ENHANCING LANGUAGE ACQUISITION THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH: EXPLORING THE INTERPLAY OF SOCIAL INTERACTION AND COOPERATIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES

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Annotation: This article emphasizes on collaborative learning activities, which are more suitable for current environments. First of all, an introduction of collaborative learning and its best practices are analyzed thoroughly, then components of collaborative learning are showed in two pictures. After that existing strategies of the approach are examined.
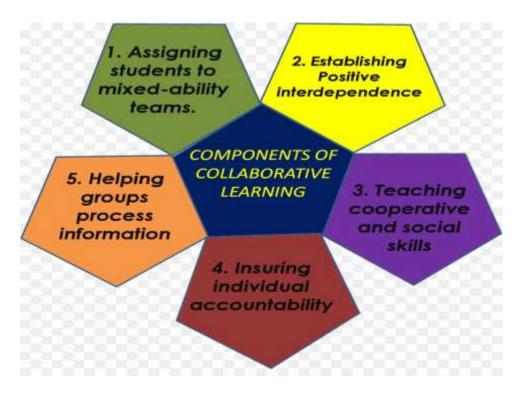
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Language acquisition has become one of the most essential requirements of today's globalized society. It not only facilitates successful cross-cultural communication, but also improves cognitive abilities, opens up new employment prospects, and creates a better awareness of our increasingly interconnected and multicultural world. There exists numerous learning methods, which provide distinct approaches to meet different learning styles. This diversity helps to enrich educational experience and promotes the efficacy for language acquisition. Among these methods, the collaborative approach stands out as one of the most employed one emphasizing joint learning experiences in which students work together to accomplish lesson tasks or find a solution to a problem.

Collaborative approach is the teaching approach which places a strong emphasis on shared responsibility for learning, active student participation, and communication. It promotes students to cooperate, exchange information, and support each other with language enhancement, moving away from conventional teacher-centered methods. It is considered as the educational approach for teaching and learning. When students learn in groups, they feel more comfortable to share their knowledge, and learn from each other. Even the ones who are introverted in their studies are able to perform better while doing teamwork with their peers. Moreover, there are plenty of opportunities to get good marks using from this approach, since students have the chance to complete the task fully and make up for each other's shortcomings. Besides, language learners can save their time, energy with less stress doing tasks easier and quicker. They also

find self-satisfaction, as they to contribute in a group work. In addition to this, students feel high level of confidence and progress towards a learner autonomy.

Picture 1 Components of collaborative learning

There exists various common strategies of utilizing collaborative approach during the lesson. Tutors of the classes can implement them in these ways:

- ✓ **Group projects**: Students collaborate on different tasks, namely teamwork, social projects or presentation speaking in target language in practice.
- ✓ **Peer teaching:** Learners explain a new topic to their peers and get feedback from them at the end of the lesson.
- ✓ **Role playing:** Acting like in reality encourages language learners in a creative way and helps to create a real atmosphere.
- ✓ **Group discussion:** Discussing one topic in detail with a group promotes critical thinking skills, target language usage, and a supportive team.
- ✓ **Digital Collaboration Tools:** Working on platforms or discussion forums make students work from a distance encouraging language practice and collaboration in a digital setting.

The strategies given above paves the way for peer interaction, shared responsibility, vibrant learning environment, diverse learning styles, development of good communication skills, deeper understanding, feedback, and even preparation for real-world situations.

Picture 2 Teamwork of school students

Collaborative learning improves students' language abilities, by allowing them to share their ideas with group members and opens the door to learn anything with the help of their peers.

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