ENHANCING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY: IMPLEMENTING PROBLEM-SOLVING METHOD TO TEACH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS TO UZBEK STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

M.K. Kalabaeva
Senior teacher of Berdakh Karakalpak State university Nukus, Uzbekistan

Abstract: English idiomatic expressions pose a unique challenge for language learners, particularly those in Uzbekistan, due to their cultural and linguistic differences. Traditional teaching methods often fall short in effectively conveying the nuances of idiomatic language. This article explores the application of the problem-solving method as an innovative approach to teaching English idiomatic expressions to Uzbek students in higher educational establishments. Drawing on theoretical frameworks and practical insights, this study highlights the benefits of integrating problem-solving strategies into English language instruction, fostering critical thinking skills, cultural awareness, and linguistic proficiency among students.
Key words: problem solving, idiomatic expressions, innovative approach, critical thinking.

Introduction:

In today's globalized world, proficiency in English language skills is increasingly vital for academic and professional success. However, mastering idiomatic expressions presents a unique challenge for language learners, particularly those from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds such as Uzbekistan. Idiomatic expressions, which are phrases or expressions with figurative meanings that cannot be understood through literal interpretation, play a significant role in effective communication and language fluency. Traditional teaching methods often rely on rote memorization and repetition, which may not adequately equip students with the skills and strategies necessary to comprehend and utilize idiomatic language in authentic contexts. Therefore, there is a need for innovative approaches to teaching idiomatic expressions that engage students in active learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

The Problem-Solving Method:

The problem-solving method is a pedagogical approach that emphasizes critical thinking, inquiry, and active engagement in the learning process. It involves presenting students with real-life problems or challenges that require analysis, synthesis, and creative solutions [1.61.] found that students dominate the class

especially to improve their speaking skills and lecturers provide a new learning atmosphere in teaching English by providing several activities that contain communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity [2.190.] adds that the 21st century demands an explicit integration between learning strategies, digital competencies, and career skills. He believes that Schools in general and EFL classrooms, in particular, should provide students with practices and processes focused on acquiring and developing, among other things, creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, self-direction, and crosscultural skillsBy applying problem-solving strategies, students develop essential skills such as logical reasoning, decision-making, and effective communication. In the context of teaching English idiomatic expressions, the problem-solving method offers a dynamic and interactive approach to language instruction that encourages students to explore the meaning, usage, and cultural context of idiomatic language. [3.657.]Problem Based Learning (PBL) is a combination of learning theory, model, and practice in real terms according to conditions in the field

Implementing the Problem-Solving Method:

To effectively implement the problem-solving method in teaching English idiomatic expressions to Uzbek students, educators can adopt the following strategies:

1. Authentic Contextualization: Present idiomatic expressions in authentic contexts, such as dialogues, stories, or real-world situations, that resonate with students' experiences and cultural backgrounds.

2. Collaborative Learning: Foster collaboration and peer interaction by engaging students in group problem-solving activities, discussions, and collaborative projects that require them to analyze and apply idiomatic expressions in various contexts.

3. Scaffolding and Guided Discovery: Provide scaffolding and guided support to help students navigate the complexities of idiomatic language. Break down idiomatic expressions into manageable components, provide clear explanations and examples, and gradually release responsibility to students as they develop their problem-solving skills.

4. Reflective Practice: Encourage students to reflect on their learning process, challenges, and achievements. Incorporate opportunities for self-assessment, peer feedback, and metacognitive reflection to promote deeper understanding and learning autonomy.

Benefits and Outcomes:

1. Enhanced Critical Thinking Skills: Engaging in problem-solving activities fosters critical thinking skills, analytical reasoning, and creative problem-solving abilities among students.

2. Improved Language Proficiency: By actively applying idiomatic expressions in authentic contexts, students develop a deeper understanding of the nuances of English language usage and improve their linguistic proficiency.

3. Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity: Exploring idiomatic expressions exposes students to cultural nuances and linguistic diversity, fostering cultural awareness, sensitivity, and appreciation for different ways of expressing meaning and emotion.

4. Increased Motivation and Engagement: The interactive and collaborative nature of problem-solving activities promotes student engagement, motivation, and active participation in the learning process.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the problem-solving method offers a promising approach to teaching English idiomatic expressions to Uzbek students in higher educational establishments. By integrating problem-solving strategies into English language instruction, educators can create dynamic and engaging learning experiences that enhance students' critical thinking skills, cultural awareness, and language proficiency. As Uzbekistan continues to prioritize English language education and internationalization efforts, the adoption of innovative pedagogical approaches such as the problem-solving method can play a pivotal role in preparing students for success in an increasingly interconnected and multicultural world.

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