

THE POWER OF PEER-TO-PEER INTERACTION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

by:

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One of the most effective and engaging techniques for teaching English is peer-to-peer interaction. While teacher-led instruction remains essential, fostering opportunities for students to interact with each other can greatly enrich their learning experience. Peer-to-peer interaction offers a chance for students to practice language skills in a relaxed, natural setting, while also promoting a sense of community and teamwork within the classroom. This article will delve into why peer-to-peer interaction is vital in learning English and how it contributes to both language development and social growth.

Peer-to-Peer Defined

According to the website, Educate-Me, peer learning is a collaborative approach where individuals learn together. One person takes on the role of a facilitator, creating a supportive learning space.

Another definition by Maria (2021), says peer learning, also known as peer-to-peer learning,

is grounded in constructivist learning theory, which suggests that students can learn from one another. Instead of the teacher imparting all the knowledge, students at the same level share their understanding and teach each other what they know.

Why Peer-to-Peer Interaction is Important

Learning a language like English isn't just about textbooks; it's about actually talking to people. Practice is the best way to learn the language. Students need to use

English to connect, share their thoughts, and understand different viewpoints. That's where working with classmates comes in. When students learn together, they're not just practicing drills; they're having real conversations. They get to use English like they would in everyday life, asking questions and figuring things out together. Plus, explaining things to each other helps everyone understand better.

Increased Speaking Opportunities

In numerous classroom settings, especially those characterized by large student populations, students may encounter limited opportunities for verbal expression. Conversely, peer-to-peer interaction facilitates equitable participation, ensuring that each student can practice English in real-time. Through collaborative activities such as paired work, small group discussions, or role-playing exercises, students are actively engaged in conversational practice, which is paramount to the development of fluency.

Building Confidence

A common challenge faced by language learners, particularly those in the initial stages of acquisition, is the pervasive anxiety associated with linguistic inaccuracies. Peer-to-peer interaction, however, cultivates a psychologically safe environment, where students are empowered to practice without the fear of censure. This supportive context, which emphasizes collaborative learning and the acceptance of errors as an integral part of the process, significantly enhances students' self-efficacy and encourages them to embrace the risks inherent in language development.

Improved Listening Skills

In addition to speaking, listening is a critical component of language acquisition. Peer-to-peer interaction gives students the chance to listen to various accents, pronunciations, and speaking styles, thereby improving their listening comprehension.

Through these interactions, students are exposed to a broader range of spoken English, which enhances their ability to understand different forms of the language.

Conclusion

Peer-to-peer interaction represents a valuable pedagogical instrument within English language instruction, transcending the purview of mere linguistic practice. It cultivates communication proficiency, collaborative aptitude, and self-assurance, while concurrently fostering a more profound comprehension of the target language. By affording students opportunities for interpersonal exchange, educators facilitate the development of not only linguistic competencies but also essential socio-emotional skills, which are critical determinants of academic and professional success. Through the judicious integration of peer-mediated activities, instructors can cultivate a dynamic, engaging, and inclusive learning milieu wherein all students are empowered to achieve their full potential.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

References:

What Is Peer to Peer Learning? (n.d.). www.educate-me.co. Retrieved March 10, 2025, from <https://www.educate-me.co/definitions/peer-to-peer-learning>

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