

## COMMUNICATIVE LANGUAGE TEACHING (CLT): AN OVERVIEW AND ITS IMPACT ON LANGUAGE LEARNING

**Jamolova Zebiniso Karshiboyevna**

*2nd year student of Uzbekistan State University of World Languages*

*Scientific supervisor: Orinboyeva Hayotkhan Makhamadinova*

*Senior teacher of the Department "Theoretical Aspects of the English Language N1" of the State University of World Languages of Uzbekistan*

**Annotation:** *This article provides an in-depth overview of Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), a widely used approach to language teaching that prioritizes real-world communication over traditional grammar-focused methods. It explores the key principles of CLT, such as the emphasis on fluency, task-based learning, and student-centered activities, as well as the integration of all four language skills. The article highlights the advantages of CLT, including enhanced student engagement and improved fluency, while also addressing challenges like teacher preparation and classroom management. The piece concludes by emphasizing the continuing relevance of CLT in modern language education, particularly in a globalized context.*

**Keywords:** *Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), language teaching methodology, task-based learning, fluency, student-centered learning, language acquisition, teaching principles, classroom management, language skills integration, communicative competence.*

## КОММУНИКАТИВНОЕ ОБУЧЕНИЕ ЯЗЫКУ (CLT): ОБЗОР И ЕГО ВЛИЯНИЕ НА ИЗУЧЕНИЕ ЯЗЫКА

**Аннотация:** *В этой статье представлен углубленный обзор коммуникативного преподавания языка (CLT), широко используемого подхода к преподаванию языка, который отдает приоритет реальному общению над традиционными методами, ориентированными на грамматику. В нем исследуются ключевые принципы CLT, такие как акцент на беглости речи, обучение на основе задач и деятельность, ориентированная на учащихся, а также интеграция всех четырех языковых навыков. В статье подчеркиваются преимущества CLT, в том числе повышение вовлеченности учащихся и повышение беглости речи, а также решение таких проблем, как подготовка учителей и управление классом. Статья завершается подчеркиванием сохраняющейся актуальности CLT в современном языковом образовании, особенно в глобализованном контексте.*

**Ключевые слова:** *Коммуникативное преподавание языка (CLT), методология преподавания языка, обучение на основе задач, беглость речи, личностно-ориентированное обучение, овладение языком, принципы преподавания, управление классом, интеграция языковых навыков, коммуникативная компетентность*

## INTRODUCTION

Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) is an approach to language teaching that emphasizes communication as the primary goal of learning a language. The approach emerged in the 1970s as a response to traditional, structure-based methods like Grammar Translation Method (GTM) and Audio-Lingual Method (ALM), which focused on rote memorization and repetitive practice. Instead, CLT prioritizes the development of practical language skills through interactive and authentic communication. Over the years, it has become one of the most influential and widely adopted methodologies in language education worldwide.

### Principles of Communicative Language Teaching

The core principle of CLT is that language learning should reflect real-world communication, fostering the ability to use the language effectively and meaningfully in a variety of contexts. Below are the key principles that define CLT:

1. **Focus on Communication:** The primary goal of language learning is to enable students to communicate effectively. This includes not only grammatical accuracy but also fluency, appropriacy, and the ability to use language in real-life situations (Richards & Rodgers, 2014).

2. **Task-based Learning:** CLT encourages the use of tasks that require learners to use the target language to accomplish specific goals, such as problem-solving or decision-making tasks. Tasks are designed to simulate real-world interactions, which could range from making phone calls to discussing a news event (Ellis, 2003).

3. **Contextualization:** Language is best learned when it is embedded in meaningful, context-rich activities. Students practice language that is relevant to their daily lives, interests, and future needs (Littlewood, 2004).

4. **Student-Centered Approach:** In CLT, students take an active role in the learning process. Teachers are seen as facilitators or guides, rather than lecturers. The classroom is often characterized by pair work, group activities, and open discussions that promote interaction among students (Nunan, 2004).

5. **Emphasis on Fluency over Accuracy:** While grammar and vocabulary remain important, CLT stresses fluency over precision in early stages of learning. The goal is for learners to use the language spontaneously, even if their usage is not always grammatically perfect (Harmer, 2007).

6. **Integration of Skills:** CLT integrates the four primary language skills—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—into its lessons. Unlike traditional methods

that often isolate skills, CLT encourages the use of all skills together in communicative tasks (Johnson, 2008).

### Key Features of Communicative Language Teaching

**Role of the Teacher:** In CLT, the teacher's role is dynamic and supportive. Teachers act as facilitators, guiding students through communicative tasks, offering feedback, and encouraging collaborative learning (Richards & Rodgers, 2014).

**Authentic Materials:** CLT advocates the use of authentic materials such as newspaper articles, radio broadcasts, and videos that expose students to real language in real contexts. This contrasts with the use of contrived or scripted dialogues that do not reflect everyday communication (Widdowson, 1990).

**Interactional Activities:** Classroom activities are designed to promote interaction. These may include role-plays, debates, interviews, and simulations, all of which create opportunities for students to use language in meaningful ways (Larsen-Freeman, 2000).

### Advantages of Communicative Language Teaching

1. **Enhanced Student Engagement:** By focusing on real-life communication, CLT increases student motivation and engagement. Learners find the material more relevant and enjoyable because they are practicing language skills that they will use outside the classroom (Larsen-Freeman, 2000).

2. **Improved Fluency:** Because CLT emphasizes communication, learners often experience significant improvements in fluency. The more learners are exposed to opportunities for real interaction, the more naturally they will speak and understand the language (Richards & Rodgers, 2014).

3. **Focus on Meaning:** In CLT, students focus more on conveying meaning than on linguistic form. This can help learners become more confident in using the language, as the fear of making mistakes is reduced (Harmer, 2007).

4. **Cultural Awareness:** Since CLT involves the use of authentic materials and tasks that reflect the cultural aspects of language, students also gain an understanding of the social and cultural context in which language is used (Nunan, 2004).

### Challenges of Communicative Language Teaching

Despite its widespread popularity, CLT has faced several challenges:

1. **Teacher Preparation:** CLT requires teachers to be proficient in creating and managing communicative activities, which demands a higher level of creativity and flexibility compared to traditional methods. Not all teachers are trained to implement CLT effectively (Littlewood, 2004).

2. **Classroom Management:** The interactive nature of CLT can lead to noisy classrooms, with students working in groups or pairs. For teachers who are used to more controlled environments, this can present difficulties in managing the classroom effectively (Ellis, 2003).

3. Assessment Issues: Traditional forms of assessment, such as written tests, may not adequately reflect students' ability to communicate in real-life situations. New forms of assessment, such as oral exams or portfolios, are required to evaluate communicative competence effectively (Nunan, 2004).

4. Overemphasis on Fluency: Critics argue that an excessive focus on fluency can sometimes lead to a neglect of accuracy, especially in the early stages of language learning. Some students may develop a conversational style that is riddled with errors (Widdowson, 1990).

### **CONCLUSION**

Communicative Language Teaching has had a profound impact on language education, transforming how languages are taught and learned. By prioritizing communication, authentic interaction, and the integration of all language skills, CLT promotes a more dynamic and student-centered approach. Despite its challenges, the principles of CLT remain relevant and effective in fostering practical language skills. As global communication becomes increasingly interconnected, CLT's emphasis on real-world language use continues to make it a central methodology in language teaching worldwide.

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