THE BENEFITS IN THE USE OF SHADOWING TECHNIQUE TO ENHANCE INDIVIDUALS` LANGUAGE SKILLS

Raimova Fotima Muminjon qizi

An English teacher at Shahrisabz Branch of Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology

Abstract: *The shadowing technique is a language learning method that involves closely imitating and repeating spoken language. This article explores the benefits of using the shadowing technique to enhance individuals' language skills. The technique has been found to be effective in improving pronunciation, fluency, and overall speaking and listening skills. Additionally, it can assist in accent reduction and cognitive processing, leading to more natural and confident oral communication. This article provides an overview of the shadowing technique and its impact on language acquisition, offering insights into its potential as a valuable tool for language learners. Shadowing in English is one of the best ways to improve your English speaking skills as it helps improve pronunciation, intonation, and vocabulary. It can also help learners unconsciously develop other things in English such as rhythm, stress and also grammar.*

Keywords: *pronunciation improvement, language acquisition, fluency development, oral communication, accent reduction, cognitive processing, natural speaking ability.*

The shadowing method has become well- known as a powerful tool for language learners seeking to enhance their speaking and listening skills. This technique involves closely mimicking and repeating spoken language, allowing individuals to improve their pronunciation, fluency, and overall oral communication abilities. In this article, we will explore the numerous benefits of the shadowing technique in language acquisition, including its impact on accent reduction, cognitive processing, and the growth of natural and confident speaking abilities. By delving into the advantages of this technique, we aim to provide valuable insights into how language learners can effectively utilize shadowing to advance their language proficiency.

Shadowing is a highly effective technique for improving pronunciation in a foreign language. By closely imitating the sounds and intonation of a native speaker, learners can develop the naturalness of their speech and accurate way of speaking. There are several advantages to using shadowing as a tool for pronunciation improvement. Firstly, shadowing helps learners become more aware of the subtle nuances in pronunciation that can greatly impact their overall fluency. According to Tamai (2002), shadowing is a listening practice when English language learners pay close attention to the material being received while tracking the spoken word and accurately repeating it as much as they can.

Shadowing allows students to practice speaking in real-time, helping to improve their fluency and confidence. Learners can actively participate in the process of

imitating a native speaker, training their mouths and vocal cords to produce target language sounds more accurately. This can lead to more natural and effortless speaking. Another advantage of shadowing is that it helps students master the rhythm and intonation of the target language. Languages have unique patterns of stress, rhythm, and intonation, and by shadowing native speakers, students can learn these patterns more effectively. Shadowing can be a very fun and interactive way to practice pronunciation. Unlike traditional methods of pronunciation practice, such as repeating single words or sounds, shadowing allows students to dynamically engage with real spoken language. This can make the learning process more interesting and effective. Shadowing is a powerful tool for improving pronunciation in a foreign language. By closely imitating native speakers, students can develop more clear, natural, and fluent speech while mastering the rhythm and intonation of the target language.

Shadowing is a highly effective technique for improving fluency in a foreign language. According to Shiota (2012:78) states that through the use of shadowing techniques, students should be able to improve their oral skills as well as their accuracy and fluency when reading aloud. The shadowing approach is said to assist students get past their pronunciation difficulties. Fluency is the ability to express oneself easily and articulately in a language, and shadowing can significantly contribute to the development of this skill. There are several advantages to using shadowing as a tool for improving fluency. One of the main benefits of shadowing in improving fluency is that it provides a way to practice speaking and listening at the same time. When students are shadowing, they are actively listening to a native speaker while trying to reproduce the same sounds, intonation, and rhythm at the same time. This dual focus on listening and speaking helps students develop a more intuitive and natural way of using language, leading to improved fluency. In addition, shadowing allows learners to access authentic spoken language in a dynamic manner. In addition, shadowing can help students build confidence in their speaking skills. By actively participating in the process of imitating a native speaker, students can develop their speaking skills in a supportive and interactive way. This can lead to increased confidence when using the language in real-life situations and ultimately help improve fluency. In addition, shadowing helps students improve the general comprehension skills needed for fluency. By listening to and imitating native speakers, students can improve their understanding of natural speech patterns and colloquial expressions in pronunciation. Shadowing is a powerful tool for improving fluency in a foreign language. By practicing speaking and listening at the same time, engaging in real spoken language, building confidence and improving comprehension skills, learners can develop the ability to express themselves easily and clearly in the target language. Thi Huyen et al. (2020) claim the shadowing strategy helps students` memory and quick response to spoken English as linguistic input.

Shadowing is an incredibly valuable technique for developing oral communication skills in a foreign language. According to Hamada (2016), speaking abilities including making speech sounds can be enhanced by the shadowing

technique. It offers many advantages that contribute to the improvement of speaking and listening skills, resulting in improved oral communication skills. By actively participating in shadowing exercises, students can practice speaking and listening at the same time. This approach to natural speaking helps students develop a more intuitive and natural way of using language, which leads to improved fluency and articulation in spoken communication. In addition, shadowing can significantly contribute to the development of conversational confidence. Through regular practice, students develop a sense of familiarity with the sounds and patterns of the language, which can increase their confidence in oral communication. Shadowing is an effective way to improve pronunciation and accent. Shadowing can aid in the development of active listening skills. By closely following and imitating native speakers, learners train their ears to recognize and process natural speech patterns, colloquial expressions, and nuances in pronunciation. This heightened listening ability is essential for effective oral communication, as it enables learners to better understand and respond to spoken language in real-time conversations.

Accent reduction is an important aspect of language learning, especially for individuals seeking to improve their oral communication skills in a foreign language. Shadowing, as a technique involving close imitation of native speakers, offers a number of advantages in the context of accent reduction. One of the main benefits of shadowing for accent reduction is its ability to provide students with a model for correct pronunciation and intonation. By closely imitating native speakers during shadowing exercises, students can pick up the subtle nuances of language sounds and rhythms. This process allows them to develop a more correct and natural accent, resulting in improved oral communication skills. In addition, shadowing gives students the opportunity to practice producing specific sounds and phonemes of the target language in real time. Being actively involved in imitating the speech patterns of native speakers help students become aware of their pronunciation habits and allows them to make conscious adjustments to reduce or change their stress. Through consistent shadow practice, students can improve their articulation and intonation, leading to clearer and more accurate pronunciation. In addition, soy helps develop muscle memory for correct pronunciation. By repeatedly imitating the speech patterns of their native speakers, learners can train their vocal apparatus to produce sounds in the target language more accurately. Shadowing gives students immediate feedback about their pronunciation and accent. By directly comparing their speech with that of native speakers during shadowing exercises, students can identify areas for improvement and make real-time corrections to their pronunciation.

Shadowing is a powerful technique that can significantly enhance cognitive processing in language learning. By requiring learners to process and reproduce language in real time, shadowing engages various cognitive functions, leading to improved understanding and production of the target language. The advantages of shadowing in cognitive processing include the development of active listening skills, increased working memory capacity, increased attention and focus, increased

language processing speed, and high automation in language production. Shadowing helps develop active listening skills. When students practice shadowing, they must listen carefully to the speech of a native speaker and process the incoming auditory information in real time. This active contact with the language stimulates the auditory processing centers of the brain, which leads to increased sensitivity to the nuances of pronunciation, intonation and rhythm. As a result, students have the ability to distinguish and repeat the subtleties of language sounds, contributing to the improvement of cognitive processing of linguistic information. Shadowing requires students to make effective use of their working memory capacity. As learners listen to a native speaker and attempt to reproduce speech patterns at the same time, they must store incoming auditory information in working memory as they formulate and produce their own speech output. Students that use the shadowing approach repeat what speakers say, word for word or phrase for phrase (Lin, 2009). Shadowing helps speed up linguistic processing. By repeatedly practicing imitating the speech of native speakers in real time, learners gradually develop faster and more efficient neural pathways to process and reproduce the target language. Higher language processing speed allows learners to understand and produce speech faster and more accurately, leading to greater fluency and proficiency in the target language. Shadowing promotes the development of automaticity in language production.

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