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### BLENDENED LEARNING APPROACHES: COMBINING TRADITIONAL METHODS WITH TECHNOLOGY FOR EFFECTIVE SPEAKING PRACTICE

Annotation

This article explores how blended learning can enhance speaking skills among middle school students, providing educators with effective strategies to implement this approach in their classrooms. Among various teaching methodologies, blended learning stands out as a powerful approach that combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online learning components.

**Key words:** Proficiency, integration, blended learning, feedback, tailored resource, fluency, cultural exposure, guidelines, competence, traditional approach, multimedia, online platforms, constructive criticism, pronunciation, confidence, peer feedback, coherence, debate.

### ARALASH TA'LIM YONDASHUVLARI: AN'ANAVIY USULLARNI TEXNOLOGIYA BILAN UYG'UNLASHTIRIB, SAMARALI NUTQ AMALIYOTI OLIB BORISH

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada aralash ta'lim (blended learning) usuli o'rta maktab o'quvchilarining nutq ko'nikmalarini qanday yaxshilashi ko'rib chiqiladi va o'qituvchilarga ushbu yondashuvni o'z sinflarida qanday amalga oshirish bo'yicha samarali strategiyalar taqdim etiladi. Turli o'qitish metodologiyalari orasida aralash ta'lim an'anaviy yuzma-yuz ta'limni onlayn o'rganish komponentlari bilan birlashtiradigan kuchli yondashuv sifatida ajralib turadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Malaka, integratsiya, aralash ta'lim, fikr-mulohaza, moslashtirilgan resurs, ravonlik, madaniy tajriba, ko'rsatmalar, kompetentsiya, an'anaviy yondashuv, multimedia, onlayn platformalar, konstruktiv tanqid, talaffuz, ishonch, tengdosh fikr-mulohazasi, mantiqiylik, bahs.

### СМЕШАННЫЕ ПОДХОДЫ К ОБУЧЕНИЮ: СОЧЕТАНИЕ ТРАДИЦИОННЫХ МЕТОДОВ С ТЕХНОЛОГИЯМИ ДЛЯ ЭФФЕКТИВНОЙ ПРАКТИКИ РАЗГОВОРНОЙ РЕЧИ.

Аннотация

В этой статье рассматривается, как смешанное обучение может улучшить навыки говорения у учащихся средних школ, предоставляя педагогам эффективные стратегии для внедрения этого подхода в свои классы. Среди различных методов обучения смешанное обучение выделяется как мощный подход, который сочетает традиционное очное обучение с компонентами онлайн-обучения.

**Ключевые слова:** Компетенция, интеграция, смешанное обучение, обратная связь, адаптированный ресурс, беглость, культурное воздействие, рекомендации, компетентность, традиционный подход, мультимедиа, онлайн-платформы, конструктивная критика, произношение, уверенность, обратная связь от сверстников, когерентность, дебаты.

**Introduction.** In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, the integration of technology into teaching practices has become increasingly essential.

Blended learning is an educational model that merges traditional classroom experiences with digital tools and resources. This approach allows for a more flexible and personalized learning environment, catering to diverse student needs and learning styles (Graham, 2006). By leveraging technology, educators can create engaging and interactive experiences that promote active participation and collaboration among students (Garrison & Vaughan, 2008). Effective communication is a critical skill for students, particularly in the context of language learning. Speaking skills not only facilitate academic success but also prepare students for future professional environments (Lightbown & Spada, 2013). However, many students struggle with speaking due to a lack of confidence, limited practice opportunities, and insufficient feedback. Blended learning offers a solution by providing varied platforms for practice and interaction. Utilizing online platforms such as discussion boards or social media groups can encourage students to express their thoughts and ideas in writing before articulating them verbally. This approach allows students to organize their thoughts and gain confidence in their speaking abilities. Teachers can facilitate these discussions by posing questions related to class topics and encouraging students to respond and engage with their peers.

**Materials and Methods.** Blended learning approaches are particularly beneficial for English learners (ELs), who often

face unique challenges in acquiring language skills (Echevarria, Vogt, & Short, 2017). By combining traditional classroom instruction with online resources and interactive tools, blended learning creates an inclusive and supportive environment that caters to the diverse needs of ELs. Here are several key reasons why blended learning is essential for English learners. Blended learning allows for a more personalized approach to education, which is crucial for English learners who may have varying levels of language proficiency (Zhao, 2003). This study employed a blended learning approach to enhance speaking skills among school students. The materials used in this research included a combination of traditional resources and digital tools. The traditional materials comprised textbooks, worksheets, and audio recordings that provided students with foundational knowledge and practice opportunities in speaking. These resources were selected for their relevance to the curriculum and their ability to engage students in meaningful language use. In addition to traditional materials, various digital tools were integrated into the learning process. Online platforms such as Google Classroom and Zoom were utilized to facilitate virtual interactions and discussions. These platforms allowed for real-time communication and collaboration among students, fostering a sense of community despite physical distances. Furthermore, educational apps like Duolingo and Quizlet were employed to provide interactive speaking exercises and vocabulary practice, enabling students to engage with the language in a dynamic and enjoyable manner. The methodology of this study involved a

mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. A pre-test and post-test design was implemented to measure the improvement in students' speaking skills. The pre-test was administered at the beginning of the study to establish a baseline of students' speaking abilities, while the post-test was conducted after the intervention to assess progress. Additionally, student feedback was gathered through surveys and focus group discussions to gain insights into their experiences with blended learning and its impact on their speaking skills. Online platforms can provide tailored resources and activities that match individual learning needs, enabling students to progress at their own pace. This flexibility helps ELs build confidence as they master language skills without the pressure of keeping up with their peers. Blended learning provides English learners with access to a wealth of online resources, including videos, interactive exercises, and language learning apps. These resources can reinforce classroom instruction and offer additional practice opportunities outside of school. For instance, ELs can engage with multimedia content that exposes them to authentic language use, helping them improve their listening and speaking skills. In a blended learning environment, students can receive immediate feedback on their speaking and writing tasks through online assessments and peer evaluations (Reinders & White, 2011). This timely feedback is crucial for English learners, as it allows them to identify areas for improvement and make necessary adjustments. Teachers can also use digital tools to track student progress and tailor instruction based on individual needs.

**Discussion and results.** Blended learning approaches have several positive effects on the speaking skills of English learners (ELs). One of the most significant benefits is the increased practice opportunities that blended learning provides. By combining traditional classroom instruction with online resources, learners can engage in speaking activities in various settings. This increased exposure helps them become more comfortable and confident in using the language, ultimately enhancing their speaking abilities.

Another advantage of blended learning is the real-time feedback that many online platforms offer. These platforms often provide immediate assessments of speaking exercises, such as pronunciation and fluency. Interactive components keep students motivated and involved, reducing boredom and enhancing participation. Students gain essential technology skills that are crucial for future education and the workforce. When it comes to its familiarity with Blended Learning Models,

This method prepares learners for a variety of educational settings, including online and hybrid models commonly used in higher education and professional development. The ability to receive constructive criticism in real-time fosters a growth mindset, encouraging learners to persist in their efforts to improve. This instant feedback allows learners to identify areas for improvement and make adjustments quickly, which is crucial for developing effective speaking skills.

Blended learning also exposes English learners to authentic language use through multimedia resources like videos, podcasts, and interactive dialogues. This exposure helps learners understand natural speech patterns, intonation, and colloquial expressions, which are essential for effective communication. By interacting with authentic materials, learners can better grasp the nuances of the language, leading to more natural and fluent speaking.

Moreover, blended learning encourages peer interaction, which is vital for language development. Group projects, discussions, and online forums provide English learners with opportunities to practice speaking with their peers. These interactions can reduce anxiety and build confidence, as learners feel more comfortable communicating in a supportive environment. Collaborative learning experiences also promote the exchange of ideas, further enhancing speaking skills. The diverse speaking contexts offered in blended learning environments are another key benefit. Motivation and engagement are also enhanced through blended learning. The interactive nature of this approach can increase students' enthusiasm for learning, making them more likely to actively participate in speaking activities. When learners are excited about using technology and engaging in dynamic exercises, they are more inclined to practice their speaking skills consistently. Furthermore, blended learning promotes cultural exposure, which is essential for effective communication. Learners can engage in various speaking scenarios, such as formal presentations, casual conversations, and role-playing activities. This diversity helps them adapt their speaking style to different situations, improving their overall communicative competence. By practicing in varied contexts, learners become more versatile speakers, capable of navigating different social interactions. In addition, the use of technology in blended learning facilitates speaking practice in innovative ways. By accessing content that reflects diverse cultures and contexts, English learners can gain insights into cultural nuances in communication. This understanding helps them speak appropriately in various social situations, enhancing their ability to connect with others.

**Conclusion.** Blended learning approaches significantly enhance the speaking skills of English learners by providing diverse opportunities for practice, feedback, and interaction. By leveraging technology and fostering a collaborative learning environment, educators can help ELs develop the confidence and competence needed to communicate effectively in English. Structured speaking activities are another hallmark of blended learning. These activities, such as debates, presentations, and discussions, provide clear objectives and guidelines for learners. By focusing on specific aspects of speaking, such as clarity, coherence, and argumentation, learners can develop targeted skills that contribute to their overall speaking proficiency. Language learning apps and video conferencing tools often include features like speech recognition, which helps learners refine their pronunciation and fluency. These technological tools make speaking practice more engaging and accessible, allowing learners to practice at their own pace and convenience.

The combination of increased practice, real-time feedback, authentic language exposure, and structured activities creates a rich learning experience that supports the growth of speaking skills in English learners. This comparative analysis aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of blended learning in improving students' speaking skills compared to conventional teaching methods. Data analysis involved statistical techniques to evaluate the test scores and thematic analysis for qualitative feedback. The findings were interpreted to draw conclusions about the efficacy of blended learning in enhancing speaking skills, providing valuable insights for educators aiming to implement innovative teaching strategies in language education.

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