

**EFFECTIVE METHODS OF TEACHING A FOREIGN
LANGUAGE TO PRIMARY CLASSES****Tajbenova Sawle**

PhD in pedagogical sciences, associate professor

Jumabaeva Malika Polatbek qızı

Student of Primary education faculty



Abstract: Teaching foreign languages to primary school students requires engaging and age-appropriate methods to ensure effective learning and retention. This study examines strategies such as communicative language teaching (CLT), the use of games, songs, and stories, total physical response (TPR), and project-based learning to enhance language acquisition among young learners. Emphasis is placed on creating an immersive, interactive, and supportive learning environment tailored to the developmental needs of children. These methods foster not only linguistic skills but also cultural understanding and enthusiasm for language learning.

Keywords: Foreign language teaching, primary education, communicative language teaching, total physical response, games and songs, language acquisition, interactive learning, cultural understanding.

In today's interconnected world, the ability to communicate in a foreign language is an essential skill, particularly in a globalized society where cultural exchange and multilingualism are increasingly valued. Early language acquisition is especially important, as research shows that the younger a child is exposed to a foreign language, the easier it is for them to achieve fluency. Primary school, as a key period of cognitive and social development, provides a unique opportunity to introduce young learners to foreign languages in a meaningful and engaging way.

However, teaching foreign languages to primary students presents unique challenges. At this developmental stage, children require methods that are not only effective but also stimulating, interactive, and appropriate for their cognitive abilities. Traditional language teaching methods, which focus heavily on grammar

and vocabulary memorization, may fail to capture the attention of young learners. As a result, it is crucial to implement teaching strategies that combine language acquisition with play, movement, and real-world application.

This study explores several effective methods of foreign language instruction for primary school classes, including Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Total Physical Response (TPR), the integration of songs and games, and project-based learning. These approaches prioritize active student involvement, making language learning both fun and meaningful. Moreover, by creating an immersive and supportive environment, these methods help young learners not only acquire linguistic skills but also gain cultural awareness and a positive attitude towards learning a foreign language.

The main body of this study outlines several key methods that have proven effective in teaching foreign languages to primary school students.[1] These methods emphasize the importance of creating an engaging, interactive, and immersive learning environment to support young learners in acquiring new languages. Below are some of the most effective strategies for teaching foreign languages at the primary level.

1. Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) is an approach that emphasizes interaction as the key to language learning. Unlike traditional methods that focus on grammar rules and vocabulary memorization, CLT prioritizes the ability to communicate effectively in real-life situations. For primary students, this can be achieved through role-plays, group discussions, and problem-solving tasks that require students to use the target language to express their thoughts and ideas. In a lesson on food, students can role-play a restaurant scenario, taking turns as customers and waiters while practicing vocabulary and phrases related to food and ordering.

2. Total Physical Response (TPR)

Total Physical Response (TPR) is a method that combines language learning with physical movement. This method is especially effective for primary school children because it leverages their natural energy and tendency to learn through action. In TPR, students respond to commands or instructions in the target language by performing corresponding physical actions. This method helps reinforce language comprehension and memory retention. For a lesson on classroom objects, the teacher can say "Touch the book" or "Pick up the pencil," and students respond by physically interacting with the objects in the classroom.[4]

3. Use of Games and Songs

Games and songs are powerful tools for making language learning enjoyable and memorable. For young learners, these activities create a fun and low-pressure environment that encourages active participation and repetition. Songs, especially those with catchy tunes and simple lyrics, help students internalize vocabulary, phrases, and pronunciation. Language games promote collaboration, problem-solving, and the application of new vocabulary in a playful context. A game of "Simon Says" can be adapted to teach vocabulary related to actions or body parts, while songs with repetitive phrases can help children learn greetings or counting in a foreign language.

4. Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is an approach that centers on students working on a long-term project that requires them to use the target language in a meaningful way. This method promotes deeper engagement by having students actively contribute to the creation of a final product, such as a presentation, poster, or skit. PBL encourages collaboration, problem-solving, and the use of language in authentic contexts. Students can work in groups to create a travel brochure for a country where the foreign language is spoken, incorporating vocabulary related to geography, culture, and travel.

The methods discussed in this section—Communicative Language Teaching, Total Physical Response, the use of games and songs, Project-Based Learning, storytelling, immersive learning, cultural awareness, and technology integration—provide a comprehensive framework for teaching foreign languages to primary school students. By engaging students in active, interactive, and meaningful language experiences, these methods not only improve linguistic skills but also foster a love for learning languages and an appreciation for different cultures.

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