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TEACHING ENGLISH TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
THROUGH CLIL: A MODERN APPROACH TO LANGUAGE
LEARNING

Karimova Sayyora Khamidovna

University of Exact and Social Sciences

Sayyorakarimova85@gmail.com

Abstract: *Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) is an innovative educational approach that combines language learning with subject-specific content. This paper explores the effectiveness of CLIL in teaching English to secondary school students, focusing on how it enhances both linguistic and cognitive development. Practical examples, benefits, and challenges of implementing CLIL in secondary education are discussed.*

Key words: *CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning), Secondary Education, English Language Teaching, Language Integration, Dual-Focused Learning, Linguistic Development, Cognitive Skills, Motivation in Language Learning, Real-Life Contexts, Cultural Awareness.*

Introduction. In today's globalized world, the demand for English proficiency is higher than ever. Traditional language-teaching methods often fail to engage students or prepare them for real-world applications. CLIL offers a solution by integrating English into the teaching of other subjects, such as history, science, or geography, making the language-learning process more natural and engaging. CLIL stands for Content and Language Integrated Learning. It involves teaching a subject through a foreign language, in this case, English. Unlike traditional methods, where language is taught in isolation, CLIL focuses on using English as a tool to acquire knowledge about various topics, providing a dual-focused learning experience.

The four Cs of CLIL include:

1. **Content:** Learning subject-specific topics.

2. **Communication:** Improving English language skills.
3. **Cognition:** Developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
4. **Culture:** Gaining awareness of different perspectives and contexts.

In the 21st century, proficiency in English has become a fundamental skill for academic, professional, and social success. However, traditional language teaching methods often focus on rote memorization of grammar and vocabulary, leading to limited practical application. CLIL offers an innovative solution by integrating English learning with the study of other subjects, making the process both meaningful and engaging. CLIL is not merely a teaching method; it is a philosophy that views language as a tool for learning rather than the sole objective. Through CLIL, secondary school students are exposed to authentic contexts where they can develop their language skills while gaining subject-specific knowledge. This dual focus enhances students' motivation, critical thinking, and intercultural competence, equipping them with skills necessary for global citizenship. CLIL immerses students in English through its use as a medium of instruction. This constant exposure to the language in various academic contexts accelerates vocabulary acquisition, improves fluency, and enhances comprehension skills. By engaging with subject-specific content in English, students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical abilities. These cognitive skills are essential for academic success and lifelong learning. Learning English through interesting and relevant subjects, such as exploring environmental issues or studying historical events, makes the process enjoyable and purposeful for students. Through CLIL, students explore topics from global perspectives, fostering an appreciation of cultural diversity and preparing them for interaction in a multicultural world.

The dual focus of CLIL ensures that students acquire English skills they can apply in academic, professional, and everyday contexts. For example, learning to write a science report in English prepares students for higher education and international opportunities. This study examines the implementation of the Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach in English language education, focusing on its effectiveness in enhancing both language proficiency

and content comprehension. CLIL, which combines subject matter with language instruction, provides a dual-focused educational framework that supports the development of academic content knowledge while improving language skills. Key aspects of CLIL highlighted in this research include the integration of content and language, the necessity of teacher training and professional development, and the impact on student engagement and learning outcomes. The findings suggest that while CLIL offers significant benefits, such as increased student motivation and improved language skills, it also presents challenges, particularly related to teacher preparedness and resource development. Addressing these challenges through targeted professional development and appropriate resource allocation is essential for the successful implementation of CLIL. The study concludes that CLIL is a promising approach for enhancing English language learning, provided that its implementation is carefully managed and adequately supported.

CLIL lessons should have dual objectives: content and language. Teachers must design lessons that align with the curriculum while promoting English proficiency. Key elements of lesson planning include:

- **Clear Objectives:** Define what students should learn in terms of both content and language.
- **Scaffolding:** Provide linguistic support, such as key vocabulary, sentence starters, and graphic organizers.
- **Interactive Activities:** Use group work, discussions, role-plays, and presentations to encourage active participation.

Secondary school students may struggle with subject-specific content in English initially. To overcome this, teachers can:

- Use simplified language and visual aids to explain complex concepts.
- Gradually introduce technical terms and encourage their use in speaking and writing.
- Provide glossaries and reference materials.

Conclusion. CLIL represents a transformative approach to teaching English to secondary school students. By integrating language learning with content-based instruction, CLIL not only enhances linguistic skills but also fosters critical thinking, cultural awareness, and academic success. While the method requires careful planning, teacher training, and adequate resources, its long-term benefits make it a valuable tool for modern education. Through real-world relevance and immersive learning experiences, CLIL prepares students to navigate a globalized world, equipping them with the skills needed for academic and professional excellence.

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