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## **CURRENT APPROACHES AND METHODS IN EARLY ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING**

The effectiveness of foreign language learning largely depends on the methods and techniques used in the educational process. Methodologists define a method as a way to achieve a set goal, which is fundamental to pedagogical science. In the context of primary education, various teaching methods are distinguished, including reproductive, exploratory, verbal, visual, practical, and self-study methods. Additionally, there are specialized methods for learning foreign languages, such as the direct method, communicative method, grammar-translation method, audio-visual method, and suggestopedia.

The learning process consists of three main stages: introduction to new material, training, and practical application of knowledge. Different methods and approaches are used at each stage. For instance, during the introduction stage, demonstration and explanation play a key role as the teacher introduces students to new language structures and their usage. The training stage involves the active application of language constructions in exercises, which can be individual or group-based. The final stage consists of using acquired knowledge in real communicative situations. The communicative method is one of the most effective approaches to foreign language learning. It is based on simulating situations close to real communication and focuses on developing oral speech. The main principles of this method include the communicative orientation of the learning process, situational communication, and individualized learning. Practical application is implemented through dialogues, role-playing games, and interactive tasks.

The grammar-translation method is a traditional approach that involves learning grammatical rules followed by their application in text translation. Despite criticism for its lack of a communicative component, it remains effective in developing grammatical competence and expanding vocabulary. The audio-visual method incorporates audio and video materials to develop listening comprehension skills. It is especially effective in primary school, as children absorb material better through visual images. The use of cartoons, film strips, and short video lessons helps immerse students in a language environment. Suggestopedia, developed by Georgi Lozanov, aims to eliminate psychological barriers in learning. The core principle of this approach is creating a relaxed atmosphere using music, rhythm, and other means that stimulate subconscious memorization [1, p. 25].

Control and self-assessment play a crucial role in the learning process. The use of game-based testing, competitions, and interactive tasks increases student motivation. In primary school, assessment is often conducted in a non-stressful way to maintain students' interest in learning. The choice of foreign language teaching methods should correspond to students' age characteristics. At an early stage, using game-based methods is important for developing interest in the subject. Additionally, combining multiple methods within a single lesson enhances the learning process and ensures comprehensive material retention [2, p. 56].

The game-based method involves various games (linguistic, active, role-playing) that motivate children to actively participate in learning. This approach makes learning engaging and natural, reduces language barriers, and develops communication skills. The Total Physical Response (TPR) method combines speech activities with physical actions. Children follow commands, answer questions, and interact with the teacher through physical movement, which enhances vocabulary and grammar acquisition through direct experience [3, p. 95].

Modern information and communication technologies (ICT) play a significant role in early English language learning. The use of interactive applications, educational platforms, multimedia resources, and video lessons increases motivation, develops audiovisual skills, and individualizes the learning process. Early English language learning is a crucial component of a child's multilingual competence. The application of modern methods, such as the communicative approach, immersion method, game-based method, TPR, and technology integration, contributes to effective and natural language acquisition. Further research could focus on developing adaptive methods that consider individual student characteristics and cognitive development.

Foreign language teaching methodology in primary school is based on a combination of various methods and techniques. The communicative approach, audiovisual technologies, grammar-translation method, and suggestopedia each have their advantages and areas of application. The choice of a specific method depends on the learning situation, students' proficiency level, and pedagogical objectives. Combining theoretical knowledge with practical application allows for high achievements in foreign language learning. Considering the rapid development of digital technologies, future research should focus on the effective use of multimedia tools and interactive applications. Studying the impact of virtual classrooms, games, and mobile applications on the learning process will help determine the optimal ways to use technology to improve children's language skills. Special attention should be paid to researching the safe use of digital technologies and their effects on children's emotional and social development [4, c. 28].

It is also important to study and compare different methods used in early English language learning, such as game-based methods, TPR, the communicative approach, and Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL). In particular, researching the effectiveness of combined methods that integrate different approaches and address individual student needs is promising. Furthermore, the study of sociocultural aspects affecting the learning process is essential. Language socialization, the influence of the linguistic environment, and factors related to family and educational conditions can

significantly impact learning outcomes. Therefore, future research should consider the role of the social context in early English language acquisition. Given the importance of early learning for further language development, researching the optimal age for intensive English language study is highly relevant. Investigating the neuropsychological aspects of child development and identifying the best age periods for language acquisition will help refine teaching methodologies.

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