

Published Date:- 18-10-2023

Teaching Grammar: in isolation or in context?

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses the importance of grammar in language learning and presents two approaches to teaching grammar: teaching in isolation and teaching in context. Teaching grammar in isolation focuses solely on form and meaning, using drills and tests to reinforce comprehension. This approach helps learners acquire the necessary grammar principles and can improve their writing skills.

However, it may not provide students with the ability to apply grammar rules effectively in real-world contexts. Some scholars argue that grammar should be taught in conjunction with subject matter and in the context of language usage, such as through texts, to enhance understanding and application.

Key words: Isolation, context, rules, improve, vocabulary, knowledge, authentic materials, practice, motivation, language proficiency

ABSTRAKT

Maqolada til o‘rganishda grammatikaning ahamiyati ko‘rib chiqiladi va grammatikani o‘rgatishning ikkita yondashuvi taqdim etiladi: alohida o‘qitish va kontekstda o‘qitish. Grammatikani alohida-alohida o‘rgatish faqat shakl va ma’noga e’tibor qaratadi, tushunishni mustahkamlash uchun mashqlar va testlardan foydalanadi. Ushbu yondashuv o‘quvchilarga kerakli grammatika tamoyillarini egallashga yordam beradi va ularning yozish ko‘nikmalarini oshirishi mumkin. Biroq, bu talabalarga grammatik qoidalarni real sharoitlarda samarali qo‘llash qobiliyatini bermasligi mumkin. Ba’zi olimlar grammatikani tushunish va qo‘llashni kuchaytirish uchun mavzu bilan birgalikda va tildan foydalanish kontekstida, masalan, matnlar orqali o‘rgatish kerakligini ta’kidlaydilar.

Published Date:- 18-10-2023

Kalit soʻzlar: Izolyatsiya, kontekst, qoidalar, takomillashtirish, lugʻat, bilim, haqiqiy materiallar, amaliyot, motivatsiya, tilni bilish **АБСТРАКТ**

В статье обсуждается важность грамматики в изучении языка и представлены два подхода к обучению грамматике: преподавание изолированно и обучение в контексте. Преподавание грамматики изолированно фокусируется исключительно на форме и значении, используя упражнения и тесты для закрепления понимания. Этот подход помогает учащимся усвоить необходимые принципы грамматики и улучшить свои навыки письма. Однако это может не дать учащимся возможности эффективно применять грамматические правила в реальных контекстах. Некоторые ученые утверждают, что грамматику следует преподавать в сочетании с предметом и в контексте использования языка, например, через тексты, чтобы улучшить понимание и применение.

Ключевые слова: изоляция, контекст, правила, улучшение, словарный запас, знания, аутентичные материалы, практика, мотивация, владение языком.

INTRODUCTION

Grammar is an essential aspect of language learning. It should not be ignored in order to gain effective learning. As without it there is no way to achieve successful results. Knowing grammar well enables students to construct better and clear sentences in their speaking, reading and writing performances. As far as teaching grammar is concerned, there are two ways of doing it, that is teaching in isolation and teaching in context. I will struggle to illustrate the former approach. When grammar is taught in isolation, it is not connected to writing or reading in any way. This method of teaching grammar is regarded as the traditional way of teaching.

MAIN PART

Grammar in isolation concentrates only on form and meaning and is frequently referred to as direct instruction. Teachers devote entire lessons to teaching students the rules of grammar and how to use them. And then learners' comprehension is checked by drills and tests in

Published Date:- 18-10-2023

order to recall it. This approach has also its cons and pros. The fact that pupils acquire all the necessary principles when grammar is taught in isolation is one of its largest benefits. Using drills and tests to test students can help them retain material since it imprints it in their memory. Despite the claim that people learn best by doing, many adults have noticed that practice and repetitive drills are the main sources of their grammar knowledge. According to Stephen Graham (2007), grammar in isolation makes an effort to decode and explain the components of any given well-formed phrase, often within the confines of a single language. The surface structure is what is being paid attention to, not the message. An isolation grammar's key advantage is that it teaches students a fundamental understanding of the elements of language, which can help them write better. It is obvious that teaching grammar in isolation is appropriate to help beginners in understanding the language's fundamentals since grammar is the language's basic structural component. Therefore, using this approach to teach a beginning is preferable. However, it is challenging to use and apply these isolated rules to next courses and learning without understanding how to do so. There is a great deal of dispute among scholars over the most effective method for teaching grammar.

It is believed that teaching grammar in isolation prevents learners from learning how to use it in real-world contexts. It is considered a waste of time or a poor application of their knowledge. According to Swain and Lapkin (1989), grammar shouldn't be taught separately from subject matter. Yet, neither should material be taught without taking into account the language used. There is, however, a lot of potential in a thoughtful fusion of language and substance. Besides this, Thornbury (1999) claims that it is not very helpful to teach grammar in isolation. Grammar needs to be introduced to students in its settings of usage, which means, at the very least, in texts, if they are to be able to understand it.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion about whether to teach grammar in isolation or in context depends on various factors, including the learner's proficiency level, learning style, and educational goals. Both approaches have their merits and can be effective when used appropriately. Teaching grammar in isolation involves focusing on explicit instruction and rules, often through drills and exercises. This approach can be beneficial for beginners or those who prefer a structured approach. It allows learners to grasp fundamental grammatical concepts and build a solid foundation. On the other hand, teaching grammar in context integrates grammar instruction

Published Date:- 18-10-2023

within meaningful contexts such as reading passages or authentic conversations. This approach emphasizes the practical use of grammar in real-life situations, promoting language production and comprehension. It can be especially useful for intermediate and advanced learners who aim to improve their fluency and communicative skills. Providing explicit explanations and practice opportunities alongside meaningful language use ensures a comprehensive learning experience. Tailoring the teaching method to individual learners' needs and considering their preferences can further enhance the effectiveness of grammar instruction.

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