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THE IMPACT OF PEER EVALUATION IN TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR STUDETS

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Abstract. Peer evaluation has become a widely used pedagogical strategy in English language classrooms. This paper explores the effects of peer evaluation on students' language acquisition, motivation, and overall performance. Drawing from recent studies and classroom-based research, the article highlights both the benefits and limitations of peer evaluation. Findings suggest that when implemented effectively, peer evaluation enhances critical thinking, increases engagement, and improves language accuracy. However, challenges such as bias, lack of training, and cultural attitudes toward peer feedback must be addressed for optimal outcomes.

Keywords: Peer evaluation, English language teaching, language learning, student feedback, learner autonomy, peer assessment, classroom engagement, second language acquisition, ELT, collaborative learning

Introduction

English language teaching (ELT) has evolved significantly over recent decades, incorporating various learner-centered approaches to improve communication skills and academic performance. One such approach is peer evaluation—a process where students assess each other's work based on given criteria. This technique is particularly relevant in English language classrooms, where students benefit from exposure to diverse perspectives and collaborative learning opportunities (Topping, 2017). This article examines the impact of peer evaluation on English language learning outcomes, focusing on its effects on writing, speaking, motivation, and student autonomy.

Benefits of Peer Evaluation

Research indicates that peer evaluation fosters active learning and critical thinking. In writing classes, students who engage in peer assessment tend to produce more coherent and grammatically accurate essays (Liu & Carless, 2006). By assessing others' work, students become more aware of common language errors, which helps them improve their own performance. In speaking tasks, peer feedback encourages spontaneous interaction and fosters communicative competence. Moreover, peer evaluation promotes learner autonomy and confidence. According to Falchikov and Goldfinch (2000), students feel more responsible for their learning when they know their work will be reviewed by peers. This encourages greater effort and deeper engagement with the content.

Challenges and Limitations

Despite its advantages, peer evaluation is not without challenges. One major concern is the reliability and validity of peer feedback. Students may lack the expertise to accurately assess their peers' language use or may be influenced by friendship, competition, or personal biases (Patri, 2002). Additionally, without proper training, students might provide overly critical or overly generous feedback, limiting the value of the exercise.

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Another barrier is cultural. In some educational contexts, students are hesitant to criticize peers, viewing it as disrespectful. Teachers must therefore create a supportive environment and provide clear guidelines to ensure constructive, respectful feedback.

Best Practices for Implementation

To maximize the benefits of peer evaluation in ELT, educators should provide rubrics, exemplars, and practice sessions. Training students on how to give and receive feedback can enhance the quality and consistency of peer assessments. Furthermore, combining peer evaluation with teacher assessment can ensure fairness and maintain academic standards (Saito & Fujita, 2004).

Conclusion

Peer evaluation is a powerful tool in teaching English, offering cognitive, social, and linguistic benefits. When used thoughtfully, it fosters a more participatory classroom culture and improves language outcomes. However, careful planning, training, and monitoring are essential to address its challenges. Future research should focus on long-term impacts and ways to integrate peer feedback with digital tools and AI-assisted platforms.

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