

THE ROLE OF IMMERSION IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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Abstract: *The article analyzes the importance of the immersion approach in learning English. Immersion is defined as a method that constantly introduces learners to language and encourages them to use it in real contexts. The article examines the types of immersion. Moreover, the features of immersion in the development of language skills, improving communication skills and effective language use, as well as the difficulties that may arise for learners, are discussed.*

Keywords: *English language learning, immersion, language skills development, communication skills, full immersion, partial immersion, content-based immersion, virtual immersion, real-life practice.*

INTRODUCTION

In today's era of globalization, English is widely used as an important tool for communication, education, and professional activity. Therefore, learners with different levels of knowledge are looking for effective ways to quickly and effectively master English. Traditional methods are often based on the study of grammar and memorization of information, which can limit the development of students' practical communication skills. At the same time, the immersion approach pays great attention to the active use of language and its study in real contexts.

Language learning through immersion implies a methodology that constantly exposes learners to target language and encourages them to use it in real situations. In this approach, learners acquire language skills not through individual exercises, but naturally through daily communication and practical activities. This article analyzes the role of immersion in learning English through its types, benefits, and application in the learning environment.

Types of immersion

Immersion methods can vary depending on the degree of exposure to language. The strongest option is full immersion, in which English is used as the main means of learning and everyday communication. This approach forces learners to be in constant contact with the language and develops their ability to listen, speak, and communicate fluently.

Partial immersion combines learners' native language with English. This model is typically used in classes where full immersion is not possible and helps students gradually familiarize themselves with the language, make it easier to understand it, and reduce stress.

Content-based immersion is implemented through teaching subjects in English - for example, mathematics, history, or natural science lessons are conducted in English. Thus, learners develop language skills simultaneously with scientific content, which contributes to their linguistic and cognitive development.

Virtual immersion is becoming increasingly important thanks to the achievements of technology. With the help of online platforms, interactive materials, and digital

communication tools, learners can master English in real-life contexts, even without personally meeting the native speaker.

Benefits of immersion in learning English

The most important advantage of immersion is that it significantly improves learners' communication skills. Being forced to actively use language in an immersion environment helps to strengthen speaking and listening skills. Encountering permanent language allows for increased vocabulary richness, pronunciation accuracy, and fluency.

Also, immersion increases the motivation of learners. When language is used as a real means of communication, the learning process becomes interesting and meaningful. The more confident learners become in expressing their thoughts, the more actively they participate in conversations and interactive activities.

In addition, immersion contributes to effective language learning in the long term. The use of English in real contexts allows learners to understand the practical aspects of the language and further strengthen their skills.

Application of immersion in English language teaching

Immersion can be effectively applied both inside and outside the classroom. In the classroom, teachers can create an immersion environment by conducting lessons in English, organizing interactive activities such as discussions, role-playing games, presentations.

Outside the classroom, learners have the opportunity to apply the language in practice by working with authentic materials in English. For example, watching movies, listening to podcasts, reading books and articles, and participating in online conversations are very beneficial for natural language practice.

Difficulties in immersion-based learning

Although immersion has many advantages, there are also some difficulties. Learners with limited language skills may initially have difficulty understanding the lesson or communicating. Therefore, teachers need to provide appropriate support to students and adapt the lesson to their level.

Another problem is the shortage of qualified teachers. Successful implementation of immersion requires teachers fluent in English, communicative, and knowledge of student-centered pedagogical approaches.

Conclusion. Immersion is important in foreign language acquisition, as it provides a constant encounter with language and a meaningful communication experience. This method enhances not only communication skills but also motivation and overall competence. Although there are some difficulties, immersion is one of the most effective methods in teaching English, and its integration into the educational process helps to improve learning outcomes.

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