



## BENEFITS OF TEACHING SPEAKING SKILLS TO SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS

**Annotation:**

*This article explores the numerous benefits of teaching speaking skills to secondary school pupils. It discusses the importance of oral communication in personal, academic, and professional contexts. By examining various teaching strategies and methodologies, this research highlights how developing speaking skills contributes to overall language proficiency, boosts confidence, and enhances social interaction.*

**Keywords:**

*Speaking skills, secondary education, communication, language proficiency, student confidence, teaching methodologies..*

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### INTRODUCTION

Efficient communication means success in today's interconnected world in different aspects of life. For secondary school students, speaking skills mastery not only contributes to academic success but also helps them later in professional life. This paper discusses the multifaceted benefits of teaching speaking skills in secondary education and identifies how it fosters language proficiency, builds confidence, enhances social skills, and promotes critical thinking.

Speaking is one of the major language skills, but normally it always takes a back seat in most curricula, giving center stage to reading and writing. Speaking activities incorporated into classroom activities create a dynamic environment in which students are able not only to express themselves but also to interact with their peers.<sup>1</sup>

#### Main Part

##### Importance of Speaking Skills

Effective speaking helps one to clearly and confidently express views and sentiments before various social milieus. They would have better relations with their peers and elders. Oral communication is a significant part of class discussions, project presentations, and group work. Mastery of speaking skills could result in an improvement in academic performance.<sup>2</sup> In business, clarity in articulation of ideas has been found time and again to be related to career success. Employers want individuals who can assertively articulate their thoughts in meetings, during presentations, and in negotiations.

Improvement in language proficiency.

Teaching speaking skills directly contributes to the improvement of the student's general language proficiency: it cultivates better acquaintance with vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation through practice. Speaking activities expose students to a wide range of words and phrases, which in turn help in vocabulary growth. Such internalization of grammatical structures is facilitated through regular

<sup>1</sup> Nation, P. (2013). "Learning Vocabulary in Another Language". Cambridge University Press.

<sup>2</sup> Bygate, M. (2001). "Speaking." In "Teaching Speaking Skills", edited by C. N. Candlin and N. Mercer, 14-28. Routledge.



speaking practice, enabling the use of more accurate language. Speaking exercises will lead to better pronunciation and fluency, thereby facilitating the communication process.

Many students can't speak fluently because they don't want to be judged or make some mistake. Building up speaking skills in a relaxed atmosphere with their teachers means a lot for maintaining their confidence.

A safe classroom atmosphere nurtures the ability to take risks in speaking without the fear of negative evaluation. The more confident they are, the more likely they will be willing to participate in discussions and share their opinions. In this case, speaking skills allow students to articulate themselves, their thoughts, and opinions, which develops a feeling of agency and self-worth. The ability to speak effectively is fundamental to social interaction. Teaching the skills would result in better relations among the students themselves.

### **Methodology**

In this paper, a sequential mixed-methods design is adopted to investigate the benefits of teaching speaking skills to secondary school students. The research involved two successive phases: a questionnaire to the teachers and interviews with the students. The questionnaire consisted of Likert-scale and open-ended questions with regard to the following: a) perceived importance of speaking skills in their curriculum; b) methods of teaching used to develop such skills; c) observations of student engagement and outcomes related to speaking activities. The questionnaire was carried out online, with a guarantee of anonymity to foster frank responses for better results. Semi-structured interview questions related to the following: experience regarding speaking activities in class; perceived benefits regarding the development of speaking skills; problems identified when carrying out oral communication.

Administration

### **Results**

Themes identified in the interviews include the following, Increased confidence among students was a recurring theme, as students said after class discussions and presentations, they speak with more confidence. Improved communication. Students said they were better able to express themselves inside and outside the classroom. Social interaction, Many participants reported that a speaking activity enabled them to know their classmates better.

### **Discussion**

These findings are indicative of the irreplaceable speaking activity in the educational process of students at a secondary school. The strong relationship between speaking proficiency and academic success underlines the importance for educators of orienting these priorities in teaching.

Speaking Skill: The Need For It.

Along with the development of secondary education, the demand for good communication skills grows also, and as can be seen from the results of their survey, teachers are aware of this very need and try various methodologies in developing speaking. Best practices in language teaching support the usage of debate and discussion group activities. These methods allow developing speaking proficiency as well as critical thinking and teamwork. Encouraging interaction between students, the teachers provide conditions for active learning and personal growth. Qualitative data from student interviews confirm that speaking activities increase students' confidence significantly. It is in the support of attempts at communication that students are encouraged to participate more aggressively in class discussions and risk-taking in learning. Improved speaking skills mean better interaction with peers; this, in turn, helps improve relationships and imparts a sense of belonging within the school. When a child knows how to



communicate fluently, he develops compassion and tolerance, which are very essential for getting along in different social settings.

### **Conclusion**

The teaching of speaking skills to secondary school students opens a wide horizon for benefits, starting from enhancing their proficiency in the language to increasing their confidence and improving social interaction, besides promoting critical thinking. As a matter of fact, speaking has turned out to be very important in personal and professional spheres of life, and that itself calls for the inclusion of the speaking skills subject within curricula. Positive teaching methodologies implemented by a motivating environment develop the ability to speak eloquently. In fact, such skills develop to improve not only academic performance but also those needed in further life for proper communication at the personal and professional levels.

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