

LECTURE 3.

INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN FLT

Plan

1. What is interaction? Types of interaction.
2. A FL lesson in an interactive regime.

The integration of interactive technologies in foreign language teaching (FLT) has transformed traditional classrooms into dynamic, student-centered learning environments. Interactive technologies—such as language learning software, online platforms, virtual classrooms, multimedia resources, and mobile applications—provide learners with opportunities to practice language skills in engaging and authentic contexts. These tools support listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, while also promoting collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

By enabling real-time communication, feedback, and personalized learning, interactive technologies address the diverse needs and learning styles of students. They also allow learners to access authentic materials, connect with native speakers, and participate in virtual language communities, thereby enhancing cultural competence alongside linguistic skills. The use of such technologies aligns with modern educational goals, emphasizing active learning, learner autonomy, and the practical application of language in global contexts.

Interactive technologies have revolutionized foreign language teaching by making learning more engaging, flexible, and effective. They facilitate real-time interaction, individualized feedback, and immersive experiences, enabling learners to practice language in meaningful contexts. These technologies not only improve linguistic skills but also foster cultural awareness, digital literacy, and collaborative learning.

Moreover, interactive tools support teachers in designing innovative, student-centered lessons, integrating multimedia, gamification, and online communication to enhance motivation and participation. As technology continues to evolve, its role in FLT becomes increasingly essential, bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world language use. Ultimately, interactive technologies empower both teachers and learners, creating a flexible, adaptable, and globally connected language learning environment.

Teaching process is mainly based on two activities. They are imparting knowledge and acquiring knowledge. In the first case teacher sends information and the learners receive it. The innovative methods also deal with this process and their aim is to evaluate the activities of a teacher and learners using new ways and methods of teaching including new technical means of teaching. As we know that methodological approach in teaching foreign languages may be divided into three groups. They are Passive methods, Active methods and also interactive methods. If we speak here in the first place about the passive methods, it should be noted that in Passive methods a teacher is in the centre of teaching. He plays active role but the learners are passive.

Control can be carried out by the way of questions, individual and control work, tests etc. It may be useful when it is used by an experienced teacher.

Secondly, in Active methods learners are also active. Their role and activity is equal in the process of interaction. Learners may ask questions; express their ideas with a teacher. The last but it is in the first nowadays interactive method or approach is a modernized form of active methods.

The most of teachers usually understand or mean cooperative action during the lesson. But here attention should be focused on inner action too. The learners should have inner motivation which involves them into active work or active participation at the lesson. In interactive method teacher's role is to direct learners activity to getting the aim of the lesson which include interactive exercises and tasks.

Here are the key factors influencing the use of interactive technologies in Foreign Language Teaching (FLT):

1. Technological Factors

Availability of digital tools: Computers, tablets, smartphones, and language learning software.

Internet connectivity: Access to online platforms, virtual classrooms, and authentic language resources.

Below some types of interactive methods are given: Brainstorming. It is technique for generating new ideas on a topic. These methods stimulate creative activity of the learners in solving problems and express their ideas freely. Various variants of solving the problem are usually given here. In brainstorming quantity of utterances is important but not the quality.

Multimedia resources: Audio, video, animations, and interactive exercises that enhance comprehension and engagement.

2. Pedagogical Factors

Learner-centered approach: Technology supports personalized learning and adaptive exercises.

Task-based learning: Interactive tools enable simulations, role-plays, and real-life communication tasks.

Feedback and assessment: Immediate correction and performance tracking help learners improve efficiently.

3. Cognitive and Psychological Factors

Motivation and engagement: Gamified learning and interactive exercises increase interest.

Cognitive load management: Visual and auditory aids help learners process complex language structures.

Autonomy and self-directed learning: Technology encourages independent practice and exploration.

4. Social and Cultural Factors

Collaboration and communication: Online forums, chat, and video calls facilitate peer interaction.

Cross-cultural learning: Exposure to authentic materials and native speakers enhances cultural competence.

Global networking: Technology allows participation in international language communities.

Here are some examples of interactive technologies used in Foreign Language Teaching (FLT), linked to the key factors:

Teacher should listen to all utterances and not criticize them. Instead of this he inspire the learners to give as many variants of solving the problem as he (or she) can. Lacks of criticism create favorable conditions for the learners to express the ideas freely and these of course motivate them. At the end of brainstorming activity all the expressed utterances are written and then analyzed. Discussion. This type of interactive method requires to study teaching material on the theme before starting discussion. After having learnt the lexico-grammatical material on the theme the learners may start discussion. This method helps the learners consistently and logically express their ideas by presenting grounds for their utterances. Here the learners work in small groups and this improves their activity because every member of the group may express his/her ideas and takes part in the discussion.

1. Language Learning Platforms and Apps

Duolingo, Babbel, Rosetta Stone: Offer gamified lessons for vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation practice.

Memrise: Uses spaced repetition and multimedia content to improve retention.

Example: A student practices Spanish vocabulary daily on Duolingo, tracking progress and earning points.

2. Multimedia Resources

Audio and video lessons: YouTube, podcasts, and language-specific channels provide authentic listening experiences.

Interactive e-books and audiobooks: Enable simultaneous reading and listening comprehension.

Example: Learners watch short films in French with subtitles to practice comprehension and cultural awareness.

3. Virtual Classrooms and Video Conferencing

Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet: Facilitate live classes, discussions, and collaboration with peers and teachers.

Example: Students in Japan participate in a virtual exchange with native English speakers via Zoom.

4. Online Dictionaries, Translators, and Grammar Tools

WordReference, Grammarly, Reverso: Help learners understand meanings, check grammar, and refine writing.

Example: A student writes an essay in English and uses Grammarly to correct grammar and punctuation errors.

5. Interactive Learning Software

Kahoot!, Quizlet, Nearpod: Promote active learning through quizzes, flashcards, and gamified exercises.

Example: A teacher uses Kahoot! to review German vocabulary in a competitive classroom game.

6. Social Media and Communication Tools

WhatsApp, Discord, Facebook Groups: Support peer interaction, language practice, and cultural exchange.

Example: Learners join a Spanish-speaking Discord server to practice informal conversation.

Role playing is also one of the activity used in teaching innovative methods. They are made to improve the efficiency of teaching. Role playing involves the learners into active work by positively influencing on their inner activity. This creates favorable conditions for cooperative work. Such atmosphere creates their motivation, personal potentials of inner activity and helps to form practical skills and habits. During the role playing such skills as creativity, getting out of the difficult situations, resourcefulness, self managing are formed and improved. Role playing has not only educational aim, but also has social aims because some life situation are modeled here for teaching.

5. Institutional and Practical Factors

Teacher training: Educators need skills to integrate technology effectively.

Curriculum design: Lessons must incorporate interactive tools meaningfully.

Resource availability: Funding and infrastructure determine access to high-quality technologies.

7. Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR/AR)

VR language immersion apps (Mondly VR, ImmerseMe): Allow learners to simulate real-life scenarios.

Example: Students practice ordering food in a virtual French café, enhancing speaking and listening skills.

When a teacher uses role playing method in teaching the foreign language he/she should follow the below given instructions:

- Creating cordial atmosphere among the learners who take part in the play;
- Learners should feel free themselves and this will help them to play their role perfectly;
- Creating favorable conditions in the teaching process and using pros;
- Taking into consideration the personal features of the learners.

Multimedia learning. This is the next innovative method. It is the combination of various media types as text, audio and video materials by the help of which teacher presents information to the learners. By using information technology as an innovative teaching and learning strategy in a problem based learning teacher tries to motivate learners to active knowledge through real life problems.

Here's the importance of interactive learning in Foreign Language Teaching (FLT):

1 Enhances Learner Engagement and Motivation: Interactive activities such as games, role-plays, and online quizzes make learning fun and dynamic. Learners are more motivated to participate actively, improving retention and practice frequency.

2. Promotes Active Participation: Students are encouraged to speak, write, and collaborate rather than passively listen. Activities like group discussions, peer feedback, and collaborative projects foster communicative competence.

3. Supports Individualized and Personalized Learning: Interactive tools allow learners to progress at their own pace and focus on areas of difficulty. Adaptive learning platforms provide tailored exercises that meet individual learner needs.

4. Develops Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills: Tasks like debates, simulations, and project-based learning require students to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information in the target language.

5. Encourages Real-Life Communication: Interactive learning simulates authentic language use through conversations, virtual exchanges, and role-plays. Learners practice practical communication skills useful for travel, work, or study abroad.

6. Facilitates Cultural Awareness: Through interaction with multimedia resources, native speakers, and global platforms, learners gain insights into cultural norms, traditions, and social behavior.

7. Provides Immediate Feedback and Assessment: Digital tools and interactive exercises give instant corrections and performance tracking, helping learners improve quickly.

8. Promotes Collaboration and Social Learning: Students work in groups, share ideas, and learn from peers, fostering teamwork and communication skills.

9. Integrates Technology Effectively: Interactive learning leverages digital resources, online platforms, and multimedia to enrich the learning experience.

10. Prepares Learners for the Globalized World: Encourages adaptability, digital literacy, and cross-cultural communication, essential skills in a connected world.

Discussion questions

1. How do interactive technologies enhance learner engagement and motivation compared to traditional language teaching methods?

2. In what ways can virtual classrooms and video conferencing improve speaking and listening skills for language learners?

3. How can teachers integrate gamified apps and multimedia resources effectively into a language curriculum?

4. What are the advantages and challenges of using social media and online platforms for language practice?

5. How do interactive technologies support cultural awareness and cross-cultural communication in foreign language learning?

Literature:

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