



USING SIMULATIONS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING: EFFECTIVENESS

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Introduction

Learning a foreign language is not limited to mastering grammatical rules and vocabulary; it also requires the ability to use the language in real-life situations. Many students experience difficulties when trying to communicate outside the classroom. Simulations help address this problem by creating conditions close to real situations that allow learners to actively practice the language.

Simulations are classroom activities that imitate real-life situations such as conversations, job interviews, travel interactions, doctor-patient consultations, or business meetings. Students perform specific roles and actively engage in communication, problem-solving, and decision-making in the foreign language. These activities promote practical language use rather than rote learning.

Methodology

This study evaluated the effectiveness of simulations in foreign language learning using a quasi-experimental design. Sixty undergraduate students learning English as a foreign language participated. They were divided into two groups: an experimental group (30 students) and a control group (30 students).

The experimental group received simulation-based instruction for eight weeks. These sessions included role-plays, situational dialogues, and problem tasks related to daily and professional contexts. The control group was taught by traditional methods—textbook exercises, grammatical explanations, and vocabulary work.

To assess learning outcomes, both groups took pre-tests and post-tests at the beginning and end of the instruction. The tests measured spoken fluency, listening comprehension skills, and communicative confidence. In addition, a questionnaire was administered to study students' attitudes.

ABSTRACT

Learning a foreign language is not limited to mastering grammatical rules and vocabulary; it also requires the ability to use the language in real-life situations. Many students experience difficulties when trying to communicate outside the classroom. Simulations help address this problem by creating conditions close to real situations that allow learners to actively practice the language.

Results

The study results showed significant positive changes in the experimental group compared to the control group. Students who participated in simulation-based instruction achieved higher scores on the post-test in spoken fluency and listening comprehension. Their ability to sustain conversations and respond appropriately in communicative situations improved considerably.

Questionnaire results indicated that students in the experimental group reported higher motivation and confidence in using the foreign language. Many students noted that simulations helped them overcome the fear of speaking and made the lessons more engaging.

In the control group, improvements were mainly observed in grammatical accuracy, but the development of communicative competence was less pronounced. These findings indicate that simulations are more effective than traditional teaching methods in developing practical language skills.

Key advantages of simulations include the development of speaking and listening skills. By participating in real communication processes, students increase fluency and self-confidence. Simulations make learning more interesting and motivating because students are actively involved and less afraid of making mistakes.

Another important benefit is cultural awareness and understanding of social norms. Through simulations, learners become familiar with target-language communication styles, social rules, and behaviors, which helps them communicate naturally and appropriately.

Additionally, simulations develop teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. These competencies are important not only in the educational process but also for future professional activities.

Challenges

Using simulations requires more time and careful planning by the teacher. Some students may initially feel shy or lack confidence, but regular practice increases their self-assurance.

Conclusion

Simulations are an effective teaching method in foreign language learning. They develop students' communicative skills, increase motivation, and build cultural awareness. When applied correctly, simulations make language learning practical, engaging, and meaningful.

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