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**СОВРЕМЕННЫЕ МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЕ ПОДХОДЫ К  
ПРЕПОДАВАНИЮ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА В ВЫСШИХ  
УЧЕБНЫХ ЗАВЕДЕНИЯХ**

**Аннотация:**

В статье рассматриваются современные методические подходы к преподаванию английского языка в высших учебных заведениях (ВУЗах). Акцент сделан на коммуникативной, компетентностной и цифровой парадигмах образования, отражающих требования глобализации и цифровизации. Анализируются педагогические и психолингвистические аспекты обучения, роль преподавателя, использование инновационных технологий и формирование межкультурной компетенции студентов. Приведены рекомендации по совершенствованию методики преподавания английского языка в условиях современной образовательной среды.

*Ключевые слова:* ВУЗ, преподавание английского языка, методика обучения, коммуникативный подход, цифровизация образования, компетентностный подход, межкультурная коммуникация, педагогические технологии, интерактивные методы.

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## **MODERN METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO TEACHING ENGLISH IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **Abstract:**

The article explores modern methodological approaches to teaching English in higher educational institutions (HEIs). It highlights communicative, competency-based, and digital paradigms that reflect the realities of globalization and digital transformation. Pedagogical and psycholinguistic aspects of language acquisition, the teacher's role, and the integration of innovative technologies are analyzed. The paper also provides recommendations for developing students' intercultural competence and improving English teaching methodology within modern educational contexts.

*Keywords:* higher educational institutions, English teaching, methodology, communicative approach, digital learning, competency-based education, intercultural communication, pedagogical innovation, interactive teaching methods.

The methodology of teaching English in higher educational institutions (HEIs) has undergone significant transformation over the past decades. As globalization and technological advancement reshape educational paradigms, universities are expected to produce graduates capable of effective communication in international academic and professional environments. English, being the dominant global lingua franca, plays a critical role in this process.

The rapid development of digital tools, the shift toward student-centered learning, and the growing emphasis on intercultural competence have fundamentally changed the teacher's role. The English instructor in modern HEIs is no longer merely a source of knowledge but a facilitator, researcher, and designer of interactive learning experiences. Consequently, the methodology of English language teaching must integrate innovation with tradition, balancing linguistic accuracy with communicative effectiveness.

This paper aims to analyze the theoretical and practical foundations of modern English teaching methodology in HEIs, explore its main approaches and technologies, and provide recommendations for enhancing pedagogical effectiveness in the context of digital education.

### Theoretical Foundations of English Language Teaching in HEIs

The methodology of English language teaching is built upon a combination of linguistic, psychological, and pedagogical theories. The structuralist approach, dominant in the mid-20th century, viewed language as a set of grammatical patterns to be mastered. However, the communicative revolution in linguistics and pedagogy shifted the focus from grammar to meaning, from accuracy to fluency.

In contemporary methodology, the communicative approach and competency-based education (CBE) serve as foundational frameworks. The communicative approach, developed by Dell Hymes and others, views language as a tool for real communication. It emphasizes interaction, discourse competence, and authentic use of language in context. CBE, in turn, focuses on developing specific competencies — knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for professional and personal success.

From a psychological perspective, modern methodology integrates constructivist and humanistic learning theories. Constructivism, derived from Piaget and Vygotsky, argues that learners construct knowledge through active engagement and social interaction. Humanistic approaches emphasize motivation, emotional comfort, and self-realization, which are particularly relevant in higher education, where learners are autonomous and goal-oriented.

### Communicative and Competency-Based Approaches

The Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) approach remains central to English teaching in universities. It prioritizes meaningful communication over rote memorization. Students engage in activities such as role plays, group projects, debates, and simulations that mirror real-world situations.

The competency-based approach complements CLT by focusing on outcomes. Instead of simply measuring linguistic knowledge, it evaluates students' ability to perform communicative tasks in academic and professional settings. Competencies include linguistic, sociolinguistic, discourse, and intercultural skills.

Together, these approaches ensure that learners not only know the rules of English but can apply them effectively in authentic contexts. The integration of CLT and CBE creates a flexible, student-centered methodology that fosters lifelong learning.

#### Digital Transformation and Technology Integration

The digitalization of education has profoundly affected English language teaching. The global pandemic accelerated the adoption of online and blended learning, forcing educators to rethink methodology and pedagogy. Today, digital tools are integral to the learning process in HEIs.

Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Moodle, Canvas, and Google Classroom allow instructors to organize courses, track progress, and provide feedback. Communication platforms like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google Meet support synchronous and asynchronous interactions.

Moreover, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has entered the classroom through tools such as Grammarly, ChatGPT, and Duolingo, which offer personalized feedback and adaptive learning. Gamification tools like Kahoot and Quizizz enhance engagement, while corpus-based tools such as Sketch Engine help students analyze authentic language data.

However, effective integration of technology requires pedagogical awareness. Digital tools should not replace the teacher but complement human interaction. The instructor's role is to curate digital resources, facilitate critical thinking, and ensure meaningful communication.

#### Teacher's Role and Professional Competence

The English language teacher in a HEI occupies a multifaceted role. Beyond linguistic expertise, the teacher must possess intercultural awareness, digital literacy, and methodological flexibility.

According to Richards (2017), effective teachers demonstrate three key dimensions of competence:

1. Linguistic and methodological knowledge — mastery of language systems and teaching strategies;
2. Pedagogical skills — the ability to manage classroom dynamics, motivate students, and design learning activities;
3. Reflective and adaptive capacity — continuous professional development through self-assessment and research.

In the modern classroom, the teacher becomes a facilitator of learning rather than a transmitter of knowledge. He or she guides students toward autonomy and self-regulation, fostering an environment of collaboration and discovery.

Academic competence is equally essential. English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses teach students to read scholarly articles, write essays and research papers, and participate in academic discussions. The development of critical thinking and argumentation skills prepares learners for academic and professional success.

Modern English language teaching in higher educational institutions represents a synthesis of tradition and innovation. It draws on communicative, competency-based, and digital approaches to meet the needs of contemporary learners.

The effectiveness of teaching depends on the teacher's ability to integrate technology meaningfully, foster intercultural understanding, and encourage reflective learning. As higher education continues to evolve, English language

methodology will remain a vital field that shapes future professionals capable of engaging in global dialogue.

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