

ENHANCING FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE OF STUDENTS THROUGH INTERACTIVE METHODS

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Abstract: This article investigates the importance of foreign language communicative competence for Information Technology (IT) students and explores interactive teaching methods designed to develop this competence. With the increasing globalization of the IT industry, foreign language proficiency is becoming a crucial skill for future professionals. The paper reviews existing literature on communicative competence, identifies challenges faced by IT students in language learning, and examines various interactive methods, such as task-based learning, role-playing, and collaborative online platforms, to enhance foreign language acquisition. The effectiveness of these approaches is evaluated through case studies and empirical data. The results suggest that interactive methods not only improve linguistic abilities but also foster essential soft skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Key words: foreign language communicative competence, Information Technology students, interactive teaching methods, task-based learning, role-play

The globalized nature of the Information Technology (IT) industry demands that professionals possess a high level of foreign language communicative competence, particularly in English, which is the dominant language of international IT communication. For IT students, proficiency in a foreign language is essential not only for academic success but also for professional development and career advancement [7]. However, traditional language learning methods often fail to engage students, particularly in technical disciplines like IT. This paper investigates the role of interactive methods in developing foreign language competence in IT students, aiming to provide insights into how such methods can enhance both language skills and general communication abilities.

Communicative competence, as defined by Canale and Swain, encompasses four key components: grammatical competence, sociolinguistic competence, discourse competence, and strategic competence. In the context of IT students, these components are crucial not only for effective communication in a foreign language but also for navigating the intercultural exchanges common in the IT industry. However, IT students face unique challenges in acquiring these competencies, such as the technical nature of their education, lack of exposure to authentic language use, and limited opportunities for language practice in real-world scenarios.

Traditional language learning methodologies, such as grammar drills and rote memorization, often fail to address the need for practical communication skills in IT. To bridge this gap, the incorporation of interactive, student-centered methods has

become increasingly recognized as an effective approach. Interactive methods promote active learning, foster engagement, and create environments where students can practice real-world communication [6].

Interactive teaching methods are particularly suitable for enhancing communicative competence, as they focus on real-life communication and problem-solving skills [9]. These methods can be divided into several categories, including task-based learning, collaborative activities, and the use of digital technologies.

Task-based learning (TBLT) is an interactive method that emphasizes learning through completing real-world tasks. In TBLT, students are encouraged to work on tasks that require them to use the target language in practical situations. According to Willis, task-based learning involves three phases: pre-task, task cycle, and post-task. This structure allows students to engage in meaningful language use, which is crucial for developing communicative competence [10]. For IT students, tasks could include collaborative project development, troubleshooting technical issues in a foreign language, or simulating client meetings.

Research by Ellis has shown that TBLT leads to improved language skills because it encourages authentic language use, thereby fostering better retention and deeper understanding of linguistic structures [5]. Moreover, TBLT promotes the development of strategic competence, which is especially beneficial in the IT field where problem-solving and adaptability are keys.

Role-playing and simulation exercises provide students with the opportunity to practice language in context. These methods allow students to take on various roles, simulating real-life professional or social situations. For IT students, role-playing activities could involve acting as technical support agents, software developers collaborating with international clients, or participating in virtual team meetings. These scenarios not only develop linguistic skills but also help students build intercultural communication skills, which are essential in the globalized IT industry.

Role-playing increases students' confidence in speaking a foreign language and improves their ability to navigate complex social interactions. Furthermore, role-playing encourages students to use language flexibly and creatively, which strengthens their communicative competence.

The rise of digital technologies has opened new avenues for language learning, particularly through collaborative online platforms. Platforms such as Moodle and Google Classroom provide interactive spaces where students can engage in collaborative projects, participate in online discussions, and practice language in a supportive environment. For IT students, these platforms offer the opportunity to

work on language tasks in teams, simulate real-world professional interactions, and receive immediate feedback.

Studies by Chapelle indicate that online collaborative learning enhances both language proficiency and collaborative skills. By working in groups, students practice communication in a foreign language while also developing teamwork skills essential for the IT profession. Furthermore, online platforms allow for asynchronous communication, giving students more time to reflect on their language use and engage in deeper learning [4].

The development of foreign language communicative competence in IT students is critical for their academic and professional success in the globalized IT industry. Traditional language learning methods often fail to address the practical needs of these students. Interactive methods, such as task-based learning, role-playing, and collaborative online platforms, provide more engaging and effective ways to enhance language proficiency and communicative skills. Empirical evidence supports the effectiveness of these approaches, demonstrating significant improvements in both linguistic competence and soft skills. As the IT field continues to evolve, integrating interactive language learning methods into curricula will be essential for preparing students for the challenges of an increasingly interconnected world.

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