

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

# Modern Approaches to Developing English Speech Activity in General Secondary Schools

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## Abstract

The development of English speech activity is one of the primary objectives of foreign language education in general secondary schools. In the modern educational environment, learners are expected not only to acquire grammatical knowledge but also to communicate effectively in real-life situations. However, the process of developing speech activity is influenced by various pedagogical, psychological, and methodological factors. This article examines the significance of speech activity in English language teaching, analyzes existing challenges, and explores modern approaches that contribute to the development of learners' communicative competence. Special attention is given to interactive teaching methods, learner-centered instruction, digital technologies, and motivational factors that support effective language learning.

## KEYWORDS

Speech activity, communicative competence, English language teaching, secondary school, motivation, interactive methods, language skills, educational technology.

## INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of international communication and globalization has increased the importance of English language proficiency worldwide. English serves as a global medium of communication in education, business, science, and technology. Consequently, educational institutions are expected to prepare students who can effectively communicate in English in both academic and social contexts.

General secondary schools represent a crucial stage in language education because they provide learners with fundamental linguistic knowledge and communication skills. One of the key goals of English language instruction at this level is the development of speech activity. Speech activity encompasses listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, all of which contribute to successful communication.

Despite numerous educational reforms and innovations, many

students continue to experience difficulties in using English confidently and fluently. This situation highlights the need to analyze the factors influencing speech activity development and to identify effective pedagogical strategies for overcoming existing challenges.

### The Concept of Speech Activity

Speech activity is a complex process involving the reception, processing, and production of language. It is not limited to the mechanical use of linguistic forms but includes meaningful communication in various situations. Speech activity consists of four interconnected language skills:

#### Listening

Listening is the ability to understand spoken language and interpret meaning from auditory input. It serves as the

foundation for language acquisition because learners receive linguistic information through listening before they begin to produce language independently.

#### Speaking

Speaking is the productive aspect of speech activity that enables learners to express thoughts, ideas, and emotions through oral communication. Effective speaking requires vocabulary knowledge, grammatical accuracy, pronunciation skills, and communicative confidence.

#### Reading

Reading contributes to language development by exposing learners to new vocabulary, grammatical structures, and cultural information. It also supports the development of critical thinking and comprehension skills.

#### Writing

Writing allows learners to organize and communicate ideas in a structured form. Although it differs from oral communication, writing reinforces language learning and contributes to overall communicative competence.

The successful integration of these skills enables learners to participate effectively in authentic communication.

#### Challenges in Developing Speech Activity

##### Limited Opportunities for Communication

One of the most significant obstacles to speech activity development is the limited availability of authentic communication opportunities. In many classrooms, students spend more time completing exercises than engaging in meaningful interaction.

As a result, learners may possess theoretical knowledge of English but struggle to use the language in practical situations. Increasing classroom interaction is therefore essential for developing communicative competence.

##### Fear of Making Mistakes

Many students experience anxiety when speaking English. Fear of making grammatical or pronunciation errors often prevents learners from participating actively in classroom discussions.

This psychological barrier negatively affects language acquisition because communication practice is necessary for skill development. Teachers should create supportive learning

environments where mistakes are viewed as a natural part of the learning process.

##### Large Class Sizes

Large classes can limit individual participation and reduce opportunities for speaking practice. Teachers may find it difficult to provide personalized feedback and monitor each learner's progress effectively.

Group work and cooperative learning strategies can help address this challenge by increasing student participation and interaction.

##### Lack of Motivation

Motivation plays a decisive role in language learning success. Students who recognize the practical value of English are more likely to participate actively in speech activities. Conversely, learners with low motivation often demonstrate limited engagement and slower progress.

Teachers should connect learning activities with students' interests, goals, and real-life experiences to enhance motivation.

##### Overemphasis on Grammar

In some educational contexts, language instruction focuses heavily on grammatical accuracy and examination performance. While grammar is important, excessive attention to form may reduce opportunities for communicative practice.

Balanced instruction should integrate grammatical knowledge with meaningful language use.

##### The Importance of Communicative Competence

Communicative competence refers to the ability to use language appropriately and effectively in different contexts. It includes several components:

Linguistic competence

Sociolinguistic competence

Discourse competence

Strategic competence

Developing communicative competence requires learners to engage in authentic communication rather than simply memorize language structures. Therefore, modern language teaching emphasizes interaction, collaboration, and meaningful language use.

#### Interactive Methods for Developing Speech Activity

##### Role-Playing Activities

Role-playing enables students to simulate real-life situations and practice language in meaningful contexts. Learners assume different roles and engage in conversations that develop fluency and confidence.

##### Group Discussions

Discussion activities encourage students to exchange opinions, defend arguments, and negotiate meaning. These tasks enhance critical thinking and communicative abilities simultaneously.

##### Problem-Solving Tasks

Problem-solving activities require learners to use English collaboratively to reach solutions. Such tasks promote active participation and meaningful communication.

##### Debates

Debates provide opportunities for students to present viewpoints, respond to opposing arguments, and develop persuasive communication skills.

##### Storytelling

Storytelling activities stimulate creativity and encourage learners to organize ideas coherently while practicing spoken language production.

#### The Role of Technology in Speech Activity Development

Technological innovations have transformed language education. Modern digital tools provide learners with access to authentic language input and interactive learning opportunities.

##### Multimedia Resources

Videos, podcasts, animations, and interactive presentations support listening comprehension and vocabulary acquisition. They expose learners to diverse accents, communication styles, and cultural contexts.

##### Online Communication Platforms

Virtual learning environments enable students to communicate with peers and teachers beyond classroom boundaries. Online discussions, video conferences, and collaborative projects promote language use in authentic situations.

#### Mobile Applications

Language-learning applications provide personalized practice opportunities and immediate feedback. These tools support independent learning and increase learner engagement.

#### Artificial Intelligence Technologies

Artificial intelligence applications can analyze learner performance, identify weaknesses, and recommend personalized learning activities. AI-powered tools also provide pronunciation feedback and adaptive learning experiences.

#### Teacher's Role in Speech Activity Development

Teachers remain central to successful language instruction despite technological advancements. Effective teachers serve as facilitators, motivators, and guides in the learning process.

They create supportive classroom environments, encourage participation, provide constructive feedback, and design meaningful learning experiences. Furthermore, teachers help students develop confidence and autonomy in language learning.

Continuous professional development is essential for enabling teachers to implement innovative methodologies and technological tools effectively.

#### Strategies for Improving Speech Activity

Several practical strategies can enhance speech activity development:

Encourage daily communication in English.

Use pair work and group work regularly.

Integrate authentic materials into lessons.

Provide constructive feedback.

Promote learner autonomy.

Incorporate project-based learning.

Utilize educational technologies effectively.

Create positive classroom environments.

Support collaborative learning.

Connect language learning with real-life situations.

These strategies contribute to increased learner engagement, confidence, and communicative competence.

## **CONCLUSION**

The development of speech activity is a central objective of English language education in general secondary schools. Effective communication requires the integration of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills within meaningful learning contexts. However, various challenges, including limited communication opportunities, learner anxiety, low motivation, large class sizes, and traditional teaching approaches, continue to affect language learning outcomes.

Modern educational practices emphasize communicative competence, learner-centered instruction, interactive methodologies, and technology integration. Through the use of innovative teaching strategies and supportive learning environments, educators can significantly improve students' speech activity and overall language proficiency.

Ultimately, the successful development of speech activity prepares learners for active participation in academic, professional, and social communication in an increasingly interconnected world.

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