

CURRENT TRENDS IN METHODOLOGY OF TEACHING PHONETICS

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The paper studies current trends in teaching phonetics, including both traditional and innovative methods. The main attention is paid to the role of audio and video technologies in the formation of correct pronunciation, as well as the use of modern online resources and mobile applications for phonetic learning. The results of the research show the effectiveness of different methods and technologies in the context of modern phonetic learning, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches.

Key words: *pronunciation pedagogy, phonetics, mobile applications, phonetic skills, digital tools.*

As is known, modern digital tools and applications help students discover interest and, moreover, increase motivation in learning a foreign language. The aim of the study is to outline methodology of forming interaction in the process of training phonetic skills involving online learning platforms, online tools, and mobile applications, which determines the importance and timeliness of the study.

Pronunciation pedagogy is a leading factor in foreign language teaching. Since sounds play an important role in communication, foreign language teachers must pay more attention to practising pronunciation in their classes. However, this fact is omitted by many foreign language teachers. It is clear that communication is an individual relationship between the speaker and the hearer. This means that one must comprehend what they hear in the target language and must produce the sounds of the language they are trying to learn accurately. Unless the learner has sufficient knowledge of the sound patterns of the target language, he/she can neither encode a message to anybody nor decode the message sent by another person by learning the sounds of the target language within his/her mother tongue. Therefore, pronunciation teaching is important for successful oral communication since it is the main component of communicative competence. There are many different opinions about the role of pronunciation in language teaching and about how best to teach it.

Phonetics as a science about the language sounds is one of the main disciplines in studying any language. It not only helps understand the mechanisms and articulation of sounds but also plays a crucial role in the formation of correct pronunciation and understanding of speech by ear (Khusainova, 2023).

Each language has its own phonetic features that make it unique. Therefore, in order to speak a foreign language fluently and correctly, it is necessary not only to adopt the vocabulary and grammar, but also to learn how to pronounce the sounds of that language correctly.

Present-day phonetics teaching aims not only to transmit theoretical knowledge about the sound system of a language, but also to apply this knowledge in real communication. The main goals of such teaching are:

1. Formation of correct students' pronunciation, which accelerates easy understanding of their speech by native speakers.
2. Development of listening skills, which allows students to adapt easily to the environment of native speakers and understand various dialects and accents.
3. Training the learners to do articulatory gymnastics to increase the flexibility of the articulatory apparatus and improve pronunciation.

To achieve these goals, there are some tasks in present-day phonetic teaching:

1. Active use of audio and video materials for practicing listening comprehension.
2. Use of specialised programmes and applications for pronunciation correction.
3. Organisation of practical classes with native speakers.
4. Implementation of interactive and game techniques to improve students' motivation and to involve them in the learning process.

Hence, modern phonetic teaching attempts for a comprehensive approach, combining theoretical knowledge with practical skills and active use of modern technologies.

Today, when in Ukraine we have online learning because of the pandemic and war, it's not a surprise that foreign language teaching in general and phonetics in particular depends on the computer and Internet technologies used in the learning process. Online courses and platforms allow students to access high-quality resources, video tutorials and interactive exercises, making the learning process more flexible and accessible. In particular, simple, accessible, and at the same time effective tools are represented by messengers (Viber, Telegram, WhatsApp), services for live video conferences (Zoom, Skype, Google meet, etc.) and mobile applications (Quizlet, Kahoot, etc). The key and crucial method is to hear the teacher, see his or her articulation, repeat it many times and receive feedback. With the help of voice recorders on mobile devices, students can record themselves and send exercises in an audio format to their teachers, receiving in response the

teacher's recommendations, while they can get audio examples from their teachers too.

Modern technology, especially mobile apps, provides a constant interaction with students, allowing them to practice anytime and anywhere. Research shows that regular practice supported by technology leads to better results. In addition, some programs allow students to work on their weak points, improving their pronunciation (Developing, 2024).

The efficiency of different methods and technologies has a direct impact on the quality of learning phonetics. With globalisation and a growing need for high-level foreign language proficiency, pronunciation is becoming a key element of successful learning. That is why the use of the most effective methods and tools provides better educational results and improves students' chances in getting international education.

We can summarise the following advantages of the use of innovative methods and technologies:

1. Adaptive learning: programmes and applications can be adapted to the students' needs.

2. Feedback, that allows students to correct their pronunciation quickly.

3. Great accessibility and the ability to learn anytime and anywhere.

As for their disadvantages, they can be generalised as follows. The teaching process may require additional resources or fees to access high quality programmes. Some students may experience technical difficulties or have bad internet connection.

Thus, teaching phonetics plays a key role in the process of learning foreign languages, correct pronunciation and perception of sounds are fundamental components of the learners' communicative competence. With the development of technologies, methods of teaching phonetics have changed significantly. Despite all the advantages of technological innovations, the role of an experienced teacher is undoubtedly very important.

In general, the educational environment faces new challenges and opportunities in the field of teaching phonetics. Research and practice show that the adequate combination of traditional and new methods of teaching foreign languages can significantly improve the effectiveness of the learning process.

References

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