



THE ROLE OF INTEGRATED SKILLS IN DEVELOPING COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE

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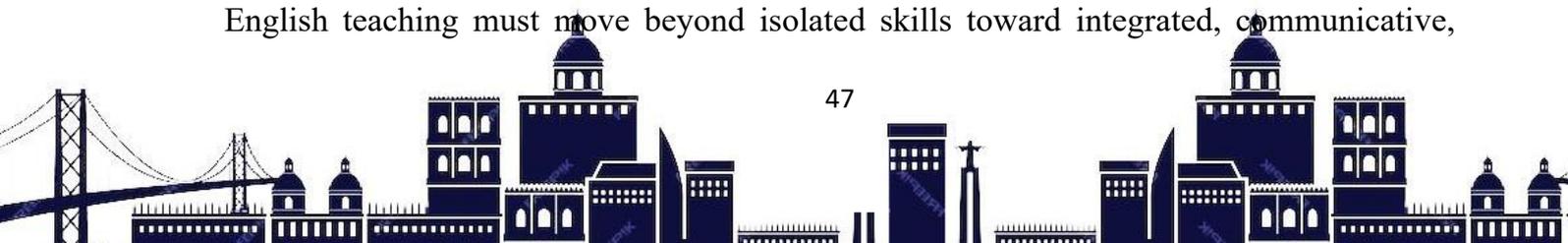
In the modern era of English Language Teaching (ELT), the integration of language skills has emerged as a crucial methodology for developing communicative competence. The integrated-skill approach contrasts with traditional methods that treat listening, speaking, reading, and writing as isolated domains. Instead, it promotes the simultaneous and natural development of all four skills through meaningful interaction. This paper explores how integrated instruction enhances communicative competence by connecting receptive and productive abilities in authentic learning environments.

Integrated skills teaching mirrors the way language is used in real communication, where listening, speaking, reading, and writing occur together in purposeful contexts. Research in applied linguistics suggests that combining these skills accelerates fluency, supports vocabulary retention, and strengthens learners' confidence. When students engage with input (listening and reading) and respond through output (speaking and writing), they experience the full communicative cycle, leading to deeper cognitive processing of language.

This approach aligns with communicative language teaching (CLT) principles, where interaction and negotiation of meaning are central. Learners acquire not only linguistic forms but also pragmatic awareness — the ability to use language appropriately in social situations. In the Uzbek EFL context, the integrated model bridges the gap between grammar-oriented instruction and real-world communication. For example, a lesson built around the theme “Environmental Problems” may involve listening to a podcast, discussing solutions, and writing an opinion paragraph. Such tasks foster authentic communication and promote critical thinking.

Another benefit of integrated skills teaching is its contribution to learner autonomy. By exposing students to diverse communicative scenarios, teachers empower them to manage their learning and apply English beyond the classroom. Collaborative group work, pair discussions, and project-based learning all contribute to this holistic language experience.

Integrating the four language skills plays a transformative role in developing communicative competence. It enables learners to communicate effectively, think critically, and interact confidently in real-life contexts. In today's globalized world, English teaching must move beyond isolated skills toward integrated, communicative,



and learner-centered approaches that reflect the realities of language use. The integrated-skill approach thus represents a powerful pedagogical tool for shaping competent, confident, and culturally aware English users.

