

Importance of integrating four skills in language teaching

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Abstract. *The integrated-skills approach, which combines listening, speaking, reading, and writing, has become a popular method in EFL settings as it is believed to be an effective way to develop students' ability to communicate in English and access social, vocational, educational, or professional opportunities. Unlike the traditional approach that teaches language skills separately, the integrated-skills approach presents all language skills together so that learners not only know the language but can also use it in natural communication. This article examines current research and concepts related to the integrated-skills approach to provide a better understanding of how it is used in EFL settings.*

Keywords: *integrated-skills approach, content-based language teaching, task-based language teaching, EFL*

The use of English as the primary global language for communication and access to opportunities has made communicative competence and the ability to use English essential goals of English learning. Davies and Pearse emphasized that true success in English teaching and learning is when learners can effectively communicate in English both inside and outside the classroom. In order to achieve these objectives, integrated language skills instruction is considered the most effective approach, as it teaches language as a tool for communication, which is motivating and realistic. Hinkel also highlighted that current integrated language skills teaching models aim to develop learners' fluency, accuracy, and socio-cultural communicative competence by adapting language from context to context and from genre to genre. The main objective of English language learning is to develop communicative competence and the ability to use English for social, vocational, educational, and professional purposes, given the widespread use of

English as a global language. In EFL settings, the integrated-skills approach is considered the most effective method to achieve this goal. Unlike the traditional approach that teaches language skills separately, integrated language skills instruction presents all language skills together so that learners not only understand the language but can also use it in natural communication..

Recent research has shown that effective implementation of integrated skills teaching not only improves students' language skills and components, but also benefits both students and teachers. However, for an English program to successfully use the integrated language skills teaching approach, teachers must have the necessary competence and belief in the effectiveness of the approach. Compared to the traditional segregated approach, the integrated skills approach requires a good understanding of discourse, flexibility in using textbooks, and a willingness to implement student-centered learning. The institution must also provide full support in terms of policy, infrastructure, and learning materials and tools. Additionally, students must understand the objective and importance of the integrated skills implementation in order to fully commit to the program's success.

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