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METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Norova Bakhriniso Yuldashevna Tashkent State Agrarian University Language Department Teacher

Abstract: The teaching of English in Uzbekistan continues to evolve in response to national education reforms and global linguistic demands. This article examines the methodological challenges facing English language instruction within the Uzbek context, particularly from the perspective of non-native English-speaking teachers. Drawing on recent academic literature and regional classroom realities, the study explores how policy implementation, teacher preparation, and sociolinguistic factors intersect to shape English language teaching (ELT). Emphasis is placed on communicative approaches, teacher identity, and locally responsive pedagogy. The article aims to provide a balanced scholarly reflection on the current state of ELT in Uzbekistan, with practical insights for educators and policymakers.

Key words: English language teaching, Uzbekistan, non-native teachers, ELT methodology, language education policy, multilingualism, communicative approach

Introduction

The growing importance of English in Uzbekistan's educational system reflects broader socio-economic goals, including integration into international academic and business spheres. National reforms such as the Presidential Decree No. PF-4947 (2017) have outlined ambitious plans for enhancing foreign language instruction across all levels of education. As English continues to gain status as a key instrument for global engagement, the effectiveness of its teaching in the Uzbek context has come under increasing scrutiny (Rahmanova and Shahabitdinova, 2024). This article explores the methodological and systemic challenges that shape English language teaching in Uzbekistan, with attention to the role of non-native educators and the practical realities of classroom practice.

Despite policy-level endorsement of communicative language teaching (CLT), its consistent implementation remains a challenge across public schools and higher education institutions. Teachers frequently face structural obstacles such as overcrowded classrooms, insufficient teaching materials, and limited access to professional development opportunities (Qurbonova, 2025). Moreover, while CLT emphasizes interactive, learner-centered instruction, many classrooms continue to rely on grammar-translation methods due to examination pressures and traditional expectations from school administration and parents.

Recent literature emphasizes the need for context-sensitive adaptation of global methods. Richards and Rodgers (2014) advocate for methodological pluralism, where teachers blend techniques in response to learner needs and institutional constraints. In Uzbekistan, this adaptive approach is particularly relevant, allowing instructors to incorporate communicative tasks without disregarding the grammatical foundations still prioritized in assessments.

The dominance of native-speaker norms in English language education often marginalizes the

legitimacy of non-native English-speaking teachers, particularly in contexts like Uzbekistan where English is learned as a foreign language. However, current scholarship increasingly recognizes the strengths of non-native instructors. As Medgyes (2017) and Kamhi-Stein (2014) argue, non-native teachers bring a valuable perspective to the classroom, including an understanding of the learner's challenges and a capacity to model effective language acquisition strategies.

In Uzbekistan, most English instructors are local professionals educated within the national system. Their linguistic and cultural familiarity can enhance pedagogical relevance and foster learner confidence, especially when paired with a commitment to ongoing professional development. Recognizing and supporting the expertise of non-native educators is thus essential to sustainable ELT reform.

Conclusion

The development of English language teaching in Uzbekistan is shaped by a dynamic interplay of global pedagogical trends, national policy directives, and local classroom realities. While communicative methods are promoted in official discourse, their translation into everyday practice requires methodological flexibility, institutional support, and the empowerment of local educators. Non-native teachers, far from being a limitation, represent a key resource in this process when given access to updated training and scholarly engagement. Future reforms should prioritize inclusive, context-aware strategies that strengthen the capacity of all English teachers in Uzbekistan.

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