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TEACHING ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS THROUGH PAIR AND GROUP INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES

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Abstract. This article explores the effectiveness of pair and group interview techniques in developing English-speaking skills among learners. Emphasizing communicative competence, the study examines how structured peer interactions enhance fluency, confidence, and conversational adaptability.

Key findings highlight that collaborative speaking activities foster real-time language practice, encourage active listening, and improve spontaneous speech production. By engaging in peer-led discussions, learners experience authentic linguistic exchanges, which contribute to a natural acquisition of speech patterns and socio-linguistic awareness.

Furthermore, integrating interview-based exercises into language instruction provides opportunities for practical application, enabling students to refine their pronunciation, expand vocabulary, and enhance interactional skills. The research underscores the pedagogical value of interactive communication strategies in promoting fluency and effectiveness in spoken English.

Keywords. English speaking skills, pair interviews, group discussions, communicative competence, language acquisition, interactive learning.

Introduction. Developing English-speaking skills is essential for effective communication in academic, professional, and social settings. Traditional language learning methods often emphasize grammar and vocabulary, but lack sufficient interactive practice, which is crucial for achieving fluency.

This study explores how pair and group interview techniques enhance learners' oral proficiency, focusing on natural language acquisition through collaborative

interaction. By engaging in structured discussions, learners develop confidence, spontaneity, and communicative competence.

Furthermore, interview-based activities provide opportunities for real-time linguistic engagement, reinforcing practical conversational strategies. This research investigates the pedagogical impact of interactive speaking exercises, demonstrating their role in improving fluency and speech adaptability.

Purpose and Objectives of the Study. The study aims to examine the effectiveness of pair and group interview techniques in enhancing English-speaking skills. It focuses on how structured peer interactions contribute to fluency, confidence, and conversational adaptability in language learning. By integrating interactive communication strategies, the research seeks to demonstrate the pedagogical value of collaborative speaking activities.

Objectives: to analyze the role of peer interviews in developing speaking fluency and spontaneous communication; to investigate the impact of group discussion techniques on pronunciation, vocabulary expansion, and interaction skills; to assess learners' communicative competence based on structured speaking exercises; to identify best practices for integrating interview-based activities into English language instruction; to provide practical recommendations for teachers on implementing interactive speaking techniques effectively.

Research Results and Their Discussion. Pair and group interviews are an effective technique for developing speaking skills in English by engaging learners in structured conversational exchanges. This method enhances fluency, confidence, and interactional competence, while encouraging active listening and response formulation. Benefits of pair and group interviews are:

1. Improves fluency. Students practice real-time communication in an informal setting. Pair interviews provide a structured yet informal setting where students practice real-time communication without the pressure of formal assessments. The technique enhances fluency by allowing learners to engage in spontaneous, natural dialogue while refining their speaking abilities [4].

Mechanisms that enhance fluency: 1). Conversational flow. Students develop the ability to express ideas smoothly without frequent pauses; 2). Pronunciation & Intonation. Regular speaking practice improves clarity and natural speech rhythm; 3). Active listening & Quick responses. Learners train their ability to process information and respond dynamically; 4). Reduced anxiety. Informal peer interactions create a relaxed environment that encourages verbal expression.

Strategies for maximizing fluency gains: 1). Time-limited responses. Encourage rapid thinking by setting short time limits for answers; 2). Role-based interviews. Assign scenarios (e.g., job interviews, storytelling) to simulate real-world exchanges; 3). Follow-up questions. Train learners to expand discussions beyond initial responses, boosting interaction depth; 4). Rotating pairs. Change partners frequently to expose learners to various accents and speaking styles [2].

2. Enhances pronunciation and vocabulary. Repetition and feedback strengthen speech clarity. Pair interviews provide continuous repetition and corrective feedback, allowing learners to refine speech clarity and expand their lexical range. This method helps develop accurate pronunciation, intonation, and word choice, making communication more natural and effective.

Mechanisms that improve pronunciation and vocabulary: 1). Repetition of target sounds. Frequent exposure to words and phrases helps internalize correct pronunciation; 2). Immediate feedback from peers. Corrections in real-time reinforce accurate speech patterns; 3). Contextual vocabulary use. Words are practiced in meaningful discussions, aiding retention; 4). Stress and intonation development. Natural dialogue enhances the ability to use proper tone and emphasis [1].

Strategies for strengthening pronunciation and vocabulary: 1). Minimal pairs practice. Focus on words with subtle phonetic differences (e.g., "ship" vs. "sheep"); 2). Role-playing scenarios. Simulated conversations help incorporate new vocabulary naturally; 3). Peer feedback and correction. Partners guide each other toward improved articulation; 4). Vocabulary expansion exercises. Encourage the use of synonyms and alternative expressions.

3. Develops confidence. Safe environment reduces anxiety in speaking situations. Pair and group interviews create a supportive and low-pressure environment, allowing learners to gradually overcome anxiety in speaking situations. Confidence is built through structured interactions, positive reinforcement, and real-time engagement with peers [3].

Mechanisms that enhance confidence: 1). Reduced fear of mistakes. Speaking with a peer eliminates pressure, making errors a natural part of learning; 2). Familiar interaction. Learners feel more comfortable conversing with a known partner, minimizing social anxiety; 3). Gradual exposure to real conversations. Structured interview formats help transition learners into spontaneous speech; 4). Encouragement and support. Positive peer feedback reinforces a growth mindset, leading to increased self-assurance.

Strategies to maximize confidence growth: 1). Scaffolded speaking exercises. Begin with guided conversations, then progress to independent dialogue; 2). Positive reinforcement techniques. Encourage peers to highlight strengths alongside constructive feedback; 3). Role-playing scenarios. Simulate real-world situations (e.g., job interviews) to reduce performance anxiety; 4). Progress tracking. Have learners reflect on their improvement over time, reinforcing their self-efficacy [1].

4. Encourages critical thinking. Learners formulate questions and responses dynamically. Pair and group interviews engage learners in active inquiry and response formulation, enhancing problem-solving abilities and dynamic conversational skills. By requiring participants to construct meaningful questions and adapt responses in real-time, this technique fosters deeper cognitive engagement.

Mechanisms that enhance critical thinking: 1). Question Formation. Learners develop logical and open-ended questions, improving inquiry skills; 2). Analytical

listening. Processing peer responses encourages evaluation and reflection on meaning; 3). Contextual adaptability. Adjusting responses to new information sharpens reasoning and articulation; 4). Argument development. Learners practice defending ideas and explaining concepts effectively [3].

Strategies for Strengthening Critical Thinking: 1). Socratic questioning. Train students to ask probing "why" and "how" questions; 2). Role-reversal interviews. Encourage switching roles to experience diverse perspectives; 3). Hypothetical scenarios. Use real-world situations to stimulate problem-solving discussions; 4). Follow-up responses. Challenge students to justify or expand on their answers [5].

There are some basic implementation strategies:

1. Role-based interviews. Assign roles (e.g., journalist-interviewee) to promote engagement.
2. Structured prompts. Provide guiding questions to facilitate focused dialogue.
3. Peer feedback. Encourage constructive critique to refine communication skills.
4. Rotational exchanges. Change partners to expand interactional adaptability [2].

Here's a structured table outlining the basic implementation strategies for teaching English-speaking skills through pair and group interview techniques:

Table 1. Basic implementation strategies for teaching English-speaking skills through pair and group interview techniques

Strategy	Description	Key Benefits	Example Activities
Role-Based Interviews	Learners take on assigned roles (e.g., journalist-interviewee) to engage in structured conversations.	Encourages improvisation, enhances fluency, mimics real-world interactions.	Job interviews, travel scenario conversations.
Structured Prompts	Providing guiding questions helps focus discussions and prevent breakdowns in conversation.	Improves coherence, strengthens question formulation, aids discussion depth.	Debate-style interviews, topic-based questioning rounds.
Peer Feedback Mechanisms	Students provide constructive feedback on pronunciation, fluency, and engagement.	Enhances self-awareness, refines pronunciation, builds confidence.	Post-interview reflections, error identification exercises.
Rotational Exchanges	Regularly switching partners exposes learners to various accents and speaking styles.	Improves adaptability, expands vocabulary, strengthens interactional competence.	Speed interviews, topic rotations every few minutes.

The study highlights the effectiveness of pair and group interview techniques in enhancing English-speaking skills, particularly in terms of fluency, pronunciation, vocabulary usage, confidence, and critical thinking [2].

Key findings confirm that structured peer interactions create a dynamic learning environment, allowing students to develop spontaneous speech abilities while fostering engagement and motivation. The use of role-based interviews, structured prompts, and peer feedback mechanisms proved essential in promoting communicative competence.

Furthermore, rotational exchanges exposed learners to diverse speaking styles, reinforcing adaptability in real-world communication. By integrating interactive strategies into language instruction, educators can effectively bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical fluency [4].

Conclusions. The findings demonstrate that pair and group interview techniques are highly effective in developing English-speaking skills, providing structured opportunities for spontaneous communication, fluency enhancement, and critical thinking.

By engaging in role-based interviews, students simulate real-life interactions, strengthening their ability to express ideas dynamically. The use of structured prompts ensures that conversations remain focused, allowing learners to expand their vocabulary and pronunciation clarity in meaningful contexts. Additionally, peer feedback mechanisms encourage self-reflection and improvement, making the learning process more interactive and engaging.

The rotational exchange approach proved essential for exposing learners to different speaking styles, building adaptability in various conversational scenarios. Overcoming initial hesitation, learners gained confidence in oral communication, demonstrating measurable progress in their ability to think critically and respond naturally in conversations.

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