



DEVELOPING THE LANGUAGE SKILLS. RECEPTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE SKILLS

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Annatation : *Language learning is a skill that differs subject such as mathematics, history or geography. This article provides information about language learning skills, their problems and scholars who have written books about language learning rules. In addition, information is given on how to develop reading, listening, speaking, writing skills and which are passive and which are active skills. Nowadays, these skills begin with a superficial transition from primary school, and these skills are deepened in the upper grades. One or two of these four skills cannot be learned. All this should be learned. Because listening, reading, speaking, writing complement each other and help to learn the language perfectly.*

Key words: *Vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, clarity, reading, listening, writing, speaking, receptive, productive.*

Nowadays, language learning is becoming popular all over the world. Especially, the English language, which is recognized all over world. English is currently used as an English language or a foreign language in other countries. In the Netherlands for example. In the Netherlands, the majority of the population can speak English. The high level of English is the closeness of the languages. English is taught in primary school and most subjects are taught in English. People who need to know English for business, science, technology, travel and other activities have felt the need to learn it. For learning English, Thompson and Wyatt pointed out four skills¹¹

1. To understand spoken (Listening).
2. To speak English (Speaking).
3. To understand written English (Reading).
4. To write English (Writing).

Now these four skills can be divided into two skills that Active and Passive or Productive and Receptive skills:

- I. Passive or Receptive – Listening and Reading.
- II. Active or Productive – Speaking and Writing.

Obviously, listening and reading seems passive, but they require concentration. Take Listening for example, listening requires resources in language learning. We pay

¹¹ Thompson & Wyatt (1952), Teaching of English in India Vol.8. Madras, Oxford University Press.





attention to what we hear and look for meaning in it. Howatt and Dakin said, "Listen is the ability to identify and understand what others are saying. It helps improve and understand a speaker's accent or pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary".¹²

Linguists who created listening as a skill in last century were James Brown, Ralph Nicholas and Carl Weaver, who went down in history as "Fathers of listening"¹³. We divide the skill of listening into the following:

1) Listening for sound perception. The involves:

- Identifying sounds.
- Segmenting sounds into meaningful groups.

2) Listening for comprehension. The involves:

- Understanding the meaning of the words.
- Following commands or directions, requests given orally.
- Understanding questions, dialogues conversations.
- Understanding narrations or descriptions.
- Understanding the tone of speaker.

In 1982, Wolvin and Coakley divided the list into five types¹⁴:

1) Discriminative listening- enables the listener to distinguish fact from opinion and sensitizes the listener to argument and language.

2) Comprehensive listening- helps the listener understand the messages.

3) Critical listening- forces the listener to evaluate, then accept and reject the message.

4) Therapeutic listening- this type of listening is used raise the speaker's problems and feelings and helps and help him.

5) Appreciative listening- is a type of listening for pleasure, emotional experience and relaxation.

Reading skill. Some people believe that reading is easy to master. Indeed, reading is a complex process based on various skills. There are several skills to facilitate this process:

1) Decoding- the ability to sag aloud words that students have heard before but do not know how to write. The important of this process is the foundation for other reading skills.

2) Phonics- it is the process that determines the relationship between sounds and letters students decode the words into sounds and encode the sounds into words as they write and spell.

3) Vocabulary- to understand what you are reading; you need to understand most of the words in the text.

¹² Howatt, A. and J. Dakin. (1974). Language Laboratory Materials, ed. J. P. B. Allen, S. P. B. Allen, and S. P. Corder.

¹³ Feyten, 1991

¹⁴ . In A.D. Wolvin, & C.G.Coakley, (Ed), Perspectives on listening.





4) Memory and attention. These two skills are important for reading. Because when the student concentrates and collects information during the reading process, helps to search for meaning in the text and remember the knowledge obtained from these sources.

The process of understanding text begins in children when someone reads them a picture book. They listen to the words, see the pictures in the book, and begin to associate the words on the page with the words they hear and the ideas they represent. Students need modeling, practice, and feedback to learn comprehension strategies. There are basic comprehension strategies:

- Predicting

When students make predictions about a text they are about to read, they make assumptions based on their prior knowledge of similar topics or are able to understand its meaning based on context. As they learn more, they can mentally revise their predictions.

- Identify and summarize the main

Idea Identifying and summarizing a main idea requires students to identify what is important and then express it in their own words. In this process, the hidden meaning tries to understand the purpose of the author in writing the text.

- Questioning

Another strategy is to ask and answer questions about the text to help students focus on the content of the text. Teachers can help by modeling both the process of asking good questions and strategies for finding answers in the text.

- Visualizing

Scientist Pressley's research has shown that students who visualize while reading remember better than those who do not. Students can use the pictures included in the text or create their own mental images or drawings when reading the text without illustrations.

Speaking skill. It is one of the skills that children are developing right now in elementary school and will help them throughout their lives. Speaking skill is the ability that allows us to verbalize and understand information, while also allowing us to communicate effectively. Four elements help to develop speaking skills¹⁵:

1) Vocabulary- it is one of the elements that occupy an important place in every skill. To develop speech, we must first increase our vocabulary. If the listener listens to what the speaker is saying and knows how to respond with vocabulary, then he/she is half way to effective communication.

2) Grammar- grammar mainly serves to convey information in a way that the listener can understand.

¹⁵ Brown, H.D. Language Assessement, Principals and Classroom Practices, 2nd Edition.





3) Pronunciation- it is very important to pronounce words correctly in speech. And it certainly ensures how accurate and precise the delivery is to the listener.

4) Fluency- an element that a child naturally develops during schooling, as they use speaking skills almost every day and parties regularly. And to further strengthen the fluency, it is necessary to read the text or words aloud.

Writing skill. E-mails, documents, statements and similar messages and documents give the first impression about employees in each field. That's why writing skills have an important place in every field. Writing skills includes the following components:

- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Spelling
- Structure
- Research and vocabulary
- Clarity

These are several strategies for developing writing skills:

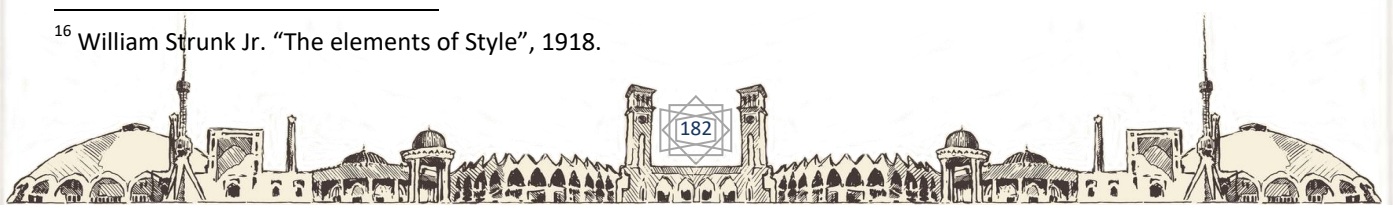
1) Grammar and spelling. The thing that causes the most mistakes in writing skills is definitely grammar and spelling. As written in the book "The elements of style" written by William Strunk Jr. "Written with nouns and verbs, without adjectives and adverbs. The adjectives haven't been built that can pull a weak or inaccurate noun out of a tight place. Adjectives and adverbs are indispensable parts of speech"¹⁶.

2) Proofread- don't be in a hurry to hand it after you are done, revise it and work on your mistakes.

3) Get feedback. Whether it's an e-mail, and essay or a statement, sharing ideas with others is a great way to improve your writing skills. Reliable friends, family members, colleagues, teachers are not excluded.

According to the results, it is indicated that all the elements and strategies for developing the learning of these four skills have been returned. After all, all of these are interrelated and we can't just study one of them. As a young teacher, I can say that helping students develop the four basic language skills and improving their communicative competence in English is our main goal. However, at the elementary school level, these four skills are not equally weighted: some are more important than others. Speaking and listening are very relevant, especially in the first and second stages of primary education. In addition to developing the four skills, the English lesson should be interesting for our students, because if they enjoy the English lesson, they will feel motivated to continue learning and studying. We also use a lot of materials that apply all skills in our daily lives. For example, imagine you are planning a trip with friends or family members. You probably read the text message that suggested the trip first; then you write the answer. Then, maybe you talk about a trip or listen to a phone message about an event. You write or speak travel details and then

¹⁶ William Strunk Jr. "The elements of Style", 1918.





tell someone about your planned trip. During this process you will read, write, listen and speak.

Make some decisions, English has always been a very diverse language. This language has quickly become the second most popular language in the world. People are getting used to using English for various activities in daily life. Communication and business are just a few examples of why people use English between countries. Therefore, people should start learning and practicing this language from childhood. Successful people in this world are people who can communicate with everyone and the main language of communication in the world is English.

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- 3) <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/234062257> The role of language skills and foreign country experiences in the development of European identity
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- 5) Jack C. Richards; Willy A. Renandya "Methodology in Language Teaching. An Anthology of Current Practice"

