

Karyna Liebiedieva,

bachelor Student of the 4 th Year,

Faculty of Foreign Languages,

(Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University)

ENHANCING PHONETIC PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

English has become the lingua franca of communication, commerce, and culture in today's globalised world. Proficiency in English is advantageous and often essential for academic and professional success. One of the fundamental aspects of mastering the English language is acquiring proficient phonetic skills, which play a crucial role in accurate pronunciation, comprehension, and effective communication.

Phonetic skills in learning English encompass a range of abilities related to speech sounds, pronunciation, intonation, and phonemic awareness. These skills are fundamental to effective communication and language comprehension.

While mastering phonetic skills in English may be challenging, the rewards are transformative. A nuanced understanding of phonetics not only improves communication and enriches language comprehension but also empowers learners to fully engage in the richness and diversity of the English language, thereby enhancing their overall language proficiency.

Intonation is another crucial aspect of phonetic skills, involving speech's melodic and rhythmic patterns. Understanding rising and falling intonation is essential to convey meaning, emotion, and emphasis in communication. Furthermore, phonemic awareness, which involves recognising and manipulating phonemes at the level of individual sounds, syllables, and words, is crucial for decoding and encoding written and spoken language. However, learners often encounter challenges in developing their phonetic skills in English.

Research findings confirm the effectiveness of phonics instruction in elementary education, highlighting its significance in promoting phonemic awareness, decoding skills, and improving overall reading proficiency.

The study of L.C. Ehri, S.R. Nunes, S.A. Stahl, and D.M. Willows highlights that phonics instruction teaches beginning readers the alphabetic code and how to use this knowledge to read words. It also shows us that phonics instruction teaches early readers the relationship between letters and sounds, enabling them to decode words. Moreover, this study highlights the importance of improving students' phonetic skills from a young age [1].

For a long time, educators have argued about the most effective ways to teach early phonetic skills. Some favour structured phonics, while others favour approaches that focus on whole words or language. The consensus is that, due to research findings, systematic approaches to phonics are more effective than non-systematic approaches. Children should receive systematic phonics instruction as part of a well-rounded reading program.

Improving students' phonetic skills involves employing a variety of methods:

- Instructional strategies
- Interactive activities
- Technological tools
- Real-world applications

Such methods enhance pronunciation accuracy, intonation, phonemic awareness, and overall phonetic proficiency.

Guiding students' phonetic skill development is a crucial role for educators. Using audio and video materials to teach phonics is an effective and engaging approach that leverages multimedia resources to enhance students' phonetic skills and literacy development. These materials encompass a wide range of audio-visual content, including songs, chants, rhymes, stories, videos, podcasts, and interactive digital resources designed to reinforce phonemic awareness, letter-sound correspondence, decoding skills, and reading proficiency. Interactive online resources also offer comprehensive progress tracking and assessment tools. This approach allows to provide targeted intervention, personalised feedback, and differentiated instruction to support students' phonetic skill development effectively. Furthermore, interactive online resources facilitate parental involvement and support in phonetic learning.

Klimova B.F. mentioned in her work that access to learning is one of the key factors influencing the growth of distributed learning environments». Students can access materials at anytime and anywhere. Furthermore, they can proceed at their own pace, meaning higher motivation and stimulation for students [2]. It prompts a realisation that technological advancements are pivotal in facilitating phonics acquisition. Moreover, many platforms offer parent portals, progress reports, and communication channels that enable parents to monitor their child's progress, provide support at home, and reinforce phonetic learning outside school hours. Overall, the versatility, interactivity, adaptability, and comprehensive features of interactive online resources make them invaluable tools for improving students' phonetic skills in English. By leveraging these resources effectively, educators can create engaging, personalised, and impactful learning experiences that empower students to achieve pronunciation accuracy, phonemic awareness, and fluency in spoken English.

In conclusion, exploring practical ways to improve students' phonetic skills in English class has revealed many strategies and methodologies that educators can leverage to enhance phonetic proficiency among learners. One of the key findings is the importance of incorporating interactive and engaging activities into phonics instruction. Continuous assessment, progress monitoring, and formative feedback allow educators to track students' phonetic growth, identify areas for improvement, and adjust instructional strategies accordingly. By combining interactive methods, systematic instruction, authentic language experiences, collaborative learning, and ongoing assessment, educators can create dynamic, engaging, and effective phonetic learning environments that empower students to become proficient, confident, and communicatively competent users of English. In addition to the strategies and methodologies discussed, it is crucial to acknowledge the ongoing evolution and innovation in phonetic instruction. As technology advances and educational research progresses, new tools, resources, and pedagogical approaches emerge, offering fresh opportunities to enhance phonetic skills in English classrooms. This continuous learning and adaptation in phonetic instruction should inspire educators to stay open to new approaches and ideas, fostering a culture of innovation in English language education.

REFERENCES:

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