in Fostering Motivation

Teachers play a key role in maintaining and enhancing learners' motivation. A supportive classroom atmosphere, encouraging feedback, and engaging teaching materials can increase students' interest. Teachers should recognize individual differences among students and use diverse methods such as games, group work, discussions, and technology-based activities to make learning enjoyable.

Moreover, teachers should provide opportunities for students to experience success, as achievement strengthens self-confidence and motivation. Praise, constructive feedback, and the use of authentic materials (like songs, videos, or real-life tasks) also make learning more meaningful and motivating.

#### 4. The Impact of Motivation on Language Achievement

Numerous studies have shown that motivation strongly correlates with language achievement. Learners who are motivated tend to have higher vocabulary retention, better pronunciation, and more accurate grammar. Motivation also influences learners' willingness to communicate, which is a key factor in developing fluency.

In some contexts, such as Uzbekistan and other non-English-speaking countries, extrinsic motivation—like passing exams or improving career opportunities—may initially drive learning. However, for long-term success, intrinsic motivation should be encouraged through enjoyable and personally relevant activities.

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Motivation is a vital element in the process of learning English as a foreign language. It determines learners' persistence, engagement, and success in mastering the language. Both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation play important roles, but the teacher's task is to maintain a balance between them. By creating an encouraging learning environment and using creative teaching techniques, educators can inspire students to learn English not only for practical purposes but also for personal growth and communication. A motivated learner is ultimately a successful learner.

**Role of Motivation in English Language Learning: A Real Challenge** — This article examines how motivation functions in learning English as a foreign language, looking at intrinsic vs. extrinsic motivation, instrumental vs. integrative motivation.

**Students' motivation to learn English: the importance of external influence on the ideal L2 self** — A study of Japanese elementary school students, showing how external influences (home, school, media) shape their "ideal L2 self" and thus their motivation to learn English.

**Investigating the Role of English as a Foreign Language Learners' Academic Motivation and Language Mindset in Their Grit: A Theoretical Review** — A theoretical review linking motivation, growth mindset and perseverance ('grit') of EFL learners.

**Optimizing EFL learning: exploring the role of learner background factors** — Examines intrinsic vs. extrinsic motivation in EFL context, and how learner background factors (major, age, occupation) may or may not affect it.

**The Importance of Motivation in Foreign Language Learning** — A conceptual paper exploring different motivational models/orientations and their effect on foreign language proficiency.

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