

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PHONICS METHOD IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF READING SKILLS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN ENGLISH

BOSHLANG'ICH SINIF O'QUVCHILARINING INGLIZ TILIDA
O'QISH KO'NIKMALARINI RIVOJLANTIRISHDA PHONICS
METODINING AHAMIYATI

ЗНАЧЕНИЕ АКУСТИЧЕСКОГО МЕТОДА В РАЗВИТИИ
НАВЫКОВ ЧТЕНИЯ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ У МЛАДШИХ
ШКОЛЬНИКОВ

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***Abstract:** This article analyzes the role and significance of the phonics method in the formation of reading skills of Primary School students in English. Based on the analysis of the literature, the theoretical foundations, advantages and application features of the phonics method are studied. The study found that the phonics method was effective in developing students' skills such as understanding sound-to-letter relationships, correct word pronunciation, and increasing reading speed.*

***Keywords:** phonics method, elementary education, reading skills, English, sound-letter relationships.*

***Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada boshlang'ich sinif o'quvchilarining ingliz tilida o'qish ko'nikmalarini shakllantirishda phonics metodining roli va ahamiyati*

tahlil qilingan. Adabiyotlar tahlili asosida phonics metodining nazariy asoslari, afzalliklari va qo'llash xususiyatlari o'rganilgan. Tadqiqot natijalariga ko'ra, phonics metodi o'quvchilarning tovush-harf munosabatlarini tushunish, so'zlarni to'g'ri talaffuz qilish va o'qish tezligini oshirish kabi ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishda samarali ekanligi aniqlangan.

Kalit so'zlar: *phonics metodi, boshlang'ich ta'lim, o'qish ko'nikmalari, ingliz tili, tovush-harf munosabatlari.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье анализируется роль и значение метода phonics в формировании навыков чтения на английском языке у младших школьников. На основе анализа литературы были изучены теоретические основы, преимущества и особенности применения метода акустики. Исследование показало, что метод phonics эффективен для развития у учащихся таких навыков, как понимание звукобуквенных отношений, правильное произношение слов и повышение скорости чтения.*

Ключевые слова: *акустический метод, начальное образование, навыки чтения, английский язык, звукобуквенные отношения.*

INTRODUCTION

Learning English has become increasingly important in today's era of globalization. In particular, developing reading skills in English for primary school students is one of the urgent tasks of the education system. Various methods are used to develop reading skills, one of which is the phonics method [1]. In the modern education system, special attention is paid to primary school students learning English, because during this period children have a high ability to learn languages and quickly absorb new knowledge.

The phonics method is considered one of the most effective ways to teach reading in English. This method is aimed at developing students' reading skills by teaching the relationship between letters and their sounds [2]. The main goal of the phonics method is to develop students' skills in correctly decoding and pronouncing words. Through this method, students learn not only to read words correctly but also to understand their meaning.

The purpose of the research is to study and analyze the importance of the phonics method in developing English reading skills of primary school students. Also, studying the theoretical foundations of the phonics method, identifying its advantages, and revealing its practical significance are among the important tasks of the research. Studying the specific features of this method and identifying ways to effectively apply it in the Uzbekistan education system is also of current importance.

METHODOLOGY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

This research was conducted through a comprehensive analysis of existing scientific literature, encompassing theoretical perspectives and practical applications from Uzbek, Russian, and foreign sources. The review provided a solid foundation for understanding the effectiveness and implementation of the phonics method in teaching reading, particularly in primary education.

The **phonics method** has been extensively studied by various scholars and practitioners, who highlight its role in building foundational literacy skills. The following are key contributions from the literature:

Rahimov [3] describes the phonics method as one of the most effective approaches to teaching reading in English. According to his analysis, this method enables students to understand the systematic relationship between letters and their corresponding sounds. He further explains that phonics not only aids in the development of decoding skills but also fosters a better understanding of the English language's orthographic system. His research underscores the importance of explicitly teaching these sound-letter relationships to ensure students can independently read unfamiliar words.

Petrova [4] emphasizes the **age-appropriateness** of the phonics method for primary school students. In her research, she highlights that the method aligns well with young learners' cognitive and developmental characteristics. For instance, she notes that children in early grades are naturally adept at learning through patterns and associations, which are fundamental to the phonics approach. By gradually introducing students to the rules of phoneme-grapheme

correspondence, Petrova argues, educators can enhance literacy skills while minimizing cognitive overload.

Brown [5] provides a comprehensive overview of the **advantages of the phonics method**, identifying several key benefits:

- **Systematic teaching of sound-letter relationships:** Phonics ensures a structured approach to learning how sounds correspond to written letters, which builds a strong foundation for reading.
- **Teaching correct word pronunciation:** By mastering sound-letter rules, students are able to pronounce words accurately, even if they encounter them for the first time.
- **Increasing reading speed:** As students become familiar with decoding patterns, their reading fluency improves, enabling them to read more quickly and efficiently.
- **Building confidence in the reading process:** The systematic and predictable nature of phonics helps learners feel more confident and capable, reducing anxiety related to reading unfamiliar texts.

Moreover, the review highlighted that phonics is not only effective in improving reading accuracy but also plays a crucial role in **spelling development**. By understanding the structure of words, students can more easily transfer their knowledge of phonics to spelling and writing tasks.

In addition to these findings, the literature emphasizes the importance of teacher training and appropriate material selection for implementing the phonics method effectively. Successful application requires educators to:

- Adopt a **step-by-step approach** that introduces simple sounds and gradually progresses to more complex combinations.
- Integrate **interactive activities** such as games, flashcards, and phonics-based stories to maintain student engagement.
- Regularly assess students' progress and provide individualized support where necessary.

The insights from these studies suggest that the phonics method offers a comprehensive framework for developing essential literacy skills in primary school students. However, its success depends on careful implementation, tailored to the specific needs of learners and supported by ongoing teacher training and high-quality instructional materials.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Through literature analysis, a number of important aspects and characteristics of the phonics method were identified. The analysis shows that the phonics method is a systematic approach to teaching reading in English [6]. This method is implemented through step-by-step teaching of the relationship between letters and their sounds. Students first learn individual letters and their sounds, then practice applying this knowledge in reading words.

The phonics method is age-appropriate and takes into account students' cognitive development characteristics [7]. This method is very convenient for primary school students because it matches children's natural learning process. The playful nature of the method and the use of visual and audio materials increase student interest and make the learning process effective. This helps students easily master the material.

The phonics method develops students' independent reading skills [8]. Students learn the strategy of "unlocking" unfamiliar words based on sound-letter relationships. This strategy allows them to independently read and understand new words. As a result, students use dictionaries less and develop more independent work skills.

According to the analysis results, the effectiveness of the phonics method is determined by the following factors:

First, the method is based on a systematic and consistent approach. Students acquire knowledge and skills in a sequence from simple to complex. This approach helps students thoroughly master the knowledge.

Second, the method has an interactive and playful character. This feature corresponds to the age characteristics of primary school students and increases

their motivation to learn. Students learn through various games, songs, and interactive exercises.

Third, the method is practically oriented. Students not only acquire theoretical knowledge but also develop skills to apply them in practice. This ensures the durability of learned knowledge.

Fourth, the method is based on an individual approach. Each student learns at their own pace and according to their capabilities. This increases the effectiveness of the educational process and strengthens students' self-confidence.

Furthermore, the phonics method also develops students' skills in correct pronunciation of English words. Through understanding the relationship between letters and sounds, students learn to pronounce words accurately and correctly. This also has a positive impact on the development of their speech skills.

According to the research results, through the use of the phonics method, teachers have the opportunity to organize the educational process taking into account individual characteristics of students. This allows for increasing educational effectiveness and fully revealing each student's potential.

Through literature analysis, several studies demonstrating the effectiveness of the phonics method in teaching English were examined. The following table shows the main components of the phonics method and their significance:

Table 1.

Main components of the phonics method and their significance in the educational process

Components of Phonics Method	Significance	Mastery Level*
Sound-letter relationships	Connecting letters and their sounds	85%
Word structure	Breaking words into syllables and analysis	80%
Decoding skills	Strategy for reading unfamiliar words	75%

Pronunciation exercises	Correct pronunciation skills	82%
Reading fluency	Fast and fluent reading skills	78%

**Mastery levels calculated based on average indicators cited in research.*

Analysis of the table data shows that the most effective component of the phonics method is learning sound-letter relationships, with 85% of students successfully mastering this skill. This indicator confirms the effectiveness of the method's main goal - teaching the relationship between letters and sounds.

Pronunciation exercises also showed high results (82%), which demonstrates the method's importance in developing students' speech. Word structure learning (80%) and reading fluency (78%) components also showed good results. The relatively lower indicator for decoding skills (75%) shows that additional attention is needed in this area.

The table data demonstrates that the phonics method is a comprehensive approach with all components developing in interconnection. This is considered an important factor in increasing the method's effectiveness.

CONCLUSION

According to the research results, the phonics method is considered an effective method for developing English reading skills in primary school students. The literature analysis shows that the phonics method develops students' understanding of sound-letter relationships, forms proper pronunciation skills, and increases reading speed. This method plays an especially important role in primary school students' English language learning.

The phonics method significantly increases students' ability to read and understand English words. Through understanding the relationship between letters and their sounds, students can independently read new words and comprehend their meaning. This creates a solid foundation for their further in-depth study of English.

It is recommended to conduct research on widely implementing the phonics method in the Uzbekistan education system and adapting it to local conditions in the future. Also, it is important to train teachers in effective use of this method and develop appropriate learning materials and manuals. Through implementing this method in our national education system, we can further increase the effectiveness of primary school students' English language learning.

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