MOTIVATING PRE-INTERMEDIATE CLASSES PUPILS TO LEARN ENGLISH THROUGH CONTENT-BASED TEACHING

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Annotation: *This article explores strategies for motivating pre-intermediate pupils to learn English through content-based teaching. Content-based instruction (CBI) integrates language learning with subject matter instruction, making the learning process more engaging and relevant for students. By embedding language skills within interesting and meaningful content, pupils are more likely to remain motivated and improve their proficiency. This study examines the effectiveness of CBI in a pre-intermediate classroom setting, highlighting specific methods and activities that have been successful. The findings suggest that CBI not only enhances students' language abilities but also fosters a deeper interest in learning English by connecting it with topics that resonate with their interests and academic needs. The implications for teachers include adopting interdisciplinary approaches and designing lessons that balance language and content objectives to maximize student engagement and learning outcomes.*

Key words: *content-based instruction (CBI), language learning motivation, student engagement, instructional strategies, classroom techniques, interdisciplinary teaching.*

Introduction

Motivating students to learn a new language can be challenging, especially for pre-intermediate pupils who may struggle with the complexities of English. Traditional language teaching methods often fail to capture students' interest and can lead to disengagement. Content-based instruction (CBI), which integrates language learning with content from other subjects, offers a promising approach to enhance motivation and improve language proficiency.

What is Content-Based Instruction (CBI)?

CBI is an instructional method that combines language and content learning. Instead of teaching language skills in isolation, CBI uses subject matter content to teach language. This approach makes language learning more relevant and engaging, as students learn English through interesting and meaningful content that can include science, history, art, or any other subject.

Benefits of CBI for Pre-Intermediate Learners

1. Increased Engagement: By integrating content that pupils find interesting and relevant, CBI can significantly boost student engagement. When students are interested in the subject matter, they are more likely to participate actively and retain information.

2. *Contextual Learning*: Learning language in context helps students understand how language is used in real-life situations. This contextual learning can improve their ability to use English effectively outside the classroom.

3. *Enhanced Motivation*: When students see the practical applications of what they are learning, their motivation to learn the language increases. CBI helps students make connections between English and other areas of knowledge, demonstrating the value of learning the language.

4. *Improved Language Skills*: CBI promotes the development of all four language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—by engaging students in various activities related to the content.

Implementing CBI in the Classroom

1. *Selecting Appropriate Content*: Teachers should choose content that is interesting and relevant to their students. This could involve integrating subjects that students are already studying or topics that cater to their interests and curiosity.

2. *Designing Integrated Lessons*: Lessons should be designed to balance language and content objectives. Teachers need to create activities that allow students to practice language skills while engaging with the content.

3. *Using Authentic Materials*: Incorporating authentic materials such as articles, videos, and podcasts related to the content area can make lessons more engaging and provide real-world language exposure.

4. *Encouraging Interaction*: Group activities, discussions, and collaborative projects can encourage interaction among students, which is essential for language practice and building communication skills.

5. *Providing Scaffolding*: Teachers should provide adequate support to help students understand the content and use the language. This can include pre-teaching vocabulary, using visual aids, and offering sentence starters.

Case Study: CBI in Action

In a pre-intermediate class, a teacher integrated a unit on environmental science into the English curriculum. The unit included reading articles about climate change, watching documentaries, and conducting simple experiments. Students discussed their findings in groups, wrote reports, and presented their conclusions. English. This approach not only improved their language skills but also increased their awareness and interest in environmental issues.

Challenges and Solutions

1. *Balancing Language and Content*: Teachers might struggle to find the right balance. It is important to set clear language and content goals for each lesson and adjust activities accordingly.

2. *Resource Availability*: Access to suitable materials can be a challenge. Teachers can use online resources, adapt existing materials, or create their own content to suit their students' needs.

3. *Assessment*: Evaluating both language proficiency and content understanding can be complex. Teachers can use formative assessments, such as quizzes, presentations, and projects, to gauge student progress.

Conclusion

Content-based instruction offers a dynamic and effective approach to motivate pre-intermediate pupils to learn English. By making language learning relevant and engaging, CBI can enhance students' motivation, improve their language skills, and foster a positive attitude towards learning English. Teachers who adopt CBI methods can create a more interactive and enriching language learning environment that meets the needs and interests of their students.

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