

## CURRENT ISSUES AND MODERN TRENDS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Olesya Tempel

*Master's Degree, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Philology at the Peoples' Friendship University named after Academician A.Kuatbekov*

Atazhi Zarina

*Second-year student of the specialty 6B01730- "Foreign language: two foreign languages"*

**Abstract:** *This article explores contemporary challenges and emerging trends in foreign language teaching methodology in the 21st century. It analyzes issues such as motivation, curriculum reform, digitalization, teacher training, and equity of access. It also highlights modern approaches including blended learning, task-based and communicative methodologies, Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), adaptive and AI-driven language tools, and intercultural competence development. Drawing on recent studies and theoretical research, the paper outlines productive directions for future innovation and provides practical insights for educators aiming to enhance language teaching in diverse educational contexts.*

**Keywords:** *foreign language teaching methodology, blended learning, digitalization, communicative competence, CLIL, task-based learning, artificial intelligence, teacher training, intercultural communication, adaptive learning.*

### INTRODUCTION

Teaching foreign languages is evolving profoundly. Global connectivity, population mobility, digital advancements, and artificial intelligence have reshaped language education's landscape. Today's learners demand more than grammar and vocabulary; they need intercultural skills, critical thinking, and the ability to use language professionally.

Traditional teaching methods, focused on rote learning, are less effective. Modern education emphasizes interactivity, practical application, and personalized instruction.

#### 1. Current Challenges in Teaching Foreign Languages

##### 1.1. Decline in Sustainable Motivation

Despite English's status as a global lingua franca, students often struggle to maintain consistent motivation. The rigid structure of language instruction, which prioritizes testing over practical communication, and the lack of authentic interaction opportunities contribute to a waning interest.

This issue is exacerbated by the information deluge of the digital age, where students' attention is fragmented across various online platforms.

##### 1.2. The gap between theory and practice

In many educational institutions, the dominance of traditional grammar and translation methods remains. At the same time, modern international standards, such as the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, orient teaching towards the formation of communicative competence.

The discrepancy between the declared goals and the actual practice of teaching creates a methodological contradiction that requires a revision of the content and forms of organization of classes.

### 1.3. Digital inequality

Although digital technologies are being actively introduced into the educational process, access to them remains uneven. In addition, not all teachers have sufficient digital competence to effectively use online platforms and interactive tools.

### 2. Current trends in teaching methods

#### 2.1. Communication-oriented and competence-based approach

Modern methodology is increasingly focused on the development of communicative competence, including linguistic, socio-cultural, discursive and strategic components.

The competence approach involves the formation of students' ability to apply language in real-life situations, and not just to reproduce the studied material. This is reflected in the use of project activities, role-playing games, debates, and problem-based learning.

#### 2.2. Blended Learning

Blended learning combines traditional classroom activities with an online component. This model allows you to flexibly organize the educational process, expand access to resources and ensure an individual pace of learning.

Online platforms, video conferencing, and interactive applications create additional opportunities for listening and speaking practice, as well as for independent work.

#### 2.3. Integration of artificial intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence-based systems opens up new perspectives in teaching foreign languages. Adaptive programs analyze learners' mistakes and offer personalized assignments.

Automatic writing verification tools, voice assistants, and chatbots allow you to simulate communication situations and provide instant feedback. At the same time, the role of the teacher is transformed: he becomes a facilitator and coordinator of the educational process.

#### 2.4. Personalization and autonomy of students

Current trends emphasize the importance of the learner-centered approach, which focuses on the needs, goals, and interests of the student. The development of autonomy involves the formation of skills of self-assessment, self-control and independent planning of educational activities.

Digital resources, electronic portfolios and individual educational trajectories contribute to increasing students' responsibility for learning outcomes.

#### 2.5. Cross-cultural orientation

Globalization reinforces the need for the formation of intercultural competence. Teaching a foreign language is considered as a means of cultural dialogue, the development of tolerance and understanding of socio-cultural differences.

Authentic materials, international online projects and virtual exchanges contribute to immersion in the cultural context of the language being studied.

### 3. Prospects for the development of the methodology

The future of foreign language teaching is linked to further digital transformation and the strengthening of interdisciplinary ties. A special role will be played by:

- Adaptive educational environments;
- Integration of language training with professional competencies (ESP — English for Specific Purposes);
- Development of hybrid forms of international cooperation.

At the same time, the key factor of effectiveness remains the teacher's professional training, his ability to innovate and continuous self-development.

#### Conclusion

Modern methods of teaching foreign languages are at the stage of dynamic updating. Current problems such as reduced motivation, methodological contradictions, and digital inequality require a systematic solution.

At the same time, modern trends, including communicative and competence-based approaches, blended learning, integration of artificial intelligence and personalization of the educational process, open up wide opportunities for improving the quality of language training.

An effective teaching model should combine technological innovations with a humanistic orientation, ensuring the development of the student's personality and his readiness for intercultural interaction in the global world.

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