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THE USE OF DRAMA ELEMENTS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

Teaching a foreign language is an inherently creative process that requires engaging methods to foster effective communication skills. Teachers often take on the roles of actors and directors, carefully planning lessons rich in content and emotionally engaging. In this sense, the teaching process shares many characteristics with drama as an art form. Integrating drama elements into language instruction provides unique opportunities for active learning and enhances students' motivation, comprehension, and communication skills.

The term "drama" originates from the Greek word "action". Life itself is full of dramatic situations, making it natural to incorporate such scenarios into language learning. According to the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, drama is defined as "a situation or sequence of events in real life having the dramatic progression or emotional effect characteristic of a play"; "the quality or condition that is dramatic in nature" [1].

In the educational context, drama is not merely about theatrical performances but also about creating dynamic, expressive, and immersive learning experiences. Drama can be used as an effective method to organize practical lessons, enabling students to engage actively, express emotions, and develop their creative abilities. The dramatization of dialogues, role-playing, and interactive storytelling are integral components of communicative language teaching. These activities help students practice pronunciation, intonation, gestures, and body language while reinforcing linguistic competence.

One of the key principles of the communicative method is situational learning. Speech situations that are diverse in content and complexity aim to develop communicative skills, allowing students to express themselves naturally. This process often involves elements of drama, such as emotional expressiveness, improvisation, creativity, and problem-solving. To effectively incorporate drama into language teaching, certain essential components must be considered:

clearly defined speech tasks, establishing a specific objective for students to achieve through dramatization;

informative speech material, using monologues, dialogues, and role-play scenarios to provide meaningful content;

situational context, creating real-life scenarios that involve drama elements such as conflict, negotiation, or storytelling;

role distribution, assigning characters to students to facilitate interaction and engagement;

visualization and scenery, enhancing the learning experience with props, costumes, or digital aids.

By integrating these elements, teachers can create a dynamic classroom environment that fosters student participation and language retention. The use of drama in foreign language education offers numerous advantages:

increased motivation, engaging students in interactive and enjoyable activities fosters enthusiasm for learning;

enhanced cultural awareness, exposure to dramatized real-world scenarios deepens students' understanding of English-speaking cultures;

improved memorization, active participation in dramatic exercises aids in long-term language retention;

development of communication skills, role-playing and dialogue enactment improve fluency, pronunciation, and confidence;

encouragement of creativity and initiative, students develop problem-solving abilities, adaptability, and independent thinking.

Beyond language acquisition, drama-based teaching helps students bridge the gap between theory and practice. The dramatization of professional scenarios allows learners to see the practical applications of their language skills in real-world settings. This integration fosters interdisciplinary learning, reinforcing both linguistic competence and professional expertise.

To sum up, using drama elements in foreign language teaching demonstrates that drama extends beyond theatrical art as it is a powerful educational tool. By incorporating classical teaching methods into contemporary educational contexts, teachers can create effective and engaging learning experiences. The adaptability of drama in language education makes it a valuable resource for enhancing student interaction, comprehension, and overall communication proficiency. As the field of education continues to evolve, the use of drama as a pedagogical approach remains relevant and impactful.

REFERENCES

1. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language [Electronic resource]. – Access mode : <https://ahdictionary.com/word/search.html?q=drama>.