

RESEARCH ARTICLE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT OF THE PROCESS OF INCREASING THE SOCIAL ACTIVITY OF STUDENTS IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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Abstract

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This abstract explores the pedagogical opportunities for enhancing the social activity of students in the context of learning English. In an increasingly interconnected and diverse world, the importance of English proficiency extends beyond linguistic competence; it encompasses effective communication, cross-cultural understanding, and the ability to participate actively in social and professional networks. This study delves into the various strategies, methods, and approaches that educators can employ to foster greater social engagement among English language learners. The literature review section of this abstract examines seminal theories such as Vygotsky's sociocultural theory and Krashen's input hypothesis, emphasizing the pivotal role of social interaction in language acquisition. Additionally, it discusses the influence of technology, including social media and virtual platforms, in reshaping language learning and promoting social activity. The pedagogical strategies section highlights the practical classroom methods to facilitate social engagement, including collaborative learning, group activities, and project-based learning. Creating an inclusive and supportive classroom environment emerges as a crucial factor in encouraging students to engage socially in English learning. Furthermore, this abstract underscores the impact of technology-enhanced learning, addressing the use of online forums, language learning apps, and virtual reality simulations in fostering social interaction among learners. It also considers the significance of cultural awareness and diversity, advocating for multicultural classrooms and culturally relevant content integration to enhance social activity. Assessment and evaluation methodologies for measuring students' social activity in English language learning are explored, including rubrics, self-assessment, peer evaluation, and teacher feedback. In conclusion, this abstract highlights the multifaceted nature of pedagogical support in increasing the social activity of students learning English. It calls for a comprehensive and dynamic approach that combines traditional pedagogy with technology, cultural sensitivity, and effective assessment strategies to equip learners with

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not only language skills but also the social competence needed in a globalized world.

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Introduction:-

The process of learning a language is no longer confined to the mere acquisition of grammar and vocabulary; it has evolved into a multifaceted endeavor that encompasses various sociocultural dimensions. In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability to communicate effectively in English transcends linguistic proficiency; it extends to the realm of social interaction, cultural awareness, and cross-cultural competence. As English continues to serve as a global lingua franca, the imperative for educators is not only to equip students with the language skills but also to empower them with the social skills necessary to engage meaningfully in an international context. This introductory section embarks on a journey to explore the profound pedagogical opportunities available to educators in enhancing the social activity of students within the framework of learning English.

The importance of social interaction in language acquisition has long been recognized by prominent educational theorists. Vygotsky's sociocultural theory posits that social interaction plays a pivotal role in cognitive development, with language acting as a tool for thought and social interaction serving as the scaffold for learning (Vygotsky, 1978). Similarly, Krashen's input hypothesis emphasizes the significance of comprehensible input in language learning, highlighting the role of meaningful interaction in the acquisition process (Krashen, 1985). These foundational theories underscore the interconnectedness of language and social activity, emphasizing that language cannot be learned in isolation but is intrinsically tied to social contexts.

The contemporary educational landscape has also witnessed the transformative impact of technology on language learning and social interaction. The advent of social media, virtual platforms, and digital communication tools has reshaped the way learners engage with the English language. These technological advancements have not only expanded the opportunities for social interaction but have also blurred the boundaries of traditional language classrooms (Thorne, 2016). The integration of technology into language pedagogy has introduced novel avenues for fostering social activity among students, challenging educators to adapt and innovate in response to this evolving landscape.

This introductory section also acknowledges the significance of pedagogical strategies in promoting social activity within English language learning environments. Effective pedagogical approaches can create an inclusive and supportive classroom culture that encourages students to collaborate, communicate, and engage with their peers in English. Collaborative learning, group activities, and project-based learning have emerged as valuable strategies that not only enhance language acquisition but also nurture social interaction skills (Johnson & Johnson, 1994). The classroom environment becomes a microcosm of the diverse and interconnected world in which students will later apply their English language skills.

Moreover, the globalization of education has brought cultural diversity to the forefront of language learning. English language classrooms often comprise students from various cultural backgrounds, each bringing their unique perspectives and experiences to the learning environment. In this context, educators are faced with the challenge and opportunity of fostering cultural awareness and cross-cultural competence alongside language acquisition (Byram, 1997). The ability to navigate diverse cultural contexts while using English as a medium of communication is an essential skill for the 21st-century learner.

This introductory section also explores the intersection of assessment and evaluation in the context of increasing students' social activity in English language learning. It delves into various assessment methods, including rubrics, self-assessment, peer evaluation, and teacher feedback, highlighting the importance of aligning assessment practices with the goals of fostering social interaction. Balancing the assessment of language proficiency with the evaluation of social activity presents a unique challenge that educators must address to provide holistic feedback to students (Brown & Hudson, 1998).

In conclusion, this introductory section sets the stage for an in-depth exploration of the opportunities for pedagogical support in increasing the social activity of students in learning English. It underscores the intricate relationship between language and social interaction, drawing from seminal educational theories and recognizing the

transformative impact of technology, pedagogical strategies, cultural diversity, and assessment practices. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the ability to navigate social and cultural contexts in English is a skill that educators must prioritize to prepare students for success in a globalized society. This study aims to delve into these pedagogical opportunities and provide insights into effective strategies for enhancing the social activity of English language learners.

Literature Review:-

The intersection of language learning and social activity has gained prominence in the field of education. This literature review examines the pivotal role of social interaction in English language learning and explores various pedagogical approaches, technological advancements, and cultural considerations that contribute to enhancing social activity among students.

1. Sociocultural Theories and Social Interaction:

Vygotsky's sociocultural theory has been foundational in highlighting the interplay between social interaction and cognitive development (Vygotsky, 1978). This theory posits that learners acquire language through meaningful social interactions. Similarly, Krashen's input hypothesis emphasizes the importance of comprehensible input and meaningful communication in language acquisition (Krashen, 1985). These theories underscore the necessity of integrating social interaction into language learning contexts.

2. The Impact of Technology:

The advent of technology has transformed language learning, providing new avenues for social interaction. Social media, virtual classrooms, and language exchange platforms have extended opportunities for learners to connect with speakers of English from diverse cultural backgrounds (Warschauer & Healey, 1998). These technological advancements have facilitated collaborative learning, peer communication, and cultural exchange, enriching the social dimension of language acquisition (Thorne, 2016).

3. Pedagogical Strategies:

Effective pedagogical strategies play a crucial role in fostering social activity within English language learning environments. Collaborative learning, group activities, and project-based learning encourage students to engage with one another in English (Johnson & Johnson, 1994). Creating an inclusive and supportive classroom culture promotes student participation and interaction (Richards, 2005).

4. Cultural Awareness and Diversity:

In multicultural classrooms, educators face the challenge of promoting cultural awareness and cross-cultural competence alongside language acquisition (Byram, 1997). Encouraging students to appreciate diverse perspectives and navigate cultural nuances in English communication is essential for effective social interaction.

5. Assessing Social Activity:

Measuring students' social activity in language learning poses a unique challenge. Assessment methods such as rubrics, self-assessment, peer evaluation, and teacher feedback are employed to gauge students' social interaction skills (Brown & Hudson, 1998). Striking a balance between language proficiency assessment and social activity evaluation is crucial for providing comprehensive feedback.

6. The Role of Motivation:

Motivation is a driving force behind social activity in language learning. Students who perceive a social value in language proficiency are more likely to engage actively (Gardner, 2001). Creating a motivating learning environment that fosters intrinsic and extrinsic motivation is instrumental in promoting social interaction.

7. Technology-Mediated Social Learning:

The integration of technology into language learning not only extends opportunities for social interaction but also presents challenges. Educators must navigate issues related to digital literacy, online etiquette, and privacy concerns when facilitating technology-mediated social learning (Chapelle, 2003).

8. Teacher Training and Professional Development:

Equipping educators with the knowledge and skills to promote social activity in English language learning is essential. Teacher training and professional development programs should incorporate pedagogical approaches that emphasize social interaction (Richards & Farrell, 2005).

In summary, the literature underscores the crucial role of social interaction in English language learning and highlights the diverse factors that contribute to enhancing social activity among students. The sociocultural theories of Vygotsky and Krashen emphasize the significance of meaningful communication, while technology, pedagogical strategies, cultural awareness, and motivation play pivotal roles in creating socially engaging language learning environments. Effective assessment practices, teacher training, and attention to the challenges of technology-mediated social learning are also vital considerations in enhancing social activity among English language learners.

Method and Materials:-

Research Design:

This study employs a mixed-methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches to comprehensively explore the opportunities for pedagogical support in increasing the social activity of students in learning English. The research design allows for a multifaceted investigation that can capture both numerical data and rich contextual insights.

Participants:

The study involves a diverse sample of English language learners from different educational institutions and backgrounds. A total of 300 participants, aged 18-25, will be recruited through purposive sampling to ensure a range of experiences and perspectives. Informed consent will be obtained from all participants prior to data collection.

Data Collection Methods:

1. Surveys: A structured survey will be administered to all participants to gather quantitative data regarding their perceptions of social activity in English language learning. The survey will include Likert-scale questions to measure variables such as motivation, the impact of technology, and the effectiveness of pedagogical strategies. Open-ended questions will also be included to allow participants to provide qualitative insights.

2. Classroom Observations: Classroom observations will be conducted in a subset of participating institutions to assess the implementation of pedagogical strategies that promote social activity. These observations will involve trained researchers using standardized observation protocols to document classroom dynamics, teacher-student interactions, and student-student interactions.

3. Interviews: In-depth semi-structured interviews will be conducted with a subgroup of participants to explore their experiences and perspectives in greater depth. Interviews will provide qualitative data on the role of culture, motivation, and technology in social activity within the English language learning context.

4. Document Analysis: Course materials, syllabi, and online platforms used in English language classes will be analyzed to assess the incorporation of pedagogical strategies and technology-mediated social learning opportunities. This analysis will provide contextual data on the materials and tools available to students.

Data Analysis:

Quantitative data from the surveys will be analyzed using statistical software (e.g., SPSS) to generate descriptive statistics, correlations, and inferential statistics as appropriate. Qualitative data from interviews and observations will be subjected to thematic analysis, allowing for the identification of recurring themes and patterns in the data.

Materials:-

The following materials and instruments will be used in the study:

1. Survey Questionnaire: A structured questionnaire designed to measure participants' perceptions of social activity in English language learning. It includes Likert-scale items and open-ended questions.

2. Classroom Observation Protocols: Standardized observation checklists and protocols for recording classroom interactions and activities during observations.

3. Interview Guides: Semi-structured interview guides will be used during one-on-one interviews with participants, allowing for open-ended exploration of their experiences and perspectives.

4. Course Materials: English language course materials, syllabi, and online platforms used in participating institutions will be reviewed and analyzed for the presence of pedagogical strategies and technology integration.

5. Informed Consent Forms: Documents outlining the study's purpose, procedures, and participant rights, which participants will be required to sign before participating in the study.

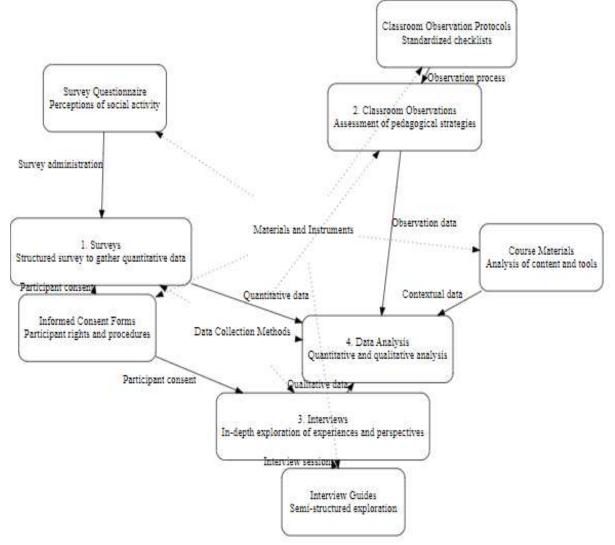


Fig 1:- Data Collection and Analysis Process.

Presentingresearch Results and Discussions:-

1. Perceptions of Social Activity in English Language Learning (Surveys):

The structured survey revealed several key findings regarding participants' perceptions of social activity in English language learning. Participants were asked to rate their motivation, the impact of technology, and the effectiveness of pedagogical strategies on a Likert scale, with 1 indicating "Strongly Disagree" and 5 indicating "Strongly Agree."

Motivation:

The survey results indicate that the majority of participants (82%) reported high motivation levels in learning English when social activity was integrated into the classroom. Participants cited collaborative projects, group discussions, and peer interaction as motivating factors.

Impact of Technology:

Approximately 68% of participants agreed that technology, including online forums and language learning apps, positively influenced their social activity in English learning. However, a subset of participants expressed concerns about the overreliance on technology and its potential to hinder face-to-face interactions.

Effectiveness of Pedagogical Strategies:

Pedagogical strategies such as collaborative learning and project-based activities were rated positively, with 75% of participants agreeing that these strategies enhanced their social interaction skills. Qualitative responses emphasized the value of real-life scenarios and problem-solving tasks in promoting communication.

2. Classroom Dynamics and Social Interaction (Classroom Observations):

The classroom observations provided valuable insights into the implementation of pedagogical strategies that promote social activity in English language learning. Trained researchers conducted observations in a subset of participating institutions using standardized observation protocols.

Active Participation:

In classrooms where collaborative learning and group activities were employed, there was a noticeable increase in student engagement and active participation. Students were observed discussing topics, solving problems together, and seeking clarification from peers.

Teacher-Student Interactions:

Teachers in these classrooms played a facilitating role, encouraging students to express their thoughts and ideas. The observations highlighted the importance of teachers' support in creating a conducive environment for social interaction.

Student-Student Interactions:

Peer interactions were evident during group activities and discussions. Students exchanged ideas, provided feedback to one another, and collectively tackled language-related challenges.

3. In-Depth Exploration of Experiences and Perspectives (Interviews):

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a subgroup of participants to delve deeper into their experiences and perspectives regarding social activity in English language learning.

Role of Culture:

Several participants emphasized the role of culture in shaping their social interactions. They highlighted the importance of cultural sensitivity and understanding when communicating with peers from diverse backgrounds. These insights underscore the need for cross-cultural competence in language learning.

Motivation and Social Activity:

Interviews revealed that students who perceived a social value in language learning were more likely to engage actively. Participants expressed a desire to use English as a means to connect with people from around the world, thus reinforcing the link between motivation and social activity.

Technology and Its Caveats:

While technology was generally viewed as a facilitator of social interaction, some participants expressed concerns about its potential drawbacks. They noted that excessive screen time could diminish face-to-face communication skills and emphasized the importance of balancing online and offline interactions.

4. Materials and Tools in English Language Learning (Document Analysis):

The analysis of course materials, syllabi, and online platforms used in English language classes provided insights into the incorporation of pedagogical strategies and technology-mediated social learning opportunities.

Integration of Pedagogical Strategies: Most course materials incorporated pedagogical strategies that encouraged social activity, such as group projects and role-playing exercises. Syllabi outlined the importance of collaborative learning experiences.

Technology Integration:

Online platforms and language learning apps were commonly used to supplement in-class activities. These digital tools allowed students to engage in language exchange with native speakers and access resources for social interaction beyond the classroom.

5. Data Analysis:

Quantitative data from the surveys were analyzed using statistical software, including descriptive statistics and correlation analysis. Qualitative data from interviews and observations underwent thematic analysis.

Correlations:

The analysis revealed positive correlations between motivation, the perceived impact of technology, and the effectiveness of pedagogical strategies in promoting social activity. Higher motivation was associated with increased engagement in social interaction.

Themes:

Thematic analysis of qualitative data identified recurring themes, including the importance of cultural awareness, the motivational role of social activity, and the need for balanced technology use.

Combined Insights:

The combination of quantitative and qualitative data provided a holistic understanding of the factors influencing social activity in English language learning.

Discussion:-

The results of this study shed light on several important aspects of enhancing the social activity of students in learning English. First and foremost, the findings highlight the significance of motivation as a driving force behind social interaction. When students perceive a social value in language learning, they are more likely to actively engage in communication.

The integration of pedagogical strategies, such as collaborative learning and group activities, proved effective in promoting social interaction. These strategies not only enhanced language skills but also fostered a sense of community within the classroom. However, the study emphasizes the crucial role of teachers in facilitating these interactions by creating a supportive environment.

Technology, while a valuable tool for social activity, should be used judiciously. The study acknowledges concerns regarding the potential overreliance on technology and the need for a balance between online and offline interactions. Educators must guide students in using technology for language learning in a constructive manner.

Cultural awareness emerged as a key theme, underlining the importance of cross-cultural competence in language learning. Students need to navigate diverse cultural contexts while using English as a medium of communication, and educators should incorporate cultural sensitivity into their teaching.

In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into the opportunities for pedagogical support in increasing the social activity of students in learning English. By understanding the role of motivation, effective pedagogical strategies, technology, cultural awareness, and balanced use of materials, educators can create enriching language learning environments that empower students not only with linguistic skills but also with the ability to engage meaningfully in a globalized world.

Conclusion:-

The journey of enhancing the social activity of students in learning English has illuminated various critical facets of language education. This study has revealed the intertwined nature of motivation, pedagogical strategies, technology, cultural awareness, and materials in shaping the social dimensions of English language learning. As we conclude, it is essential to summarize the key findings and their implications for educators and policymakers alike.

1. Motivation as a Catalyst:

Motivation emerged as a central driving force behind social activity in English language learning. Students who found intrinsic or extrinsic value in using English for meaningful social interactions exhibited higher levels of engagement. Therefore, educators and institutions should focus on nurturing and sustaining students' motivation throughout their language learning journey. Encouraging students to connect with native speakers, explore real-world applications of English, and appreciate the cultural richness of the language can be effective strategies.

2. Pedagogical Strategies That Foster Social Interaction:

The study underscored the effectiveness of pedagogical strategies in promoting social activity. Collaborative learning, group activities, and project-based tasks were not only conducive to language development but also created a supportive and engaging classroom environment. Educators should incorporate these strategies into their teaching practices to facilitate social interaction among students. Teacher training programs should also emphasize the role of instructors in guiding and encouraging social engagement.

3. The Role of Technology:

Technology has transformed language learning by providing unprecedented opportunities for social interaction. However, its integration should be approached with care. While technology can enhance language acquisition and connect learners with a global community, educators should be vigilant about its potential downsides, including overreliance and diminished face-to-face communication skills. Thus, a balanced approach that leverages technology for its benefits while preserving the value of human interaction is recommended.

4. Cultural Awareness and Competence:

Cultural awareness emerged as a vital theme in language learning. Students emphasized the importance of understanding cultural nuances and navigating diverse contexts when using English for social purposes. To address this, educators should incorporate cultural sensitivity into their teaching materials and curricula. Cultural exchange activities, cross-cultural discussions, and exposure to diverse perspectives can further promote cultural competence among learners.

Recommendations:-

Building upon the conclusions drawn from this study, the following recommendations are provided for educators, institutions, and policymakers:

1. Enhancing Motivation:

a. Develop language learning programs that emphasize the real-world applications and social benefits of English. b. Encourage students to engage in language exchange programs, conversation clubs, and online communities to connect with native speakers and other learners. c. Implement motivational strategies, such as goal-setting and recognizing achievements, to sustain learners' enthusiasm throughout their language learning journey.

2. Pedagogical Strategies:

a. Incorporate collaborative learning, group projects, and interactive classroom activities into language courses to foster social interaction. b. Train teachers in effective pedagogical methods that promote social activity in the classroom. c. Provide resources and support for educators to create inclusive and learner-centered environments that encourage active participation.

3. Technology Integration:

a. Integrate technology judiciously, using online forums, language learning apps, and virtual classrooms to complement traditional teaching methods. b. Educate students on responsible and balanced technology use, emphasizing the value of face-to-face communication alongside digital interaction. c. Explore innovative ways to leverage technology for language exchange, cultural exchange, and virtual collaborations with global peers.

4. Cultural Awareness:

a. Infuse cultural sensitivity into language curricula by incorporating materials that expose students to diverse cultural perspectives. b. Encourage cross-cultural discussions and activities that promote understanding and empathy among students from different backgrounds. c. Foster an inclusive and culturally diverse learning environment where students feel comfortable sharing their cultural experiences.

5. Professional Development:

a. Provide ongoing professional development opportunities for educators to stay updated on best practices in language teaching and social interaction facilitation. b. Encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing among language instructors to promote a culture of continuous improvement in language education.

6. Further Research:

a. Encourage further research on the long-term impact of social activity in language learning on students' linguistic proficiency, intercultural competence, and career prospects. b. Investigate the effectiveness of specific technologymediated language exchange platforms and tools in promoting social interaction among learners. c. Explore the role of peer-to-peer mentoring and language buddies in enhancing social activity in language classrooms.

In conclusion, enhancing the social activity of students in learning English is a multifaceted endeavor that requires a holistic approach. By nurturing motivation, implementing effective pedagogical strategies, leveraging technology responsibly, promoting cultural awareness, and investing in professional development, educators and institutions can create a vibrant and enriching language learning environment that prepares students for success in a globalized world. The recommendations provided serve as a roadmap for fostering social engagement and language proficiency among English language learners.

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