

New approaches in teaching listening for ESL and EFL learners

Jurakulova Hurshida
Teacher of FSU

Abstract: *This article describes different interesting and useful ways and innovative methods of teaching listening comprehension skills in a foreign language using a modern approach, and the importance and differences in teaching it in comparison with other language skills. This article may serve as an additional resource for teachers of English in teaching both ESL and EFL students.*

Key words: *listening skills, new teaching methods, listening strategies, individual abilities.*

The reform in the field of education is becoming the most urgent problem, the solution of which will determine our future. So, we all realize that the achievement of the great objectives, such as the renewal of society, efficiency of our reforms, our intention is closely connected, first of all, with problem of training highly qualified personnel, specialists who meet the requirements of the time. Moreover, we are all becoming aware of one more truth. Only a well- educated person is able to value human dignity preserve national awareness, fight self-sacrificing the right to live in a free society, so that our independent state could win a decent and respectable place in the world community.

At the present great importance is attached to the study and teaching of foreign languages. No doubt, it happens not without purpose. Today, the importance of our people's perfect knowledge of foreign languages can scarcely be exaggerated as our country aspires to win a decent place in the world community, because our people see their great future as a life in mutual accord and cooperation with their foreign partners. However, it is necessary to remember always that the study of foreign languages should not be carried out at the expense of oblivion to the mother tongue. It is necessary to provide Uzbek children with all the necessary conditions for the access to this amazing world of foreign languages. We should prepare in our country in the shortest time the methods of intensive foreign languages learning based on our national peculiarities [2,3,4,5].

Nowadays if we look through new textbooks for school pupils we can notice that they are written on the base of new teaching methods especially their authors pay more attention to listening comprehension and speaking, for developing pronunciation, speech and understanding at the same time of speaking or listening.

Listening is very important. Conversations will take place only when we can understand what our interlocutor says; listening is also an important input. Listening ability is crucial for second language learners as its equality important to native speakers too. Listening activities are not common for the students. When they come to university, they cannot adjust their study habits very quickly. They still rely on their eyes instead of their ears to learn English. In fact, reading is different from listening, like writing is different from speech. Furthermore, when English-speaking people speak English, they usually speak at a normal speed. However, it is too fast for non- native learners to follow. Therefore, we should think about the problems of low level students' listening comprehension and intend to find out what can be done to help them improve their listening skills [6,7,8,9].

Listening skills are very important for each person. This is because the listening skills will not only help us in our professional life, but also in our personal life, when we are talking to our friends and relatives. The skills in listening that we have will be able to help us to pick out various subtle that other people give out when they talk will not only be useful, but these might help you to strengthen your friendship. Listening is one of the most important skills we can have. How well we listen has a

major impact on our job effectiveness, and on the quality of our relationship with others. In our daily life we can usually listen to somebody or something for following reasons:

- We listen to obtain information
- We listen to understand
- We listen for enjoyment
- We listen to learn

Listening is a skill that we can all benefit from improving. By becoming a better listener, you will improve your productivity, as well as your ability to influence, persuade and negotiate. What's more, you will avoid conflict and misunderstanding. All of these are necessary for workplace success. Good communication skills require a high level of self-awareness. By understanding your personal style of communicating, you will go a long way towards creating good and lasting impressions with others. The way to become a better listener is to practice 'active listening'. This is where you make a conscious effort to hear not only the words that another person is saying but also, more importantly, try to understand the complete message being sent. In order to do this you must pay attention to the other person very carefully. You cannot allow yourself to become distracted by whatever else may be going on around you, or by forming counter arguments that you will make when the other person stops speaking. Nor can you allow yourself to get bored, and lose focus on what the other person is saying. All of these contribute to a lack of listening and understanding. If you are finding it particularly difficult to concentrate on what someone is saying, try repeating their words mentally as they say them-this will reinforce their message and help you stay focused. To enhance your listening skills, you need to let the other person know that you are listening to what he or she is saying. To understand the importance of this, ask yourself if you have ever been engaged in a conversation when you wondered if the other person was listening to what you were saying. You wonder if your message is getting across, or if it's even worthwhile continuing to speak. It feels like talking to a brick wall and it's something you want to avoid.

Many people talk in different accents, though the same language is being spoken. The change in the accent can make you to lose focus and not listen. Learning the accent or making a very serious attempt to understand the accent will help you to listen effectively.

As we know, any language is learnt in four directions: writing, reading, speaking and listening. One cannot be the best learner without any of them. At first, letters then words after then phrases and sentences create in one's mind.

Using audio cassettes, prepare recordings, two to three minutes in length, of foreign accents; this can be done individually or in pair or groups. The recordings should consist of short interviews with speakers who are not very proficient in the target language. In a country where the target language is not locally spoken, it makes sense to use as interviewees natives of this country, but other accents may be use in addition.

So, there are some methods of different listening strategies suggested by different scholars that can improve the subjects' abilities in listening comprehension. They are the followings: Alberding (2001) asserted that in order to strengthen students listening comprehension instructors must focus on the process of listening rather than on its product [1]. Teachers should develop students' awareness of the listening process and listening strategies by asking students to think and talk about how they listen in their native language. Teachers should allow students to practice the full repertoire of listening strategies by using authentic listening tasks. For sure the authentic listening assignments are crucial for building students competence in listening ability. So, this is the main component of the researcher's study too. In his investigation it's also mentioned about one-way and two-way communication types. They are described as follows:

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- **One- way Communication** help students identify the listening goal to obtain specific information to decide whether to continue listening to understand most or the entire message and outline predictable sequences in which information may be presented.
- **In authentic two-way Communication** the listener focuses on the speaker's meaning rather than the speaker's language. The focus shifts to language only when meaning is not clear.

Field J. found that teaching listening skills is one of the most difficult tasks for any ESL teacher. This is because successful listening skills are acquired over time and with lots of practice. He argues that the key to helping students improve their listening skills is to convince them that not understand is OK. Another important point explaining students that they need to listen to English as often as possible, but for short periods of time. As he suggested students should get a film or listen to an English radio station, but not to watch an entire film or listen for two hours. Students should often listen, but they should listen for short periods five to ten minutes. This should happen four or five times a week. Even if they don't understand anything, five to ten minutes is a minor investment. Some teachers find this tactic very useful, and suggest practicing it to their students outside of the lesson. However, for this strategy to work, students must not expect improved understanding too quickly. The brain is capable of amazing things if given time students must have the patience to wait for the results. He believes that if students continue this exercise over two to three months, their listening comprehension skills will greatly improve.

Most importantly, a pleasant and supportive classroom atmosphere plays a vital role in English class because it reduces students' anxiety and inhibition so that they are motivated to achieve listening tasks.

I believe that if several listening strategies are introduced to the students, they will for sure use the most favored and effective one which fits for their own individual abilities and would benefit by doing well in further listening activities.

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