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## WHY SPEAKING PRACTICE IS IMPORTANT FOR LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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Termiz iqtisodiyot va servis universiteti  
pedagogika va ijtimoiy-gumanitar fanlar  
xorijiy til va adabiyot yoʻnalishi  
4.23- guruh talabasi

Akmal Toshpoʻlatov  
Ilmiy rahbar

### Abstract

This article examines the importance of speaking practice in the process of language learning from a theoretical and practical perspective. Speaking is considered a core productive skill that enables learners to actively use linguistic knowledge in real communicative situations. The paper analyzes how regular speaking practice contributes to the development of fluency, pronunciation, vocabulary acquisition, grammatical competence, and communicative confidence. Psychological and social aspects of speaking practice, including anxiety reduction and pragmatic competence, are also discussed. The article emphasizes the role of speaking activities in fostering effective communication and highlights the need for communicative, learner-centered approaches in language education.

**Keywords:** Speaking practice, language learning, communicative competence, fluency, pronunciation, second language acquisition, oral communication, learner confidence.

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## Introduction

**Annotatsiya:** Mazkur maqolada til o‘rganish jarayonida gapirish mashqlarining ahamiyati nazariy va amaliy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Gapirish nutq faoliyatining muhim produktiv ko‘nikmasi bo‘lib, o‘quvchilarga lingvistik bilimlarni real muloqot vaziyatlarida faol qo‘llash imkonini beradi. Maqolada muntazam gapirish amaliyoti ravon nutqni shakllantirish, talaffuzni yaxshilash, lug‘at boyligini kengaytirish, grammatik kompetensiyani rivojlantirish hamda kommunikativ ishonchni oshirishdagi roli asoslab beriladi. Shuningdek, gapirish amaliyotining psixologik va ijtimoiy jihatlari, jumladan nutqiy xavotirni kamaytirish va pragmatik kompetensiyani rivojlantirish masalalari yoritiladi. Maqolada til ta’limida kommunikativ va o‘quvchiga yo‘naltirilgan yondashuvlarning zarurligi ta’kidlanadi.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** gapirish amaliyoti, til o‘rganish, kommunikativ kompetensiya, ravonlik, talaffuz, ikkinchi tilni o‘zlashtirish, og‘zaki muloqot, o‘quvchi ishonchi.

**Аннотация:** В данной статье рассматривается значение практики говорения в процессе изучения языка с теоретической и практической точек зрения. Говорение определяется как ключевой продуктивный вид речевой деятельности, позволяющий обучающимся активно использовать языковые знания в реальных коммуникативных ситуациях. Анализируется роль регулярной практики говорения в развитии беглости речи, совершенствовании произношения, расширении словарного запаса, формировании грамматической компетенции и повышении коммуникативной уверенности. Также освещаются психологические и социальные аспекты практики говорения, включая снижение речевой тревожности и развитие прагматической компетенции. Подчеркивается необходимость применения коммуникативных и ориентированных на обучающегося подходов в языковом образовании.

**Ключевые слова:** практика говорения, изучение языка, коммуникативная компетенция, беглость речи, произношение, усвоение второго языка, устная коммуникация, уверенность обучающихся.

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## INTRODUCTION

Language learning is a complex and multidimensional process that involves the development of various skills, including listening, reading, writing, and speaking. <sup>1</sup> Among these skills, speaking is often considered the most challenging for language learners, yet it remains one of the most essential components of communicative competence. Speaking allows learners to actively use the language, express their thoughts, share ideas, and engage in real-life communication. Without sufficient speaking practice, language learning remains incomplete and largely theoretical.

In many language learning contexts, learners tend to focus heavily on grammar rules, vocabulary memorization, and written exercises, while speaking practice is often limited due to anxiety, lack of confidence, or insufficient classroom opportunities. <sup>2</sup> However, modern approaches to language teaching emphasize communicative competence, which requires learners not only to understand the language but also to use it effectively in social and professional situations. Speaking practice plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between linguistic knowledge and practical language use.


Recent research in applied linguistics and second language acquisition highlights that speaking practice contributes significantly to fluency development, pronunciation accuracy, and overall language confidence. Through speaking, learners internalize grammatical structures, expand their active vocabulary, and develop the ability to respond spontaneously in communicative situations. Therefore, understanding the importance of speaking practice is essential for both language learners and educators.

## MAIN BODY

Speaking practice is fundamental to language learning because it transforms passive knowledge into active communication skills. While learners may recognize words and grammatical structures when reading or listening, speaking requires them to retrieve this knowledge quickly and use it appropriately in real

<sup>1</sup> Brown, H. D. *Teaching by Principles: An Interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy*. New York: Longman, 2007. 71-page.

<sup>2</sup> Richards, J. C. *Communicative Language Teaching Today*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. 84-page.

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time.<sup>3</sup> This process strengthens neural connections in the brain and promotes language automatization, which is essential for fluent speech.

One of the primary benefits of speaking practice is the development of fluency. Fluency refers to the ability to speak smoothly, naturally, and with minimal hesitation. Regular speaking activities help learners reduce pauses, increase speech rate, and improve coherence<sup>4</sup>. As learners engage in conversations, discussions, and oral tasks, they gradually become more comfortable expressing their ideas without excessive self-monitoring or fear of making mistakes.

Pronunciation and intonation are also significantly improved through speaking practice.<sup>5</sup> Exposure to spoken language alone is not sufficient for mastering pronunciation; learners must actively produce sounds to develop accurate articulation and rhythm. Through repeated speaking, learners become more aware of stress patterns, intonation contours, and connected speech, which enhances intelligibility and listening comprehension simultaneously.

Speaking practice also plays a crucial role in vocabulary development. When learners speak, they are forced to select appropriate words to convey meaning, which strengthens their active vocabulary. Words that are frequently used in speaking tasks are more likely to be retained and recalled in future communication. Additionally, speaking encourages learners to experiment with new vocabulary and expressions, thereby expanding their lexical repertoire.

Another important aspect of speaking practice is its impact on grammatical competence. Speaking requires learners to apply grammatical rules in real time, which helps them internalize language structures more effectively than isolated grammar exercises. Through repeated use, grammatical patterns become more automatic, allowing learners to focus on meaning rather than form during communication.

From a psychological perspective, speaking practice contributes to increased confidence and reduced language anxiety.<sup>6</sup> Many learners experience fear of making mistakes or being judged when speaking a foreign language. However,

<sup>3</sup> Ur, P. *A Course in Language Teaching: Practice and Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996. 91-page  
<sup>4</sup> Nation, I. S. P., & Newton, J. *Teaching ESL/EFL Listening and Speaking*. New York: Routledge, 2009. 102-page.

<sup>5</sup> Ellis, R. *The Study of Second Language Acquisition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. 45-page.

<sup>6</sup> Lightbown, P. M., & Spada, N. *How Languages Are Learned*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. 67-page. Thornbury, S. *How to Teach Speaking*. Harlow: Pearson Longman, 2005. 85-page

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frequent speaking opportunities in a supportive environment help learners overcome these barriers. As confidence grows, learners become more willing to participate in communication, which further accelerates language development. Speaking practice is also essential for developing pragmatic and sociolinguistic competence.<sup>7</sup> Language use varies depending on context, relationship, and cultural norms. Through speaking interactions, learners learn how to use language appropriately in different situations, such as formal conversations, informal dialogues, or professional communication. This awareness is crucial for effective real-world language use.

In educational settings, speaking activities such as role-plays, debates, presentations, and group discussions promote active learning and learner-centered instruction. These activities encourage collaboration, critical thinking, and meaningful interaction, making the learning process more engaging and effective. Moreover, speaking practice allows teachers to assess learners' communicative abilities more accurately and provide immediate feedback.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, speaking practice is a vital component of successful language learning and should be given equal, if not greater, importance compared to other language skills. It enables learners to transform theoretical knowledge into practical communicative ability, develop fluency, improve pronunciation, and strengthen grammatical and lexical competence. Through speaking, learners gain confidence, reduce anxiety, and become more active participants in the language learning process.

Furthermore, speaking practice plays a key role in preparing learners for real-life communication by enhancing their pragmatic and sociolinguistic awareness. In a globalized world where effective communication is increasingly important, the ability to speak a foreign language confidently and appropriately is a valuable skill. Therefore, language educators should create supportive and

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<sup>7</sup> Swain, M. "The Output Hypothesis: Theory and Research." Handbook of Research in Second Language Teaching and Learning. New York: Routledge, 2005 56-page.

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interactive learning environments that provide learners with ample opportunities to practice speaking.

Ultimately, consistent and meaningful speaking practice leads to greater language proficiency, improved communicative competence, and long-term success in language learning. Emphasizing speaking as a core element of instruction ensures that learners not only learn a language but also use it effectively in real-world contexts.

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