

TEACHERS PEDAGOGICAL COMPETENCE IN TEACHING ENGLISH IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Abstract:

The study explores the pivotal role of pedagogical competence in the effective teaching of English in primary education. Pedagogical competence plays an important role in the formation of the quality of education, in particular, in teaching English to primary school students. The teacher's ability to effectively use pedagogical methods, understand the needs of students, and master relevant sources is the main factor in creating a positive and effective educational environment. In this study, the main components of pedagogical competence and how they influence the teaching of English in primary grades were studied.

Key words: Pedagogical competence, teaching English, primary education, language learning, teaching methods, professional development, effectiveness of teacher activity.

Introduction

The role of English teachers in primary education is important, as it lays the foundation for future academic success. Pedagogical competence, defined as the ability of teachers to conduct an effective, interesting, and meaningful lesson, is of great importance in the successful teaching of English to young students. Teachers with high pedagogical competence can adapt their teaching strategies to meet the individual needs of students, which makes education more convenient and interesting.

The pedagogical competence of an English teacher includes a deep understanding of both the subject and the psychological and developmental needs of children. In primary education, when students are at an important stage of language learning, teachers should use effective methods that contribute to the development of language skills, stimulate a positive attitude towards learning, and ensure thorough mastery of the basic concepts of the English language. The importance of pedagogical competence becomes even more apparent when we take into account the various needs of students in the classroom.

Primary education often involves children with varying levels of knowledge, learning ability, and culture. Teachers with pedagogical knowledge to adapt teaching methods can effectively satisfy this diversity and ensure that each child has the opportunity to achieve success. The pedagogical competence of English teachers can be divided into several main components, including knowledge of the subject, teaching strategies, classroom management, and the ability to establish positive relationships between teachers and students. Subject knowledge refers to the teacher's understanding of English grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural contexts. An English teacher with solid knowledge of the subject can clearly present the content, confidently answer questions, and create a meaningful learning experience for students. The teacher's ability to apply different teaching strategies to meet the needs of different students is also important. In primary education, students use interactive and creative teaching methods such as games, songs, stories, and role-playing games. These strategies not only help maintain students' interest but also facilitate language learning by providing real, context-based opportunities for practice. For example, using songs to teach vocabulary and grammar allows children to master language structures and at the same time enjoy the learning process.

The important aspect of pedagogical competence is the ability to manage the classroom. Maintaining a positive and orderly learning environment in elementary school is crucial for effective teaching. Teachers should be able to manage classroom behavior, set a daily routine, and create a safe environment for students to express themselves. A well-managed classroom fosters active participation, which is especially important in language learning, as it encourages students to practice speaking, listening, and interacting with their peers. The importance of pedagogical competence in teaching English in primary education is not limited to conveying the content. This also includes creating an interesting and inclusive educational environment that encourages active participation of students and language development. Effective pedagogical competence requires the teacher to know well how young children learn a second language, especially in the context of a foreign language, such as English. One of the important aspects of pedagogical competence is the teacher's

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ability to assess and understand the mental development of younger students. In primary education, students are at different stages of language acquisition, and their ability to master new vocabulary, grammatical structures, and pronunciation differs significantly. A competent teacher should be able to see these differences and adapt teaching methods accordingly. For example, some students may use visual aids more often, while others may respond better to verbal instructions or practical exercises. Teachers can take into account students' diverse learning preferences by applying a variety of sensory techniques in teaching, such as hearing, seeing, and movement. In addition, the role of assessment in pedagogical competence cannot be ignored. In primary education, formative assessment - current assessment - is important for monitoring student learning. Through regular feedback, quizzes, oral presentations, and peer assessment, teachers can better understand each student's strengths and developmental trajectories. This, in turn, allows the teacher to adapt teaching methods to the needs of the individual. This continuous assessment approach is important in language learning, as it allows teachers to track language development over time and take necessary measures when students are struggling.

One of the most important elements of pedagogical competence is the creation of a safe and supportive environment in the classroom. For younger students, a positive emotional environment is necessary to increase confidence in language skills. Teachers who use positive reinforcement, praise effort rather than achievement, and create a classroom culture without threats encourage students to take risks and engage more fully in the language learning process. This is especially important in teaching English as a second language, as many students may be shy or hesitant to speak, read or write in a foreign language. By creating a safe and supportive environment, teachers reduce anxiety and encourage students to participate more actively. In addition, teachers should be able to set clear, realistic learning objectives and convey these goals to students in an easily understandable way. When students know what is expected of them and clearly understand the purpose of their learning activities, they are more likely to maintain focus and motivation. Teachers with strong pedagogical competence can divide complex language concepts into controlled parts and provide foundations that help develop students' understanding and skills. For example, a qualified teacher gradually introduces new grammatical rules or vocabulary through contextual activities and life situations, making language learning more relevant and meaningful for students' lives, the ability to establish mutual cooperation between students is another sign of pedagogical competence.

In primary education, working in groups and pairs is a valuable tool for language learning. When students work together, they can practice speaking and listening skills, exchange ideas, and learn from each other. By creating opportunities for peer communication, teachers not only encourage language development but also help students develop social and interpersonal skills. Collaborative learning activities, such as group projects or interactive language games, also create a sense of community in the classroom, which creates a more inclusive and stimulating learning environment. Project-based learning encourages deeper learning because it connects language learning with the real world, useful experiences that align with students' interests and future goals. Moreover, creating a positive and engaging learning environment requires the ability to establish close connections between the teacher and students. Compassionate, patient, and supportive teachers can inspire confidence in their students, encouraging them to take more initiative and achieve success. In the context of rapidly changing educational technologies, teaching methods, and students' needs, the teacher must constantly update their knowledge and skills. Seminars, workshops, and peer collaboration are all effective ways for teachers to improve their pedagogical practices and stay informed about the latest developments in language teaching. For example, teachers can expand their understanding of language acquisition theories, such as the communicative language teaching approach, which emphasizes the practical application of language in real life. This helps them create more engaging and effective lessons that encourage students to use English meaningfully. In addition, teachers can use digital tools and resources such as language learning applications, interactive whiteboards, and online learning platforms to improve their learning and meet the diverse needs of students. The introduction of technologies in teaching English in a modern classroom is becoming increasingly important. Digital resources allow teachers to create interactive and engaging lessons, making learning more dynamic and accessible to all students. For example, interactive language games and online quizzes can provide quick feedback, which helps students track their progress and maintain their motivation. In addition, the ability to differentiate learning is a key skill for English teachers. Elementary grades often consist of students with a wide range of abilities and reading styles. Some students struggle with reading and writing, while others study excellently. Teachers who are well-versed in differentiated learning can adapt their lessons to the specific needs of each child and provide appropriate difficulties and support for all students. This approach not only improves the individual activity of students, but also creates an inclusive educational environment in which every child has the opportunity to achieve success.

Conclusion

As the educational environment changes, it is important for teachers to engage in continuous professional development to be aware of new teaching methods and tools. Investing in the professional growth of English teachers and providing them with the resources necessary for their success is crucial for ensuring quality education for all children. If a teacher has the correct pedagogical competence, they can not only improve students' language skills, but also contribute to their overall development, preparing them for a successful future in an increasingly globalized world.

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