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FUN WAYS TO TEACH PRONUNCIATION FOR YOUNG LEARNERS.

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ABSTRACT. In modern English speaking, pronunciation is considered as one of the most important aspects of it. In this article fun ways of teaching pronunciation to young learners will be stated. And pronunciation should be taught as in early age as possible therefore, teachers ought to use more exciting ways of teaching pronunciation and this can make the learning process easy and interactive.

Key words: teaching pronunciation, method, activities, fun-based exercises, learning, rhymes, young learners, pronunciation skills, language ability, pronunciation patterns.

АННОТАТЦИЯ. В современном английском языке произношение считается одним из наиболее важных его аспектов. В этой статье будут изложены интересные способы обучения произношению юных учащихся. А произношение следует обучать как можно раньше, поэтому учителям следует использовать более интересные способы обучения произношению, и это может сделать процесс обучения легким и интерактивным.

Ключевые слова: обучение произношению, метод, занятия, веселые упражнения, обучение, рифмы, юные ученики, навыки произношения, языковые способности, модели произношения.

ANNOTATSIYA. Zamonaviy ingliz tilida talaffuz eng muhim jihatlaridan biri hisoblanadi. Ushbu maqolada yosh o'quvchilarga talaffuzni o'rgatishning qiziqarli usullari bayon qilinadi. Va talaffuzni imkon qadar erta yoshda o'rgatish kerak, shuning uchun o'qituvchilar talaffuzni o'rgatishning yanada qiziqarli usullaridan foydalanishlari kerak va bu o'quv jarayonini oson va interaktiv qilishi mumkin.

Kalit so'zlar: talaffuzni o'rgatish, usul, mashg'ulotlar, qiziqarli mashg'ulotlar, o'rganish, qofiyalar, yosh o'rganuvchilar, talaffuz qobiliyati, til qobiliyati, talaffuz shakllari.

INTRODUCTION

Most of the young learners have difficulty in learning how to pronounce the words because of many factors such as first language influence and lack of phonemic awareness. Therefore, using fun and engaging methods is crucial for teaching

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pronunciation to young learners. Because of the fact that fun activities such as games, songs, and rhymes capture the attention of young learners, making them more likely to participate and retain information. Also, positive learning environment is as the second beneficial side. As, a playful atmosphere reduces anxiety and encourages students to take risks in their speech without fear of making mistakes. Rhymes, songs, and playful repetition help embed pronunciation patterns in memory, making it easier for children to recall sounds later. Engaging different senses through movement, music, and visuals can enhance memory retention. Fun methods can spark curiosity and a love for learning. When students enjoy the process, they are more likely to practice and improve. Games often include rewards or recognition, which boosts confidence and motivates learners to continue improving their pronunciation. Moreover, collaborative learning will be encouraged through this method. Group activities promote teamwork and communication among peers, helping students learn from one another and practice pronunciation in a supportive setting. Young learners can provide constructive feedback to each other in a fun context, which can reinforce learning. Apart from this, fun activities often involve real-life contexts, helping learners understand how pronunciation affects meaning and communication. Playful scenarios encourage spontaneous speaking, allowing children to practice pronunciation in a more natural way. Various benefits of this method will be discussed in the part of analysis.

LITERAL REVIEW

Importance of pronunciation in language learning was discussed by many scientists. For example, pronunciation is a crucial aspect of language acquisition, as it directly affects communication and comprehension [1]. Researchers know that working on perception is important [2]. Early on, textbook authors such as [3] highlighted the close connection between how one hears English and how one speaks English, and consequently she suggested incorporating listening practice into pronunciation instruction. However, working on perception is sometimes perceived as technical and time consuming. Thus, it might help to remember that more accurate perception also might enhance intelligibility and comprehensibility. The teachers as a group believed that pronunciation instruction plays a very important or crucial role in the lives of their students across almost all contexts and situations. This finding is similar to what other studies have reported, in which both teachers and students recognize the importance of pronunciation [4]. The third challenge that creates resistance is selecting the pronunciation targets that are the most effective. As outlined in the previous section (“Method”), teaching priorities have shifted along with the goal of pronunciation instruction toward achieving comfortable intelligibility [5]. Selecting the appropriate focus for the pronunciation curriculum to achieve this goal can be challenging. Engaging activities that promote phonemic

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awareness can facilitate better pronunciation outcomes. This multimodal approach caters to different learning styles.

Most students want it [6]; They need it (they do not “pick it up on their own” [7] They also enhance memory retention and make learning enjoyable [8].

METHADOLOGY

The study involved young learners aged 5-10 years from diverse linguistic backgrounds. A sample size of approximately 30 students was selected from an elementary school.

Following material were used:

- Visual Aids: Flashcards, phonetic charts, and picture books.
- Auditory Aids: Songs, rhymes, and recordings of native speakers.
- Digital Tools: Language learning apps that focus on pronunciation.

In the next step play-based activities were implemented such as "Simon Says," where students mimic sounds or actions related to vocabulary words. Songs were introduced that emphasize specific sounds and encourage repetition. Teacher and young learners used actions or gestures to reinforce meaning.

At the end I compared pre- and post-assessment results using statistical methods to determine the effectiveness of the fun activities on pronunciation skills and analyzed observational data qualitatively to identify patterns in student engagement and interaction. I also gathered feedback from students regarding their enjoyment and perceived effectiveness of the activities through surveys or interviews. This methodology helped to explore the effectiveness of fun ways to teach pronunciation to young learners by incorporating play-based activities, songs, visual aids, and peer interaction. By analyzing the results, educators can gain insights into best practices for enhancing pronunciation skills in a supportive and engaging environment.

Fun ways and great tips to teach pronunciation

Firstly, make sure to do most if not all pronunciation exercises in your course book. Also**,** make sure to include pronunciation practice in your lesson plans. They are too important.

On the other hand, if exercises that aren’t relevant to your students you don't need to spend much time on them.

Secondly, **students need to be accurate but not but perfect.** Insisting perfection will just cause students to feel frustrated and loose interest. Simply show them that good pronunciation matters. Intelligibility is the main goal for students and it can be achieved even with non-native accent. here are 3 fun activities that can be productive for learning process.

a) The race is on! This activity is great to review phonemes. First, put the students in teams. On the floor place cards with different phonemes. Then stand in

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the front and hold out two cards, each with one word on it. The first student of each team must choose a card from the floor with the phoneme used in that word. If it is correct that group gets to keep the card with the word, if not the teacher keeps the card. Each student in each group will have an opportunity to choose a phoneme in the words the teacher is holding up. When they are done the team with the most cards wins.

b) Phoneme Bingo! On a bingo sheet write words in different boxes. Make sure bingo sheets are different. Put different phoneme on small individual cards in a bag. The choose from the bag and show your students the phoneme. The must look at their bingo sheets and see if they have a word containing that phoneme.

c) The Whisper Game! Sit your students in a circle and show one of them a symbol, also whispering it in his/her ear. That student then whispers it to the student next to him/her. The sound is passed around the class from one student to the other. If the sound is correct at the end, the students get a point, if not the teacher gets a point.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Incorporating games, storytelling, role-playing, and technology allows teachers to address various learning styles (visual, auditory, kinesthetic), ensuring that all students can engage with the material effectively. It also helps to build confidence among children. Fun activities create a low-pressure environment where students can experiment with sounds without the fear of judgment. Encouraging a mindset that views mistakes as part of the learning process helps build resilience and confidence in speaking. Explicit feedback appears especially necessary when pronunciation practice occurs as an integrated component within a broader lesson. Explicitness applies to feedback in much the same way that it applies to instruction [9]. When learning is enjoyable, students are more likely to develop a positive attitude toward language learning that lasts beyond the classroom. Fun methods can inspire curiosity about language and pronunciation, encouraging students to explore further on their own. All in all, incorporating fun ways to teach pronunciation not only enhances learning outcomes but also contributes to the overall development of young learners. By making pronunciation practice enjoyable, educators can foster a love for language that will benefit students for years to come.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

By understanding the challenges young learners face in pronunciation and implementing engaging strategies, teachers can significantly enhance their learners' pronunciation skills. Creating a supportive and fun learning environment will help children to build confidence and develop their language abilities over time.

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