

CHALLENGES FACED BY NON-NATIVE ENGLISH LEARNERS AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM.

Saodat Aliyeva

1st year student of Gulistan State University

Tel number+998992607530

e-mail: saodataliyeva44@gmail.com

Abstract: *The article analyzes key challenges in learning English and ways to overcome them, emphasizing the importance of practice, confidence, and persistence.*

Key words: *English learning challenges, pronunciation difficulties, vocabulary expansion, speaking anxiety, grammar comprehension, listening skills, motivation in language learning, effective learning strategies, language acquisition, non-native English learners.*

Introduction

Nowadays, learning English has become essential for global communication, education, and career development. However, many non-native English learners face various challenges during their learning journey. These difficulties can slow down progress and reduce motivation. This article explores the most common problems learners encounter and provides practical solutions to overcome them.

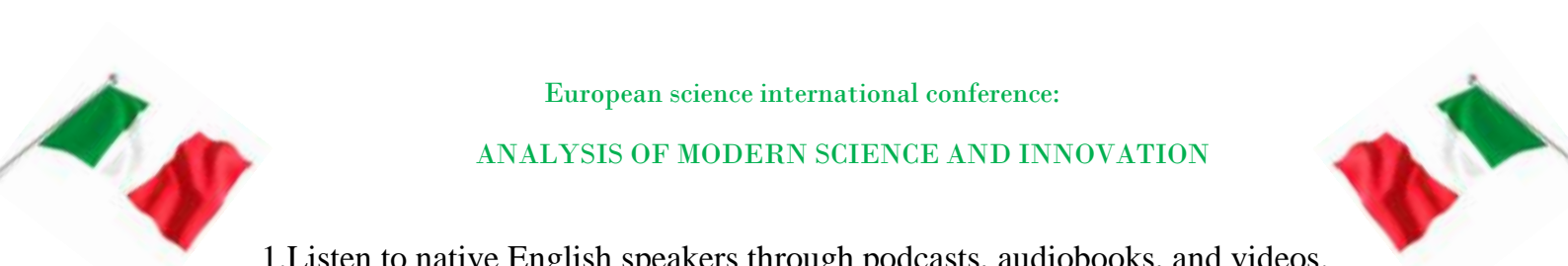
Method

This study utilizes qualitative research methods to analyze the challenges faced by non-native English learners and propose effective strategies to overcome them. Various sources, including academic articles, language learning platforms, and expert insights, were reviewed to identify common difficulties such as pronunciation, vocabulary acquisition, speaking anxiety, grammar comprehension, and listening skills. Additionally, previous studies and real-life experiences of learners were examined to understand the most effective techniques. The findings were synthesized to provide practical, evidence-based solutions that learners can implement in their daily practice. This method ensures that the strategies recommended are both research-backed and applicable to real-world language learning scenarios.

1. Pronunciation and Phonetics Difficulties

One of the biggest challenges for non-native speakers is pronunciation. English has many sounds that do not exist in other languages, making it difficult to pronounce certain words correctly. For example, the "th" sound in "this" and "think" is hard for many learners.

There are several ways to overcome these challenges

- 
1. Listen to native English speakers through podcasts, audiobooks, and videos.
 2. Record yourself speaking and compare your pronunciation with native speakers.
 3. Use the "shadowing" technique—repeat what a native speaker says immediately after hearing it.

2. Expanding Vocabulary

Many learners struggle with remembering new words and using them correctly in sentences. Simply memorizing word lists is not effective.

1. Learn new words in context by reading books, articles, and watching movies.
2. Use flashcards and vocabulary apps like Anki, Quizlet, or Duolingo.
3. Practice using new words in daily conversations and writing exercises.

3. Fear of Speaking English

Some learners are afraid to speak English because they worry about making mistakes or being misunderstood. This fear prevents them from improving their speaking skills.

1. Speak English as often as possible, even if you make mistakes.
2. Practice speaking in front of a mirror or record yourself.
3. Join online language exchange programs or find a language partner.

4. Grammar Difficulties

English grammar has many complex rules that can confuse learners. Some struggle with verb tenses, sentence structure, and prepositions.

1. Learn grammar step by step and focus on one rule at a time.
2. Apply grammar rules in writing and speaking to reinforce learning.
3. Use grammar-focused apps and websites like Grammarly or Cambridge English.

5. Listening Comprehension Problems

Many learners find it difficult to understand native English speakers, especially when they speak quickly or use different accents.

1. Listen to English conversations, podcasts, and news daily.
2. Watch English movies and TV shows with and without subtitles.
3. Start with slow, clear English content (e.g., BBC Learning English) and gradually move to natural-speed conversations.

6. Lack of Motivation

Some learners lose interest in studying English when they don't see quick progress. This can lead to frustration and quitting.

1. Set realistic goals, such as passing an exam, traveling abroad, or getting a job that requires English.
2. Celebrate small achievements and track progress.
3. Make learning fun by choosing topics that interest you, such as music, sports, or technology.

Discussion: Overcoming Challenges in Learning English

The challenges faced by non-native English learners are common, yet each learner experiences them differently. Some may struggle more with pronunciation, while others find grammar or vocabulary more difficult. However, by recognizing these obstacles and applying effective learning strategies, progress can be achieved.

Conclusion

Learning English as a non-native speaker can be challenging, but every obstacle can be overcome with the right mindset and strategies. From pronunciation difficulties to fear of speaking, grammar struggles to vocabulary expansion—each challenge is a stepping stone toward fluency. The key is to stay consistent, practice daily, and embrace as part of the learning process.

Language learning is not just about memorizing rules; it's about immersing yourself in English through reading, listening, speaking, and writing. With the right tools, motivation, and perseverance, anyone can master English and open doors to new opportunities in education, career, and global communication. Keep learning, stay confident, and enjoy the journey!

REFERENCES:

1. British Council: www.britishcouncil.org
2. Cambridge English: www.cambridgeenglish.org
3. BBC Learning English: www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish
4. Duolingo Blog: blog.duolingo.com.
5. Swan, M. Practical English Usage. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2016, pp. 25-30, 102-110, 220-230.
6. Thornbury, S. How to Teach Speaking. United Kingdom: Pearson Education, 2005, pp. 50-55, 78-85, 120-125.