

THE LATEST INNOVATIVE METHODS IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

This article analyses the latest innovative methods in teaching foreign languages. The way we teach foreign languages is constantly changing. Technology, updated teaching theories, and a better understanding of learning are leading to new and improved methods. These innovations don't necessarily replace traditional approaches entirely, but they often enhance them, creating more interesting, effective, and personalized learning experiences. This article will delve into these new methods, examining their theoretical foundations, how they're used in practice, and their potential impact on learners.

Keywords: *method, foreign languages, Mobile learning, Task-based learning.*

INTRODUCTION

One major development is the increased use of technology in language learning. Mobile learning, in particular, is now widespread, with learners using smartphones and tablets to access language apps, interactive activities, and real-world materials whenever and wherever they are. Many of these apps incorporate game-like features, such as points and rewards, to keep learners motivated and engaged. Mobile learning also allows for customized instruction, enabling learners to concentrate on their specific areas of weakness.

Another impactful innovation is the use of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) in language education. VR immerses learners in simulated environments where they can practice using the target language in realistic scenarios, such as ordering food in a restaurant or asking for directions. AR, on the other hand, overlays digital information onto the real world, providing learners with instant translations, pronunciation guides, and cultural insights. These technologies offer a unique opportunity to create immersive and interactive learning experiences that enhance motivation and engagement.

Task-based learning (TBL) is a communicative approach that focuses on engaging learners in meaningful tasks that require them to use the target language to

achieve a specific goal. Unlike traditional methods that emphasize grammar rules and vocabulary lists, TBL encourages learners to interact with each other and use the language in a natural and spontaneous way. The tasks can range from simple activities, such as planning a trip, to more complex projects, such as creating a website. TBL promotes learner autonomy and encourages them to take responsibility for their own learning.

Project-based learning (PBL) takes the task-based approach a step further by engaging learners in extended projects that require them to apply their language skills to solve real-world problems. PBL fosters collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity, as learners work together to research, design, and present their projects. This approach allows learners to develop a deeper understanding of the target language and culture, while also gaining valuable skills that are transferable to other areas of their lives.

Another innovative method gaining traction is the flipped classroom model. In this approach, traditional classroom time is reversed. Instead of listening to lectures in class, learners access instructional content, such as videos or readings, at home. Class time is then dedicated to interactive activities, discussions, and problem-solving, guided by the teacher. The flipped classroom allows for more personalized instruction and provides learners with opportunities to apply their knowledge in a collaborative and engaging environment.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Personalized learning is a key trend in contemporary language education. Recognizing that learners have different learning styles, paces, and needs, personalized learning approaches aim to tailor instruction to each individual learner. This can involve using adaptive learning platforms that adjust the difficulty level of exercises based on learner performance, providing individualized feedback, and offering learners choices in terms of learning activities and resources. Personalized learning empowers learners to take control of their own learning journey and achieve their language learning goals more effectively.

Game-based learning (GBL) utilizes games and game-like elements to make language learning more engaging and motivating. Games can provide learners with a fun and interactive way to practice vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. They can also foster collaboration, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. GBL can be particularly effective for younger learners, but it can also be used with older learners to create a more enjoyable learning experience.

The integration of authentic materials, such as movies, music, podcasts, and news articles, is another important innovation in language teaching. Authentic materials expose learners to the real-world use of the target language and provide them with insights into the target culture. They can also be more engaging and motivating than traditional textbook materials. However, it is important to select authentic materials that are appropriate for the learners' level and interests.

Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) continues to be a dominant approach in language education. CLT emphasizes the importance of communication and interaction in the learning process. Learners are encouraged to use the target language to communicate with each other and the teacher, even if they make mistakes. CLT focuses on fluency and accuracy, and aims to develop learners' ability to use the language in real-world situations.

While these innovative methods offer significant potential for improving language learning outcomes, it is important to recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. The most effective method will depend on the learners' needs, goals, and context. Teachers need to be flexible and adaptable, and be willing to experiment with different approaches to find what works best for their students. Furthermore, it is crucial to continue researching and evaluating the effectiveness of these innovative methods to ensure that they are truly enhancing the language learning experience. The future of foreign language education lies in embracing innovation, while also maintaining a strong foundation in sound pedagogical principles. By combining the best of both worlds, we can create more effective and engaging learning experiences that empower learners to achieve their full potential.

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