

THE IMPORTANCE OF SHADOWING TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING PRONUNCIATION AND ACCENT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract This article explores the essence of the shadowing technique in teaching English, its practical applications, and its didactic advantages in developing students' pronunciation, accent, and listening comprehension skills. Shadowing is analyzed as an effective method that helps students naturally develop their speech activity.

Keywords: English language, pronunciation, accent, shadowing technique, didactics, grammar, intonation, rhythm, emphasis, speaking, listening comprehension, speech.

Аннотация В данной статье рассматривается сущность технологии «шедоунг» при обучении английскому языку, её практическое применение, а также дидактические преимущества в развитии у учащихся навыков произношения, акцента и понимания на слух. Шедоунг анализируется как эффективный метод, способствующий естественному формированию речевой деятельности учащихся

Ключевые слова: английский язык, произношение, акцент, техника «шедоунг», дидактика, грамматика, интонация, ритм, ударение, говорение, понимание на слух, речь.

Annotatsiya Mazkur maqolada ingliz tili o'rgatishda shadowing texnologiyasining mohiyati, amaliy qo'llash imkoniyatlari hamda o'quvchilarning talaffuzi, aksenti va eshitib tushunish ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishdagi didaktik afzalliklari yoritiladi. Shadowing o'quvchining nutq faoliyatini tabiiy jarayonda shakllantirishga xizmat qiluvchi samarali metod sifatida tahlil qilinadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: ingliz tili, talaffuz, aksent, shadowing texnologiyasi, didaktika, grammatika, ohang, ritm, urg‘u, gapirish, tinglab tushunish, nutq.

Introduction

In today's context of globalization, speaking English fluently and with correct pronunciation is one of the priority areas of the educational process. The President's decisions regarding foreign languages are not merely educational measures but form part of a national strategy aimed at enhancing Uzbekistan's competitiveness on the global stage, improving the language competence of young people, and aligning the quality of education with international standards. On May 19, 2021, the Presidential Decree "Measures to Popularize the Learning of Foreign Languages and Bring It to a New Level of Quality" was adopted, aimed at developing foreign language education. Special programs and textbooks have been developed to promote foreign language learning. Traditional exercises are often insufficient for developing correct pronunciation. Therefore, in recent years, the shadowing technique has increasingly been used as an effective tool in teaching foreign languages. This method encourages students to listen to authentic speech and repeat it simultaneously. Shadowing is an interactive and innovative language teaching technology in which the learner repeats the speech they hear with minimal delay. This method effectively develops students' pronunciation, accent, intonation, and speech fluency.

The Essence of Shadowing Technology

Shadowing is a teaching method based on simultaneously repeating the speech being heard with minimal delay. The main goal of the method is to train students to speak with natural intonation, rhythm, stress, and pauses. During the process, the student:

- accurately reproduces the sound system;
- establishes a strong connection between listening and pronunciation;
- becomes accustomed to maintaining continuous speech;
- naturalizes the accent.

The Role of Shadowing in Developing Pronunciation

Pronunciation is strengthened through speaking in accordance with the phonetic system of the target language. Shadowing provides the opportunity to combine active listening with active repetition. As a result:

1. **Phonemic accuracy improves** – sounds specific to English, such as /θ/, /ð/, /r/, /æ/, are pronounced more precisely.
2. **Speech rhythm develops** – speed, intonation variations, and pauses are applied correctly.
3. **Adaptation to sound combinations** – features such as linking, reduction, and contraction are easily assimilated.

Impact on Naturalizing the Accent

Even when students speak grammatically correctly, their speech may sound artificial or robotic due to their accent. The shadowing technique addresses this problem because:

- the student “copies” the original speech;
- intonation, emphasis, stress, and emotional tone are absorbed naturally;
- repeating the same phrase several times at different speeds brings the accent closer to a native English model..

Strategies for using the technology in the lesson process	
1. Listening Stage	Students listen to the text carefully one or two times.
2. Active Shadowing	The teacher plays the audio, and the students repeat the speech aloud, at a medium volume, or quietly.
3. Speed Shadowing	First it is repeated slowly, then at a medium pace, and finally quickly. This helps to improve fluency.
4. Intonation shadowing	Students pay special attention to intonation and stress.
5. Independent recording and analysis	Students record their own voices and compare them with the original.

Didactic Advantages of Shadowing Technology

- Develops listening comprehension skills.
- Helps naturally acquire grammatical structures.
- Increases self-confidence, as the student adapts to the pace of real speech.
- Supports multimodal learning – listening, speaking, and repeating occur simultaneously.
- Engages the student as an active participant rather than a passive listener.

Conclusion

Shadowing technology is one of the most effective methods for developing students' pronunciation, accent, fluency, and listening skills in modern English language teaching. By enabling students to reproduce authentic speech in real time, it comprehensively develops their phonetic and communicative competence. Regular use of this method in the educational process leads to natural pronunciation, confident speech, and a high level of communicative proficiency. Shadowing educational technology is an effective method in modern foreign language teaching that helps learners develop natural pronunciation, fluent speech, accurate accent, and strong listening comprehension skills. It operates on the principles of active participation and self-monitoring, making its regular integration into classroom practice highly recommended.

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