

**O'RTA OSIYODA IJTIMOIIY VA GUMANITAR  
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**DEVELOPING SPEAKING SKILLS THROUGH INTERACTIVE  
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

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**Annotation:** This article explores the role of interactive classroom activities in developing speaking skills among learners of English as a foreign language (EFL). The study emphasizes the importance of communicative competence, active participation, and student-centered learning. Various interactive techniques such as role-play, group discussions, debates, and problem-solving tasks are analyzed for their effectiveness in enhancing fluency, accuracy, and confidence. The paper concludes that interactive activities not only improve language proficiency but also foster collaboration, motivation, and critical thinking.

**Keywords:** speaking skills, interactive activities, EFL learners, communication, fluency, classroom interaction.

Speaking is one of the most essential skills in language learning, as it directly reflects a learner's ability to use the target language for real communication. For many English as a foreign language (EFL) learners, speaking remains the most challenging skill to master due to lack of exposure, limited vocabulary, and fear of making mistakes. Traditional teaching methods often focus on grammar and writing, giving less importance to oral communication.

In recent years, interactive classroom activities have gained attention as effective tools for developing speaking competence. These activities create opportunities for students to use English in meaningful contexts, encouraging interaction, creativity, and collaboration. The goal of speaking instruction should not only be grammatical correctness but also the ability to communicate ideas clearly and confidently.

#### 1. Importance of Interactive Learning

Interactive learning shifts the focus from teacher-centered instruction to student-centered communication. It allows learners to take an active role in the classroom by sharing ideas, negotiating meaning, and practicing language spontaneously. According to Harmer (2015), interaction helps learners internalize language forms and use them in authentic situations, which leads to better retention and fluency.

# O'RTA OSIYODA IJTIMOIIY VA GUMANITAR TADQIQOTLAR-Jurnali 1-son. 3-qism. Noyabr-2025

In interactive classrooms, students are encouraged to speak more frequently and naturally. Such activities help reduce anxiety, increase motivation, and develop communicative competence—the ability to use the language appropriately in different contexts.

## 2. Types of Interactive Activities for Developing Speaking Skills

Interactive classroom activities come in many forms, each serving a unique purpose in language development.

- **Role-plays and Simulations:** Students act out real-life scenarios such as ordering food, job interviews, or making travel arrangements. These tasks promote spontaneity and practical language use.

- **Group Discussions and Debates:** Learners exchange opinions on current issues, which helps them practice argumentation, persuasion, and fluency.

- **Information-Gap Activities:** Students work in pairs to complete tasks by sharing missing information. This technique encourages negotiation of meaning and active listening.

- **Storytelling and Presentations:** Such activities develop organization of ideas, coherence, and pronunciation.

- **Games and Problem-Solving Tasks:** These increase engagement, creativity, and teamwork while promoting communication in a relaxed environment.

## 3. The Role of the Teacher in Interactive Speaking Classes

The teacher acts as a facilitator rather than a lecturer. Their role is to create a positive atmosphere where students feel comfortable expressing themselves. Teachers must design tasks that are appropriate for the learners' proficiency levels, interests, and cultural backgrounds.

Moreover, teachers should provide constructive feedback on pronunciation, grammar, and fluency without interrupting communication. Encouragement and positive reinforcement are key factors that build students' confidence in speaking English.

## 4. Benefits of Interactive Classroom Activities

Interactive speaking activities bring multiple benefits:

- They enhance fluency and accuracy through continuous practice.
- They promote critical thinking and collaborative learning.
- They help learners overcome fear and anxiety about speaking.

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- They improve pronunciation, vocabulary, and listening skills simultaneously.
- They make learning enjoyable and meaningful, which increases motivation.

Research by Dörnyei and Murphy (2003) shows that learners participating in interactive discussions and group tasks demonstrate greater improvement in oral communication compared to those in teacher-centered environments.

## 5. Challenges and Solutions

Some challenges include unequal participation, limited time, and large class sizes. To overcome these, teachers can organize smaller groups, assign specific roles, and use time-bound activities. Using technology—such as online discussion platforms, video projects, and voice recording apps—can also extend speaking practice beyond the classroom.

Developing speaking skills through interactive classroom activities is essential for effective EFL learning. These activities create authentic opportunities for communication, improve students' fluency, and build confidence. Teachers play a crucial role in designing and facilitating meaningful interactions that engage learners. When students actively participate and use English in real situations, they become more competent and motivated speakers. Therefore, integrating interactive speaking activities should be a central part of any modern English language teaching program.

Recent studies emphasize that interactive classroom activities play a crucial role in developing speaking skills among EFL learners. According to *Improving the EFL Learners' Speaking Ability through Interactive Storytelling* (Journal of Dinamika Ilmu), the use of interactive storytelling allows students to express ideas more freely, engage emotionally with content, and build confidence in oral communication. This method also fosters creativity and critical thinking, which are essential components of effective speaking.

Similarly, *Engaging Secondary School Students in EFL Speaking Classrooms through Digital Storytelling* highlights that digital storytelling can significantly enhance learners' motivation and participation. The integration of technology makes the speaking process more meaningful and relevant to students' real-life experiences, resulting in improved fluency and vocabulary usage.

Another study titled *Classroom Strategies and Student Engagement in Using Interactive Methods for Teaching Speaking Skills* reports that activities such as group discussions, role-plays, and classroom debates help students overcome anxiety and

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TADQIQOTLAR-Jurnali  
1-son. 3-qism. Noyabr-2025**

develop better interactional competence. When learners are involved in communicative tasks that require authentic language use, they tend to retain vocabulary longer and use grammar more naturally.

In addition, *Teaching Speaking: Activities to Promote Speaking Skills in EFL Classrooms* suggests that task-based approaches and pair or group work encourage students to use English actively rather than passively. Interactive techniques such as information-gap activities, problem-solving tasks, and storytelling provide real communicative purposes for speaking practice.

Finally, the article *Unleashing the Power of Words: Group Discussion for EFL Students’ Speaking Skills* concludes that collaborative dialogue enables students to exchange opinions, negotiate meaning, and build social confidence. These activities reduce the fear of making mistakes and increase spontaneous speech production, which are vital for mastering spoken English.

Overall, research in this area confirms that interactive classroom activities—ranging from storytelling and role-playing to group discussions—are among the most effective methods for improving learners’ speaking competence in the EFL context.

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