

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

Individualized Education for 9-10th Grade English in Secondary Schools

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Abstract: *This paper explores the methodology of teaching foreign languages, specifically focusing on 9th-10th grade English in secondary schools, through the lens of individualized education. The aim is to provide a personalized learning experience for each student, taking into account their unique needs, interests, and language proficiency levels. The paper discusses the steps involved in implementing individualized education, including assessing students' language skills, setting personalized learning goals, designing tailored lesson plans, utilizing technology, providing individual support, encouraging self-reflection, assessing progress, maintaining communication with parents/guardians, and continuous professional development. By adopting this approach, educators can enhance the effectiveness of language learning and promote the overall language proficiency of students in secondary school settings.*

Keywords: *Foreign language teaching, methodology, individualized education, 9th-10th grade, English language, secondary schools, language proficiency, personalized learning, lesson plans, technology in education, student support, assessment, parent communication, professional development.*

Foreign language teaching experts emphasize the significance of linguistic, psychological, and didactic elements in language instruction. Nevertheless, the term "teaching principle" is not commonly featured in current foreign language teaching methodologies. This may be attributed to a shift away from the idea that the teacher plays a dominant role in the educational process, a perspective rejected by contemporary educators. Foreign language acquisition is a dynamic process, especially when it comes to teaching English to 9th and 10th graders in secondary schools. Traditional teaching methods often fall short in catering to the diverse needs and learning styles of students. This article explores the benefits and strategies of implementing individualized education in foreign language classrooms, focusing specifically on English instruction in the crucial 9-10th grade years.

Foreign language education plays a significant role in developing students' communicative competence and enhancing their cognitive skills. As schools strive to meet the diverse needs of their students, the methodology of teaching foreign languages has evolved to incorporate individualized education [1]. This tailored approach recognizes that students have different learning styles, strengths, and weaknesses, and aims to address these unique characteristics in language instruction.

In the context of 9th and 10th-grade English classes in secondary schools, individualized education allows teachers to customize their teaching methods to cater to the needs of each student. This personalized approach fosters a student-centered classroom environment where learners actively engage in their language learning journey.

One aspect of individualized education in foreign language teaching is the use of differentiated instruction. This approach provides various learning pathways for students to acquire language skills

depending on their proficiency level and learning preferences. Teachers may offer different activities, materials, and strategies to accommodate different learners' needs[2]. For instance, auditory learners may benefit from listening exercises, while visual learners may excel through the use of visual aids or videos. This method ensures that every student has the opportunity to grasp language concepts and develop their language skills at their own pace.

Another essential component of individualized education in foreign language teaching is the use of formative assessments. Unlike traditional summative assessments that mainly focus on evaluating students' final performance, formative assessments provide ongoing feedback to help students identify their strengths and areas for improvement. Through regular checks on students' progress, teachers can tailor their instruction to target specific learning gaps and provide personalized support.

Utilizing technology is also a valuable tool in individualized language instruction. Integrated computer programs and online resources enable students to engage with language content through interactive exercises and multimedia materials, promoting autonomous learning. Technology-assisted language learning platforms provide personalized learning paths, adaptive feedback, and additional practice opportunities to cater to individual students' abilities and interests. This approach allows learners to take ownership of their learning, develop self-regulation skills, and enhance their motivation to learn the language[3].

In addition to differentiated instruction, formative assessments, and technology integration, individualized education in foreign language teaching also recognizes the importance of promoting cultural awareness and intercultural competence. Teachers can incorporate authentic materials, such as literature, films, and current events, to expose students to real-world language use and cultural contexts. By exploring different cultures, customs, and perspectives, students develop a global mindset, fostering respect for diversity and enhancing their cross-cultural communication skills.

Implementing the methodology of teaching foreign languages on the basis of individualized education in 9th and 10th-grade English classes offers numerous benefits. It allows teachers to harness the strengths and address the weaknesses of their students in language learning. By tailoring instruction to meet individual needs, students receive personalized attention and support, which in turn enhances their motivation and engagement. This approach also prepares students to navigate a globalized world where foreign language proficiency is a valuable asset.

The Importance of Individualized Education:

a) Catering to Diverse Learning Styles. Every student is unique, and their preferred learning styles can vary widely. Some students thrive in auditory environments, while others are more visual or kinesthetic learners. Individualized education allows teachers to tailor their approaches to accommodate these differences, creating a more inclusive and effective learning environment.

b) Fostering Personalized Engagement. The 9th and 10th grade years are pivotal for students as they navigate complex academic content. Providing individualized education empowers students to take ownership of their learning journey, promoting a sense of responsibility and self-motivation. When students feel a personal connection to the material, they are more likely to excel.

Strategies for Implementing Individualized Education:

- Flexible Lesson Plans. Teachers can design lesson plans that incorporate flexibility, allowing for adjustments based on students' progress and needs. This adaptability ensures that each student receives the necessary support and challenges to promote optimal language development.

- **Varied Assessment Methods.** Moving away from traditional, one-size-fits-all assessments, teachers can employ a range of evaluation methods. This may include project-based assessments, oral presentations, or collaborative activities, enabling students to showcase their language skills in ways that align with their strengths.

- **Technology Integration.** Leveraging technology in the classroom can enhance individualized learning experiences. Online resources, language learning apps, and interactive platforms provide students with additional tools to reinforce their language skills outside the classroom setting.

- **Small Group Instruction.** Breaking the class into smaller groups based on proficiency levels or learning needs allows teachers to provide targeted support. This approach encourages peer collaboration and fosters a supportive learning community.

Challenges and Considerations: Time Management, Resource Allocation.

Implementing individualized education requires careful time management. Teachers must strike a balance between addressing individual needs and ensuring the curriculum is covered within the academic year.

Providing a variety of resources to cater to individual learning styles may require additional planning and access to diverse materials. Schools should invest in appropriate resources and professional development to support teachers in implementing this approach effectively[4].

When it comes to teaching foreign languages, individualized education can be a highly effective approach, tailored specifically to the needs of each student. In the example of teaching 9th-10th grade English in secondary schools, the methodology could involve the following steps[5]:

Assessing students' language proficiency: Begin by assessing each student's current English language skills to identify their strengths and weaknesses. This could be done through tests, interviews, or assignments.

Setting personalized learning goals: Once students' language proficiency levels are determined, set individualized learning goals for each student. These goals should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART goals). Consider students' interests, abilities, and future aspirations when setting these goals.

Designing tailored lesson plans: Develop lesson plans based on the identified goals, leveraging various teaching resources and methods. Use a combination of interactive activities, multimedia content, and real-life examples to make the lessons engaging and relevant to the students.

Implementing differentiated instruction: Adapt the teaching methods and materials to cater to the different learning styles and needs of the students. Provide a variety of instructional approaches, such as visual, auditory, and kinesthetic, to ensure students can grasp the language concepts effectively.

Utilizing technology: Incorporate technology tools and resources into the learning process. This can include language learning apps, online language platforms, interactive websites, and educational software. These tools can enhance students' engagement, provide immediate feedback, and offer additional practice opportunities.

Providing individual support: Offer one-on-one support to students, addressing their individual challenges and providing extra guidance when needed. This can be achieved through regular check-ins, personal conferences, or tutoring sessions.

Encouraging self-reflection and self-assessment: Teach students to reflect on their language progress and encourage them to self-assess their own strengths and areas for improvement. This reflection process can help students take ownership of their learning and set goals for further improvement.

Assessing progress: Regularly assess students' progress through various methods such as quizzes, tests, projects, and presentations. Feedback should be provided to help students understand their areas of improvement and encourage them to continue advancing in their language skills.

Regular communication with parents/guardians: Maintain open communication with the parents/guardians, providing updates on their child's progress, goals, and areas for improvement. Seek their involvement and support in creating a conducive language-learning environment at home.

Continuous professional development: As an educator, stay updated on the latest teaching methodologies, language learning strategies, and technological advancements in language education. Attend workshops, conferences, and professional development programs to enhance your teaching skills and provide the best learning experience to your students.

By implementing individualized education techniques in teaching foreign languages, students can have a personalized learning experience that caters to their unique needs, enabling them to develop their English language proficiency more effectively.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the methodology of teaching foreign languages on the basis of individualized education is an effective approach to cater to the diverse needs of students. By utilizing differentiated instruction, formative assessments, technology integration, and promoting cultural awareness, teachers empower students to take an active role in their language learning journey. This tailored approach not only facilitates language acquisition but also fosters students' cognitive development, cross-cultural understanding, and prepares them for future success in a multilingual world. Adopting individualized education in 9-10th grade English classrooms is a step towards fostering a more inclusive and effective language learning environment. By acknowledging and addressing the diverse needs of students, educators can empower them to become confident and proficient English language learners, setting the stage for future academic and professional success.

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