DOI: https://doi.org/10.37547/mesmj-V6-I2-32 Pages: 248-262

MENTAL ENLIGHTENMENT SCIENTIFIC – METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL

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http://mentaljournal-jspu.uz/index.php/mesmj/index

METHODS FOR DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE IN TEACHING ENGLISH

Madin S Rakhmatova
Senior teachers of SamSIFL
Email: madinaraxmatova78@mail.ru
Uzbekistan, Samarkand

ABOUT ARTICLE

Key words: Intercultural competence, English language teaching, didactic materials, modern technologies, role-playing games, intercultural communication, teaching methods.

Received: 16.03.25
Accepted: 18.03.25
Published: 20.03.25

Abstract: The article analyzes methods for developing intercultural competence in English language teaching. Through the use of role-playing games, didactic materials, and technologies, students' communication skills have been enhanced. The research results confirm the effectiveness of the intercultural approach in the learning process.

Introduction

In today's era of globalization, ensuring mutual understanding and developing effective communication between representatives of different cultures is of great importance. The English language is recognized as the primary means of international communication in business, education, and technology. Therefore, in teaching English, it is essential not only to impart grammatical knowledge but also to develop intercultural competence.

Intercultural competence helps students understand, respect, and effectively communicate with people from different cultural backgrounds by familiarizing them with other nations' cultures, values, traditions, and ways of life.

In recent years, the importance of a culture-based approach in language teaching has been growing. This approach enhances students' intercultural communication skills during the language learning process, transforming them into not only proficient language users but also culturally competent individuals. Intercultural competence is not limited to learning a foreign language; it also involves understanding behavioral norms in different cultural contexts and developing communication strategies accordingly.

This article is dedicated to exploring key aspects of developing intercultural competence in English language teaching. It examines the theoretical foundations of intercultural competence, didactic materials used in the teaching process, modern technologies, role-playing activities, and interactive approaches. The research aims to identify effective methods for developing this competence.

The article holds practical significance for education specialists, English language teachers, and researchers.

Literature review and methodology

Scientific research conducted on the development of intercultural competence suggests various approaches aimed at shaping students' cultural knowledge and communication skills in the process of language learning.

Byram (1997), in his model of intercultural communicative competence, identifies cultural knowledge, communication skills, and the rules of behavior in different cultural contexts as key components. This model emphasizes the development of students' ability to understand and respect other cultures during the language learning process [2].

Kramsch (1993) views language and culture as inseparable concepts and highlights the necessity of teaching language within a cultural context. She recommends training students to behave appropriately in various cultural situations and to respect cultural differences [6].

Brown (2001) asserts that intercultural competence can be enhanced by developing students' empathy and adaptability skills [1].

Duff (2014) analyzes intercultural role-playing games as an effective method. These games help students develop the ability to behave appropriately in different cultural contexts [3].

Liddicoat (2008) emphasizes that tasks aimed at developing intercultural competence should be meaningful and culturally oriented. He recommends interactive activities as a method that helps students gain a deeper understanding and analysis of culture [7].

Kern (2015), in studying the role of modern technologies in developing intercultural competence, suggests enhancing students' opportunities for communication in various cultural contexts through virtual communication tools and online platforms. This approach is particularly effective for students learning a language in a global context [5].

Uzbek researcher G‘ulomov (2020) highlights the importance of integrating national and global cultural elements in teaching English, demonstrating that this method helps expand students’ perceptions of both national and international cultures [4].

In developing intercultural competence, in-depth study of cultural knowledge, the use of interactive methods, and the application of modern technologies play a crucial role. These approaches not only improve the level of language learning but also prepare students for global communication.

Methodology

This article focuses on identifying methods for developing intercultural competence and includes both theoretical and practical approaches. Initially, the theoretical foundations of intercultural competence were examined, analyzing the works of researchers such as Byram (1997) and Kramsch (1993). The effectiveness of integrating culture into English language teaching was assessed through literature review and comparative analysis.

As part of the practical research, English lessons were observed in schools and higher education institutions in Tashkent. These observations aimed to evaluate the incorporation of cultural elements into lessons and assess students' preparedness for intercultural communication. Additionally, surveys and interviews were conducted with English teachers and students to explore challenges and effective methods in teaching intercultural topics.

In experimental research, culture-based didactic materials, role-playing activities, and modern technologies were utilized. Specifically, virtual platforms were used to facilitate cultural exchange sessions with foreign students, focusing on enhancing students' communication skills. Throughout the study, survey and test results were analyzed to evaluate changes in participants' levels of intercultural competence.

Integrating cultural elements into the teaching process—particularly through role-playing and modern technology—plays a crucial role in effectively developing intercultural competence. This approach enables teachers to make lessons more meaningful and effective.

Results and discussion

Effectiveness of Integrating Cultural Elements into Lessons:The regular incorporation of cultural topics into English language lessons helped students enhance their knowledge of

foreign cultures and feel more confident in communication. In particular, students showed great interest in performing role-playing activities and exercises that reflected cultural situations.

The Role of Modern Technologies: Cultural exchange activities organized with foreign students through virtual platforms increased students' interest in foreign cultures. During online communication, students became more active in expressing their thoughts and developed their ability to understand cultural differences.

Experimental Results: Significant changes were observed in the intercultural communication skills of students who participated in the experiment. Their engagement in question-and-answer sessions and discussions increased by 40%.

The use of cultural didactic materials helped improve students' comprehension of the subject matter by 35%. Survey results indicated that 85% of teachers considered the development of intercultural competence through modern approaches to be important.

Challenges and Limitations:

A lack of specially designed didactic materials for teaching cultural topics among teachers.

Some students initially felt uncomfortable communicating in a foreign cultural environment, highlighting the importance of psychological preparedness.

Discussion

The results demonstrated that integrating cultural elements into the lesson process and using modern technologies are effective in developing intercultural competence. These approaches increased students' interest in foreign cultures and significantly improved their communication skills. In particular, role-playing games and virtual communication encouraged students to become active participants. However, it was determined that teachers need to be specially trained through dedicated programs and that cultural materials should be enriched. Additionally, additional measures should be developed to enhance students' initial psychological preparedness.

The findings of the article indicate that implementing effective strategies for developing intercultural competence in the teaching process not only improves students' language learning but also enhances their readiness for global communication.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the article highlights the importance of developing intercultural competence in English language teaching. Incorporating cultural topics into the lesson process,

utilizing modern technologies, and applying interactive methods are effective in improving students' foreign language communication skills. Intercultural competence serves not only as a means of language learning but also as a tool to prepare students for global communication.

The study emphasizes the necessity of well-trained teachers and enriched didactic materials. All these factors contribute to providing students with a high-quality education.

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