

IMPROVING ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION THROUGH SHADOWING TECHNIQUE

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Abstract:

Shadowing is a language learning technique that often used as a supplementary practice to enhance language learning. It helps improve pronunciation, intonation, and rhythm, as well as develop listening skills and overall fluency. By actively engaging with and mimicking native speech patterns, learners can develop a more natural and authentic way of speaking the target language.

The given paper discusses the shadowing technique as a method for improving English language skills, particularly in listening and pronunciation.

Keywords: shadowing technique, pronunciation, intonation, rhythm, target language, advantages and disadvantages.

АННОТАЦИЯ:

Теневой повтор - это метод обучения языка, который часто используется в качестве дополнительной практики для повышения уровня изучения языков. Он помогает улучшить произношение, интонацию и ритм, а также развивать навыки прослушивания и общую плавность. Активизируя и имитируя образцы родной речи, учащиеся могут развить более естественный и аутентичный способ разговаривать на целевом языке.

В данной статье рассматривается техника "тенирования" в качестве метода повышения уровня знаний английского языка, особенно в области прослушивания и произношения.

Ключевые слова: техника теневого повтора, произношение, интонация, ритм, целевой язык, преимущества и недостатки.

ANNOTATSIYA:

"Soya" - bu til o'qitish usuli bo'lib, u ko'pincha til o'rganishni yaxshilash uchun qo'shimcha amaliyot sifatida ishlatiladi. Bu talaffuz, intonatsiya va ritmni yaxshilashga yordam beradi, shuningdek, tinglash qobiliyatlari va umumiy ravanlikni rivojlantirishga yordam beradi. Mahalliy nutq namunalarini faollashtirish va taqlid qilish orqali talabalar maqsadli tilda gapirishning yanada tabiiy va haqiqiy usulini rivojlantirishlari mumkin.

Ushbu maqolada, ayniqsa, tinglash va talaffuz sohalarida ingliz tilini bilish darajasini oshirish usuli sifatida soya qilish texnikasi muhokama qilinadi.



Kalit so'zlar: “soya” texnikasi, talaffuz, intonatsiya, ritm, maqsadli til, afzallik va kamchiliklar.

INTRODUCTION

Pronunciation plays a crucial role in mastering the English language, impacting communication, comprehension, and overall language proficiency. For English language learners, achieving clear and accurate pronunciation is essential for effective communication in various contexts, including academic, professional, and social settings. There are numerous approaches and procedures that can be utilised to become proficient in English (Alilateh & Widyantoro, 2019; Azar & Nasiri, 2014). The Shadowing approach is a viable method for teaching English. The technique of shadowing enhances the ability to understand information (H. Liu & Sammons, 2021; J. Liu & Bray, 2020). The core principle of the shadowing approach is that humans acquire a foreign language not only by mimicking verbal utterances but also by emulating the accompanying bodily gestures and facial emotions when a sentence or phrase is spoken. Prior research has indicated that participants' English pronunciation, particularly in English, exhibited improvement (H. Liu & Sammons, 2021; J. Liu & Bray, 2020). Prior study has indicated that the utilisation of the shadowing approach enhances students' English speaking proficiency in educational settings (Gibbs & Hilburn, 2021; Wardhana, 2018). There is a lack of research on the efficacy of shadowing strategies in enhancing pupils' listening abilities. The objective of this study is to examine the efficacy of the shadowing technique in the acquisition of the English language. The implementation of the shadowing approach is expected to enhance students' proficiency in English listening skills.

While shadowing cannot be classified as an innovative language-learning approach, it gained popularity exclusively in the 2000s. Previously, Professor Alexander Arguelles, an expert linguist and polyglot, presented the shadowing technique to a group of language learners. He produced a sequence of videos elucidating and illustrating the concept of shadowing and its mechanics.

The language enthusiast devised the technique of shadowing to become completely absorbed individuals in the tempo and rhythm of the language they are learning. Alexander Arguelles believes that the shadowing technique enhances learners' ability to concentrate on the accurate phonetics of the language and cultivate a pronunciation that closely resembles that of a native speaker. Furthermore, this approach is advantageous for establishing innate cognitive associations with the language in learners brain. By engaging in shadowing, the speech will become more fluent as the learner unconsciously internalise new vocabulary, grammar rules, and sentence structures by continuous listening to the audio.

Now, let's examine a detailed and systematic approach to language shadowing. When selecting the suitable material, a brief audio clip in the target language can be used. Begin by selecting a simple task, such as composing a news article or crafting a narrative for youngsters. In contemporary society, it is not a predicament. Language learners can discover appropriate resources on language learning platforms, YouTube channels, or podcasts, depending on the suitability of their equipment. Headphones are necessary to perceive the audio with clarity,



while a recording device such as a phone is required to capture their own voice. A location where they will not experience any interruptions and can fully concentrate on the activity at hand is also very important.

The shadowing process comprises multiple processes aimed at enhancing an individual's pronunciation, fluency, and listening comprehension in the language they are learning. Below is a comprehensive analysis of the procedure:

Initially, folks begin by intently listening to the audio tape, specifically focusing on the speaker's pronunciation, intonation, and rhythm. They should consider the recording's overarching message. Upon their first encounter, they promptly commence echoing the auditory input, with the objective of imitating the speaker's enunciation, cadence, and intonation with utmost accuracy. There is no need for concern if they are unable to comprehend every word at this point; the objective is to mimic the sounds.

If the user fails to catch a word or phrase, they can pause the audio and rewind it to replay that specific area. This aids them in catching up and guaranteeing precision.

Learners further the process by engaging in repeated listening and replication of the audio clip. They should focus on enhancing their pronunciation and fluency with every repeat.

Once individuals reach a higher level of comfort, they can contemplate the idea of recording themselves while mimicking someone else's speech or actions. This enables them to pinpoint areas for improvement and monitor their progress over time.

In order to push themselves to a greater extent, individuals can progressively elevate the level of complexity of the auditory content they are imitating. They can experiment with extended video segments, accelerated speaking, or intricate subjects to challenge and enhance their abilities.

To ensure effectiveness, it is crucial for individuals to strive for a daily practice duration of at least 15–20 minutes when engaging in shadowing. Consistent practice will result in substantial progress. Here are some other suggestions to further enrich their shadowing experience:

In order to enhance their general pronunciation, individuals should focus on specific sounds that they find difficult and engage in distinct practice sessions for those sounds.

If the audio recording is accessible, anyone can use a written transcript or script to track and pinpoint specific areas that want attention for improvement.

Integrating physical activity into their routine can be advantageous. Walking or pacing while shadowing might enhance the immersive experience for certain individuals.

It is important to recall that language shadowing can be enjoyable. Opting for materials that captivate and inspire learners will enhance the process and make it more pleasurable. To develop their pronunciation, fluency, and listening skills in their target language, individuals can effectively utilise the shadowing technique by following these procedures, practicing often, and implementing these guidelines.

Using shadowing as a technique to enhance learners' pronunciation has both advantages and disadvantages. On the positive side, shadowing allows learners to closely mimic native speakers' pronunciation, intonation, and rhythm, helping them develop a more natural and fluent speaking style. It promotes active listening and imitating, which can improve learners'



ability to produce accurate sounds and replicate the prosody of the target language. Additionally, shadowing can enhance learners' awareness of phonetic patterns and increase their overall phonological competence. However, there are also some challenges with shadowing. Learners may find it difficult to keep up and accurately reproduce the speech in real-time, especially with fast-paced or complex materials. Understanding the meaning of the content while focusing on pronunciation can be a struggle. Additionally, learners might inadvertently adopt the errors or accent of the speaker they are shadowing, so it's important to choose high-quality audio materials. Despite these challenges, with consistent practice and attention to accuracy, shadowing can be a valuable tool for improving learners' pronunciation skills.

CONCLUSION;

The shadowing technique has become an intriguing technique for enhancing English language proficiency, specifically in the domains of listening comprehension and pronunciation. Research has demonstrated that closely copying the speech patterns, intonation, and rhythm of native speakers in a systematic manner can improve learners' proficiency in phonetics and help them form strong cognitive connections with the language.

Regular and committed practice of shadowing, as described in the given context, can result in substantial enhancements in fluency, acquisition of vocabulary, and internalisation of grammatical structures. The ability to adjust the level of difficulty of the audio materials and the opportunity to independently record and assess one's own development enhance the efficacy of this method. Although shadowing is not a new technique for language learning, its renewed interest and increasing popularity in the 2000s highlight its significance in the contemporary language learning environment. Regularly incorporating shadowing, along with other language learning tactics, can be a potent and transforming method for anyone aiming to improve their English skills.

To summarise, the shadowing technique provides a methodical and captivating approach for language learners to fully immerse themselves in the desired language, resulting in enhanced English communication abilities that are more authentic, fluent, and comprehensible. As research progresses in investigating the intricacies and practical uses of this approach, there is a promising possibility for its extensive implementation in language learning environments.

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