

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGE PHONETICS: INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY AND AUTHENTIC MATERIALS

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The paper explores modern methodologies for teaching foreign language phonetics, focusing on the integration of technological tools and authentic materials to enhance pronunciation accuracy and listening comprehension. It examines the effectiveness of digital applications, speech recognition software, and multimedia resources in phonetic training. The study also highlights the role of sociolinguistic factors in pronunciation acquisition and suggests practical strategies for educators. The findings emphasize the need for a balanced approach combining traditional drills with innovative techniques.

***Keywords:** phonetics, foreign language teaching, pronunciation, technology, authentic materials, speech recognition, sociolinguistics*

Phonetics, as a fundamental component of foreign language acquisition, plays a crucial role in ensuring intelligible communication. Despite its importance, many learners struggle with mastering accurate pronunciation due to native language interference and insufficient exposure to authentic speech (Derwing & Munro, 2015). Traditional phonetic instruction often relies on repetitive drills, which may not adequately prepare students for real-world interactions. This article investigates contemporary approaches to teaching phonetics, emphasizing the use of technology and authentic materials to create a more dynamic and effective learning environment.

Recent advancements in language learning technology have revolutionized phonetic training. Speech recognition software, such as Rosetta Stone and ELSA Speak, provides immediate feedback on pronunciation errors, allowing learners to self-correct in real time (Liakin et al., 2017). Additionally, mobile applications like Duolingo and Pronunciation Power integrate gamification, making phonetic practice more engaging. Studies indicate that learners using such tools show significant improvement in vowel and consonant articulation compared to those relying solely on instructor-led drills (Golonka et al., 2014).

Another promising development is the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in phonetic analysis. AI-driven platforms can detect subtle pronunciation deviations and suggest targeted exercises, personalizing the learning process (Eskenazi, 2016).

For instance, Google's AI pronunciation tool evaluates stress patterns and intonation, helping learners adopt a more natural speech rhythm.

Exposure to authentic speech is essential for developing accurate pronunciation. Authentic materials—such as films, podcasts, and news broadcasts - provide learners with real-life examples of intonation, connected speech, and regional accents (Gilmore, 2015). Research suggests that students who engage with authentic audio-visual content demonstrate better listening comprehension and prosodic skills (Zheng et al., 2018).

One effective strategy is the use of shadowing techniques, where learners mimic native speakers in real time. This method, combined with transcript analysis, helps bridge the gap between perception and production (Kadota, 2019). For example, TED Talks and YouTube vlogs offer diverse linguistic input, allowing learners to practice different speaking styles.

Pronunciation instruction must also address sociolinguistic factors, such as dialectal variations and speech register. Learners should be aware that "correct" pronunciation varies across contexts - formal settings may require standard pronunciation, while informal conversations often feature reductions and elisions (Jenkins, 2015). Teachers can incorporate sociolinguistic discussions into lessons, encouraging students to analyze how pronunciation changes in different social settings.

To optimize phonetic instruction, educators should:

1. combine traditional and technological methods - use IPA drills alongside speech recognition apps;
2. integrate multimedia resources - incorporate films, songs, and podcasts to expose learners to natural speech;
3. encourage self-monitoring - train students to record and analyze their own speech;
4. address individual challenges - provide targeted exercises for problematic sounds based on learners' native language.

The teaching of phonetics in a foreign language (FL) classroom presents both theoretical and practical challenges. Despite advancements in pedagogical strategies, students often struggle with pronunciation due to interference from their native language (L1) and insufficient exposure to authentic speech. This study explores modern methodological approaches that enhance phonetic acquisition. Phonetics plays a crucial role in comprehension and intelligibility. Pronunciation errors can impede communication more than grammatical mistakes. Thus, effective phonetic instruction should be a central component of FL teaching.

The integration of technology and authentic materials into phonetic instruction offers a more interactive and effective approach than traditional methods alone. By leveraging digital tools and real-world speech samples, educators can enhance learners' pronunciation accuracy and communicative competence. Future research should explore the long-term effects of these methodologies on fluency development.

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