

Developing Reading Competence Through An Eclectic Approach In Teaching English

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Annotation: The article provides information about the advantages of the eclectic approach. The importance of the innovative approach is illustrated through clusters and supported by theoretical data.

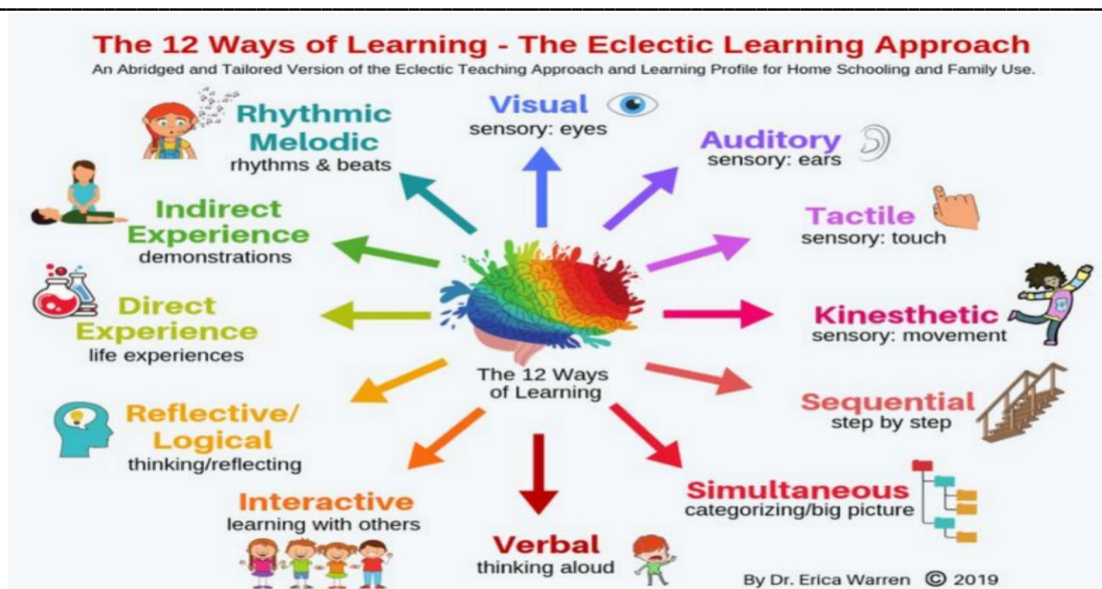
Key words: Eclectic method, innovative approach, eclecticism, Classcraft.

INTRODUCTION. In the current era of globalization, the growing attention to science and education clearly demonstrates the formation of new innovative methods and experiences in the field of teaching. The statement of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev — “If you ask me what concerns me most, I would answer — the education and upbringing of our children” — shows[1] that every reform carried out in our country during the globalization process is aimed at ensuring the bright future of our young specialists, equipping them with perfect language competencies, and enabling them to become highly qualified professionals.

The term “eclecticism”, derived from the Greek word meaning “selected” or “chosen”, refers to an approach that combines different methods and techniques in teaching. The main idea of the eclectic approach is to teach students through a variety of methods and strategies, enabling them to apply knowledge in practice. This, in turn, enhances their skills and helps them learn English more effectively.

MAIN PART. One of the teacher’s tasks is to attract students’ attention to learning English through reading. Unfortunately, many students today show little interest in reading materials in English, preferring instead to watch videos, listen to modern songs, or look at humorous pictures. Taking into account students’ needs and interests, it is possible to achieve effective results by conducting lessons using innovative methods. Moreover, this not only increases students’ interest in the subject but also helps create a friendly classroom environment and fosters cooperation among learners.

In the eclectic method, online games can also be used to increase students’ interest. One of the most effective platforms based on gamification in education is Classcraft, which helps to increase students’ engagement and motivation during the learning process. Classcraft is an innovative tool that assists teachers in motivating learners, improving teaching efficiency, and creating a positive classroom atmosphere. It is especially designed to encourage active participation and to develop collaboration among students[2].



ANALYSIS AND RESULTS. Larsen-Freeman (2000) emphasized the importance of the eclectic approach in teaching. According to her, eclectic education is multi-approach, consistent, and includes various types of learning activities that meet the needs of students. In our opinion, creating a classroom environment that takes into account students' interests and preferences significantly increases the level of effectiveness [3].

Within the eclectic method, online games can be utilized to enhance students' engagement. One such gamified online learning platform is Classcraft, which fosters students' motivation and interest throughout the educational process. Classcraft serves as an innovative tool that supports teachers in motivating learners, promoting effective instruction, and cultivating a positive classroom atmosphere. The platform is specifically designed to encourage active participation and collaboration among students.

Games based on the eclectic method to develop reading competence:

"Find the Fact" — In this game, students play by identifying main and detailed facts/questions from the text. The one who finds the fact first is rewarded with points.

Effectiveness: Enhances scanning skills and encourages quick thinking.

Gao (2011) considered eclecticism to be a teaching approach that brings together all language skills — listening, speaking, reading, and writing — while incorporating various classroom practices. He further recommends that teachers blend different teaching methods, make effective use of them, and avoid their limitations [4].

The advantages of eclectic approach The eclectic approach to language teaching presents numerous advantages that contribute to its widespread adoption in educational settings. Its foremost benefit lies in its flexibility, allowing instructors to seamlessly integrate a diverse array of teaching methodologies, techniques, and materials tailored to the unique needs and learning styles of their students. This adaptability fosters a dynamic learning environment that promotes engagement and participation. Moreover, the eclectic approach enables educators to draw from a rich tapestry of resources, including textbooks, multimedia tools, authentic materials, and real-world experiences, enhancing students' exposure to the language in various contexts. By catering to different learning preferences and abilities, this approach cultivates a more inclusive and effective learning experience for all learners.

Kumar mentions the following:

- it is easier for learners to understand the language of the text in its cultural context
- it blends listening, speaking, reading, and writing
- it helps teachers to teach effectively by drawing on the strengths of various methods and by avoiding their weaknesses
- learning is easy due to the use of realistic situations in the classroom.

Additionally, the eclectic approach encourages critical thinking skills as students are challenged to analyze and synthesize information from different sources, promoting deeper comprehension and language

proficiency. Its emphasis on cultural sensitivity and awareness further enriches the learning process by fostering intercultural communication skills.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS. The eclectic method seeks to enhance the effectiveness of learning by integrating multiple approaches, making the educational process more interactive, enjoyable, and motivating. It allows students to acquire knowledge through a variety of materials, techniques, and strategies, thereby strengthening their critical thinking and comprehension abilities. This method plays a significant role in the efficient development of reading skills.

References

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