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NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGE

AYSEL MAMEDOVA, SHAHANA MUSAYEVA

Baku Engineering University

amammadova1@beu.edu.az, smusayeva@beu.edu.az

| ARTICLE INFO | ABSTRACT |
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| <p><i>Article history</i> Received:2024-10-01 Received in revised form: 2024-10-08 Accepted:2025-01-08 Available online</p> <hr/> <p><i>Keywords:</i> language learning, non-verbal communication, body language</p> | <p><i>At present times huge developments in technology has effected people`s social and cultural lives. All of these improvements and changes make it essential to learn at least one foreign language. As a result, a lot of researches are made to provide innovative ways, methods and techniques in order to teach foreign language skills properly. Besides, learning new languages is one of the best ways to get acquainted with new cultures. Communication is divided into two parts: verbal and non-verbal. Body language is considered as a part of non-verbal communication. While the spoken language is a vital tool, an equally potent but often understated aspect is body language. The silent communicator in the classroom, body language plays a multifaceted role in shaping the learning experience. Taking turns and utilizing body language are crucial aspects in teaching English, as they play a significant role in effective communication and language acquisition. Unspoken cues, conveyed through gestures, expressions, and posture, form the silent language of body language. This article explores the significance, power, and impact of body language in various aspects of learning, shedding light on the nuanced ways in which non-verbal communication shapes our interactions.</i></p> |

XARICI DİLİN TƏDRİSİNDƏ SÖZSÜZ ÜNSİYYƏT

XÜLASƏ

Müasir dövrdə texnologiyada baş verən yeniliklər insanların sosial və mədəni həyatlarına təsir göstərmişdir. Bütün bu inkişaf və dəyişikliklər hər bir insan üçün ən az bir dilin öyrənilməsinin vacibliyinə gətirib çıxarmışdır. Nəticə etibarilə, xarici dil bacarıqlarının düzgün şəkildə tədrisi məqsədilə bir çox yenilikçi yollar, metodlar və üsullar araşdırılır. Bununla yanaşı, yeni dillərin öyrənilməsi yeni mədəniyyətlərlə tanış olmağın ən yaxşı yollarından biridir. Ünsiyyət sözlü və sözsüz olmaqla iki hissəyə bölünür. Bədən dili sözsüz ünsiyyətin bir hissəsi hesab olunur. Danışq dili ünsiyyətdə əsas vasitə hesab olunsa da, onunla yanaşı, eyni əhəmiyyətə malik olan, lakin əhəmiyyəti lazımı səviyyədə vurğulanmayan ünsiyyət forması isə bədən dilidir. Tədris prosesində səssiz ünsiyyət vasitəsi olan bədən dili öyrənmə təcrübəsinin formalaşmasında çoxşaxəli rol oynayır. Effektiv ünsiyyət və dilin qavranılmasında əhəmiyyətli rol oynadığına görə növbələşmə və bədən dilinin istifadəsi ingilis dilinin tədrisində vacib məsələlər hesab olunur. Jestlər, ifadələr, duruş və digər sözsüz işarələr bədən dilinin səssiz danışığını formalaşdırır. Bu məqalə sözsüz ünsiyyətin qarşılıqlı əlaqələrin yaradılmasında önəmli olan nüanslarına işiq tutaraq öyrənmə prosesində bədən dilinin güc və təsirini tədqiq edir.

Açar sözlər: dil öyrənilməsi, sözsüz ünsiyyət, bədən dili

НЕВЕРБАЛЬНАЯ КОММУНИКАЦИЯ ПРИ ОБУЧЕНИИ ИНОСТРАННОМУ ЯЗЫКУ

РЕЗЮМЕ

В настоящее время огромные достижения в области технологий повлияли на социальную и культурную жизнь людей. Все эти улучшения и изменения делают необходимым изучение хотя бы одного иностранного языка. В результате проводится множество исследований с целью найти инновационные способы, методы и

приемы для правильного обучения навыкам иностранного языка. Кроме того, изучение новых языков — один из лучших способов познакомиться с новыми культурами. Общение делится на две части: вербальную и невербальную. Body language is considered as a part of non-verbal communication. Хотя разговорный язык является жизненно важным инструментом, не менее мощным, но часто недооцениваемым аспектом является язык тела. Молчаливый собеседник в классе, язык тела играет многогранную роль в формировании опыта обучения. Поочередность и использование языка тела являются важнейшими аспектами преподавания английского языка, поскольку они играют важную роль в эффективном общении и овладении языком. Невысказанные сигналы, передаваемые посредством жестов, мимики и поз, образуют безмолвный язык языка тела. В этой статье исследуются значение, сила и влияние языка тела на различные аспекты обучения, проливая свет на нюансы, с помощью которых невербальное общение формирует наше взаимодействие.

Ключевые слова: изучение языка, невербальная коммуникация, язык тела

Introduction

In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability to communicate across borders and understand diverse cultures is more crucial than ever. Learning a foreign language is not merely an academic pursuit but a skill that opens doors to countless opportunities and enriches one's personal and professional life. Teaching process plays a vital role in helping students to reach their goal and communicate in their target language. Teaching is a complex and dynamic interplay of spoken words, instructional materials, and classroom activities. Amidst the verbal discourse, the unspoken elements—facial expressions, body language, and subtle gestures—compose a silent symphony that significantly influences the learning experience. In a word, teaching is an intricate dance of words, gestures, and connections. While the spoken language is a vital tool, an equally potent but often understated aspect is body language. Body language plays a crucial role in teaching English, as it is a powerful non-verbal communication tool that can enhance the overall learning experience. The unspoken cues, the subtle gestures, and the expressive movements of the body can wield a profound influence on the dynamics of learning. In the aspect of human communication, words are only part of the story. Unspoken cues, conveyed through gestures, expressions, and posture, form the silent language of body language.

Taking turns and utilizing body language promote active participation in teaching process. Taking turns encourages students to actively participate in the learning process. It ensures that each student has an opportunity to speak, listen, and engage with the language and develops students' speaking and listening skills. It allows them to practice expressing themselves in English, improving their overall communication abilities. This method fosters a supportive and inclusive classroom environment where all students feel valued and heard, facilitates the development of fluency by providing regular opportunities for students to speak and practice the language and promotes peer-to-peer interaction, allowing students to learn from each other and practice the language in a more natural and interactive way. Additionally, taking turns respects cultural norms related to communication. In some cultures, taking turns is crucial for effective conversation and understanding. [5]

On the other hand, body language demonstrates enthusiasm and engagement, which can inspire students to be more involved in the lesson. Non-verbal cues such as gestures and facial expressions help convey meaning and enhance the comprehension of spoken language. It transmits a positive and approachable demeanor, making students feel comfortable expressing themselves without fear of judgement. This type of communication reinforces spoken language by adding visual cues, making it easier for students to understand and remember new

vocabulary and concepts. Awareness of cultural differences in body language helps in avoiding misunderstandings and ensuring that communication is culturally sensitive. Body language helps convey meaning, emotions, and context, aiding in better comprehension of spoken and written language and demonstrates effective communication strategies, which students can observe and incorporate into their own language use. Interactive body language encourages students to use body language themselves, especially if English is not their first language. This can include gestures, facial expressions, and even simple role-playing activities. However, it would be better to be aware of non-verbal cues from students. If someone looks confused or frustrated, it is recommended to address their concerns and provide additional clarification. [9]

Being aware of some tips on how to use body language effectively in the context of teaching a foreign language is crucial. It is essential to use facial expressions to pass over emotions and enthusiasm. When teaching a foreign language, using appropriate facial expressions helps to reinforce the meaning of words and phrases, making the communication more authentic and relatable. Facial expressions help create an emotional connection between the teacher and the students. Expressing enthusiasm, encouragement, or empathy through facial cues can positively impact the learning environment. Students are more likely to engage and feel motivated when they sense the teacher's genuine emotions. A smile can create a positive and welcoming atmosphere in the classroom, so showing varying expressions match the tone of the lesson, whether it's excitement, concern, or encouragement. Certain words or phrases may have multiple meanings or subtle nuances that are challenging to convey through words alone. Facial expressions can aid in clarifying the intended meaning, reducing ambiguity, and preventing misunderstandings. This is particularly important in language instruction to ensure accurate comprehension. Language learning often involves mimicking pronunciation, intonation, and gestures. Facial expressions are an integral part of this mimicry process. Students can observe the teacher's facial expressions to understand how certain sounds or words are produced, helping them improve their own pronunciation and communication skills. Animated facial expressions can captivate students' attention and maintain their interest during language lessons. A dynamic and expressive teaching style can make the learning experience more enjoyable, fostering a positive attitude toward language acquisition. Facial expressions provide immediate feedback to students. Teachers can use their expressions to indicate approval, disagreement, or confusion, helping students gauge their performance and make necessary adjustments. This real-time feedback is valuable for reinforcing correct language usage and correcting errors. On the side, maintaining eye contact with the students is an effective way of teaching because it signals engagement and shows that you are focused on them. Necessarily, rotating your gaze to include all students, not just one section of the class helps create a connection with everyone. But be aware of cultural variations in body language and adjust your teaching style accordingly. For example, some cultures may value more eye contact, while others might find it disrespectful. For emphasizing key points or illustrating concepts you can use gestures, like using your hands to demonstrate the size of an object or the direction of movement. [10]

Another point to pay attention is to maintain an open and confident posture, avoiding crossing arms, as it can be perceived as defensive. A teacher's posture sends subtle signals to students about their level of interest and commitment to the lesson, influencing the overall classroom atmosphere and it can impact the level of control and discipline in the classroom. Standing or sitting with an upright and confident posture can command attention and respect from students, helping to create a positive and focused learning environment. An open and

approachable posture can create a sense of connection between the teacher and students. Being physically present, making eye contact, and adopting a posture that is conducive to interaction can foster a positive teacher-student relationship, making students more comfortable and engaged in the learning process. Posture can influence the way sounds are produced, and the position of the body can impact pronunciation and intonation. Teachers who pay attention to their posture can effectively model correct pronunciation and speech patterns for students, aiding in language acquisition and improvement. Besides, it would be better to move around the classroom to engage with different students, but be mindful not to pace too much, as it might be distracting. Posture can impact the delivery of instructional content. A well-balanced and purposeful posture allows teachers to project their voice effectively, maintain eye contact, and use visual aids with ease. This contributes to clear and effective communication, essential for language learning. Proper posture can contribute to the overall well-being of the teacher. Maintaining a comfortable and ergonomic posture can help reduce physical discomfort and stress, allowing the teacher to focus on delivering high-quality instruction.

Taking it into consideration, it is important to adjust the proximity to students based on the activity. For example, in group work, you might want to get closer, while for individual work, give students some space. Being physically close can create a sense of connection and make students feel more involved. Proximity can help create a sense of trust and comfort, making students feel more at ease when communicating in a foreign language. Proximity enables teachers to provide individualized attention to students. Teachers can closely monitor students' progress, offer targeted feedback, and address specific language challenges more effectively. This individual attention can enhance the learning experience and accelerate language acquisition. Proximity can encourage student participation. When teachers are close, students may feel more confident and supported in expressing themselves in the target language. This can be particularly important for language learners who may initially feel shy or hesitant. Proximity serves as a powerful tool for classroom management. Teachers who move around the classroom can monitor student behavior, maintain order, and address potential distractions more effectively. The physical presence of the teacher can act as a deterrent to disruptive behavior. Proximity can be adapted to accommodate different learning styles. Some students may benefit from closer interaction, while others may prefer more personal space. Teachers who are attuned to individual preferences can tailor their approach to meet the diverse needs of their students.

Voice and tone should also be mentioned in terms of this point. It is relevant to use variations in voice and tone to emphasize important points or to convey different emotions and to pay attention to pacing, volume, and pitch to keep students engaged. A clear and well-modulated voice is essential for conveying pronunciation and intonation accurately. Students rely on the teacher's voice to understand the correct sounds and rhythm of the language. Enunciating words clearly and using appropriate tone helps students develop better pronunciation skills. A dynamic and engaging tone captures students' attention and maintains their interest. A teacher with a lively and expressive voice can make language lessons more enjoyable, fostering a positive attitude toward the subject and increasing student motivation. The teacher's voice serves as a model for students' language acquisition. By using a clear and articulate tone, teachers provide a benchmark for proper communication. Students learn not only the words and grammar but also the appropriate vocal expression associated with effective language use. The tone of voice contributes to the overall atmosphere in the classroom. A warm and encouraging tone fosters a positive learning environment, making students feel comfortable

and more willing to participate in language activities. Varied tones can be employed to differentiate instruction. For example, a more serious tone might be used for explanations of grammar rules, while a lighter, conversational tone can be employed during interactive language practice. This adaptability helps address different aspects of language learning. Clarity in voice and tone is essential for communicating instructions and expectations effectively. Students are more likely to understand and follow directions when delivered with a tone that conveys authority and approachability. [7]

Visual aids play a crucial role in teaching foreign languages by enhancing the learning experience and promoting better understanding. Using visual aids, such as whiteboards, slides, or props complements your verbal instructions. This can enhance understanding, especially for visual learners. Visual aids, such as images, charts, graphs, and videos, help to illustrate and reinforce the meaning of words and concepts. They provide a visual representation that can make abstract or complex ideas more concrete and understandable for language learners. Associating words with visual images helps learners to better remember and retain new vocabulary. This connection between words and images strengthens memory and recall, making it easier for students to expand their vocabulary. Visual aids can be effective in explaining grammatical structures, sentence patterns, and syntax rules. Flowcharts, diagrams, and visual representations can simplify complex grammar concepts, making them more accessible to language learners. Visual materials add variety to the learning process, making lessons more interesting and engaging. This increased engagement can lead to higher levels of motivation and participation among language learners.

Feedback and observation are the other critical components of effective language teaching. They provide valuable insights into the learning process, helping both teachers and students enhance their language acquisition and teaching methods. Feedback allows teachers to identify the strengths and weaknesses of individual students. By understanding each student's learning style, progress, and challenges, teachers can tailor their instruction to meet the specific needs of learners, fostering a more effective and personalized learning experience. Regular feedback helps students understand their language proficiency and areas needing improvement. Constructive feedback enables students to focus on specific language skills, such as grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and fluency, leading to continuous improvement in their language abilities. Positive feedback reinforces students' efforts and achievements, boosting their motivation and confidence. It creates a supportive learning environment where students feel encouraged to take risks, participate actively, and persist in their language learning journey. By observation, teachers can assess students' language proficiency more accurately. Real-time observation provides a holistic view of students' language abilities, enabling teachers to make informed decisions about their progress and placement within language proficiency levels. Through feedback and observation, teachers can assess students' communication skills in real-life situations. This process is essential for developing students' ability to express themselves clearly, engage in conversations, and navigate various language contexts. Continuous feedback allows teachers to adapt their teaching methods and materials based on student feedback. This flexibility is crucial for addressing the evolving needs and preferences of language learners, ensuring that instruction remains relevant and effective.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the importance of body language in teaching cannot be overstated. It is a dynamic and non-verbal language that enriches the educational experience, transcending the limitations of words alone. Teachers who master the art of effective body language can create a classroom environment where learning becomes a collaborative, engaging, and transformative journey for both educators and students alike. Incorporating effective turn-taking strategies and utilizing positive body language in English teaching creates an interactive, supportive, and culturally sensitive learning environment. This, in turn, contributes to the overall success of language acquisition and communication skills development.

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