

THE ROLE OF IDIOMS IN DEVELOPING COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE

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Annotation: *This paper discusses the role of idioms in developing communicative competence and speaking skills. It explains how using idioms helps learners speak more naturally, fluently, and expressively. The study also shows that practicing idioms through role-plays and pair work improves language confidence and cultural awareness.*

Keywords: *communicative competence, communication skill, role plays, academic settings, pair work, language learners.*

Аннотация: В данной работе рассматривается роль идиом в развитии коммуникативной компетенции и навыков устной речи. Объясняется, как использование идиом помогает учащимся говорить более естественно, бегло и выразительно. Также показано, что практика идиом через ролевые игры и работу в парах повышает уверенность в языке и культурную осведомлённость.

Ключевые слова: коммуникативная компетенция, навык общения, ролевые игры, академическая среда, работа в парах, изучающие язык.

Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqolada idiomalarni kommunikativ kompetensiyani va og‘zaki nutq ko‘nikmalarini rivojlantirishdagi o‘rni yoritilgan. Unda idiomalardan foydalanish o‘rganuvchilarga tabiiy, ravon va ifodali gapirishga yordam berishi tushuntiriladi. Shuningdek, rol o‘yinlari va juftlikda ishlash orqali idiomalarni mashq qilish til o‘rganishda ishonchni va madaniy xabardorlikni oshirishi ko‘rsatilgan.*

Kalit so‘zlar: *kommunikativ kompetensiya, muloqot ko‘nikmasi, rolo‘yinlari, akademik muhit, juftlikda ishlash, til o‘rganuvchilar.*

Introduction

Idioms are fixed expressions whose meanings cannot be understood from the individual words, such as “break the ice” or “hit the nail on the head.” They are an essential part of every language and play an important role in communication. Knowing idioms helps language learners understand native speakers better and express themselves more naturally.

Using idioms correctly improves communicative competence, which means being able to use language appropriately in different social and cultural situations. They reflect the traditions, values, and humor of native speakers, so learning idioms also develops cultural

awareness. In speaking, idioms make speech more vivid, expressive, and fluent. Therefore, teaching and learning idioms is important for developing effective communication skills in a foreign language.

How to Use Idioms in Speaking Skill

Idioms are an important part of natural and fluent communication. They are expressions whose meanings are different from the literal meanings of their words, such as “spill the beans” (to tell a secret) or “once in a blue moon” (very rarely). Using idioms in speaking makes our language sound more creative, emotional, and close to that of native speakers. They also help us express ideas and feelings in a short and memorable way.

To use idioms effectively in speaking, learners should first understand their real meanings and contexts. Idioms often have cultural backgrounds, so knowing when and where to use them is very important. For example, idioms that are common in informal conversations may not be suitable for formal speeches or academic settings.

Another way to develop idiom usage is through active practice. Students can listen to songs, watch movies, or follow interviews to see how native speakers naturally use idioms. Writing them down with examples and repeating them in conversations helps with memory. Pair work, dialogues, and role- plays are also very useful for practicing idioms in real-life situations.

However, learners should also be careful not to overuse idioms. Using too many in one conversation can make speech sound unnatural or confusing. It is better to choose idioms that fit the topic and emotion of the moment.

Examples:

1. Burn the midnight oil – to work late into the night.

Example: I had to burn the midnight oil to finish my project on time.

2. The ball is in your court – it's your turn to take action or make a decision.

Example: I've done my part; now the ball is in your court.

3. Let the cat out of the bag – to reveal a secret by accident.

Example: She let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.

In conclusion, idioms enrich our speaking by adding color, emotion, and naturalness. Mastering idiomatic expressions improves communicative competence and helps language learners sound confident and culturally aware while speaking English.

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