



# PREFERENCE OF EMPLOYING THE ECLECTIC APPROACH IN TEACHING EFL

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## ABSTRACT

*The article describes the importance of the eclectic approach and its advantages, as teachers could customize their instruction to cater to individual student needs instead of using a uniform approach, that is especially useful in EFL settings where students have varying language proficiency and learning styles. The article deals with the approach eclecticism as a methodology for teaching foreign languages requires the teacher to have a broad knowledge of the language that is being taught. In the article, the author emphasizes that it is a flexible and effective teaching method that can improve language learning results for the EFL students.*

**KEY WORDS:** *English as a foreign language (EFL), eclectic approach, education, EFL learners, learning style, methodology, teaching.*

## INTRODUCTION

Since, the status of teaching a foreign language in our society has changed significantly. The rapid entry of Uzbekistan into the world community and economy, the economic and socio-cultural situation in the country required a huge demand for knowledge of foreign languages, developed a powerful motivational base for their study [2]. Currently, knowledge of foreign languages is no longer a luxury, but a necessity that there are plenty of opportunities for learning them, not to mention teaching methods.

The eclectic approach for teaching English as a foreign language (EFL) combines different language teaching techniques to create a flexible approach to language instruction. Rather than using a singular method, teachers who adopt this approach use a range of methods for a more comprehensive and effective teaching experience. While there is no conclusive study on the efficacy of the eclectic approach, there is evidence to suggest that it can be an effective method. A literature review published in the Journal of Language Teaching and Research shows that the eclectic approach can lead to higher student motivation, engagement, and better language learning outcomes. Other studies have also shown that students who were taught using this approach had higher levels of language proficiency and confidence in their ability to use English. The eclectic approach's flexibility is one of its advantages, as teachers can customize their instruction to cater to individual student needs instead of using a uniform approach, which is especially useful in EFL settings where students have varying language proficiency and learning styles. Although more research is necessary to fully understand the effectiveness of the eclectic approach in teaching EFL, it is apparent that it is a flexible and effective teaching method that can improve language learning outcomes for students.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Larsen-Freeman, and Mellow employed the term "eclectic approach" to language teaching process. It is stated that this is mixed process of structural, communicative approaches. When the topic belongs to structures, teacher has to follow structural approach. If the topic belongs to speaking activity, he has to follow communicative approach. If the teacher teaches grammar topic, he could follow inductive or deductive, depends on the age and background of the students. When he deals the topic phrases or idioms, he can use bilingual if students belong to rural background. For instance, it will be a reading topic he can use reading and audio lingual method. Therefore, it is combination of traditional modern approaches. It will offer better opportunities to learn language skills. It gives good result without pressure on learner.

Furthermore, as Al Hamash pointed out that eclectic method is employed as one of the main methods in especially foreign language learning inside the classroom. Not all students might respond to a dealing situation in the same way, in this case, teachers may try other techniques from other approaches. Eclecticism is defined as a type of methodology that makes use of the different language learning approaches instead of sticking to one standard approach [1, p. 22].

The eclectic approach in teaching English has been a topic of discussion in language teaching and learning research. This literature review aims to examine the advantages and disadvantages of using the eclectic method in teaching English.

Advantages: One of the advantages of the eclectic approach is that it allows teachers to draw on a range of teaching methods and techniques. This enables them to tailor their instruction to meet the specific needs of individual students. A study by Dincer and Yesilyurt found that the eclectic approach positively affected learners' language achievement and attitudes towards language learning.



Additionally, the eclectic approach can enhance student engagement and motivation. This is because it offers a variety of teaching methods that can make language learning more enjoyable and less monotonous for students. The eclectic approach has also been found to lead to better language learning outcomes [12]. A study by Zhang and Goh [11] showed that students who were taught using the eclectic approach demonstrated higher levels of language proficiency and greater confidence in their ability to use English than those who were taught using a traditional, grammar-based approach. Finally, the eclectic approach can promote cross-cultural communication and understanding by highlighting the cultural context in which the language is used.

**Disadvantages:** One of the main criticisms of the eclectic approach is that it can lack coherence and consistency. Teachers who use this approach may struggle to create a clear and structured course plan. Additionally, it can be challenging to balance the different teaching methods and techniques used in the eclectic approach [12]. Another disadvantage is that the eclectic approach may not suit all students. Some students may prefer a more structured, grammar-based approach to language learning [11]. Finally, the eclectic approach may require more time and effort on the part of the teacher, as they must select and adapt teaching methods to meet the needs of their students [12].

Overall, the eclectic approach in teaching English has several advantages, including flexibility, improved student engagement and motivation, and better language learning outcomes. However, it is important to consider the potential disadvantages, such as lack of coherence and suitability for all students, before implementing the eclectic approach in language teaching.

## METHODOLOGY

In the methodology, just like many years ago, the issue of finding and choosing the most effective and rational methods of teaching foreign languages that meet modern learning conditions and meet the requirements of modern education standards is still relevant and remained unsolved. Knowledge of the history of foreign language teaching methods will help the novice teacher to navigate freely in the choice of teaching methods and techniques, rationally combine them in their work, consciously and creatively apply various teaching methods. The communicative system-activity approach in its modern form is a synthesis of proven methods and techniques for creating the general foundations for teaching a foreign language [3, p. 33-34].

When we analyze other methodologists' opinions, we can see that an eclectic choice of teaching methods means a wise, intelligent choice of teaching and learning methods. They could justify the actions of teachers, since teachers are familiar where and when to apply this or that teaching method in such a way as to allow students for an active participation in the educational process, making various stages of methodological techniques available to them. They believe that there is a circulating methodology that is composed of or supplemented by different approaches. This method is characterized mainly by polyvalence, that is, flexibility and adaptability. Eclecticism as a methodology for teaching foreign languages requires the teacher to have a broad knowledge of the language he teaches,

various teaching methods that he decides to apply to teach students. The more competent a teacher is in various teaching methods, the less the teacher needs a particular method, and he feels able to apply any technique in any situation. Therefore, eclecticism will encourage teachers to improve their education and teaching skills.

However, language teachers might disagree about methodological evolution: some consider it a recurring phenomenon, while others see it as a spiral movement. Whatever the opinions, there is no doubt that didactics is constantly changing, sometimes slowly, but often radically towards modernization and efficiency. Indeed, the goal of didactics is to teach better, faster and therefore more efficiently.

## DISCUSSION

Moreover, external factors (social, political, economic) play a role in changes in teaching methods that is currently happening. The current eclecticism has the advantage of a flexible methodology capable of adapting to the various provisions of education-training, to which teachers must also adapt. However, in order to avoid inconsistency in teaching methods, adherents of eclecticism still need to choose the best option for an effective methodology. It should be taken into consideration that when choosing a teaching method, the teacher needs to take into account not only his own preferences, however, he should focus on the age, abilities, interests and psychological characteristics of students [4]. Focusing on them, the teacher will be able to choose the most appropriate and effective method.

Advantages of employing this method in the teaching process in the following: 1. Learners become attentive and answer 2. It can offer multiple opportunities to students to develop their own skills 3. It can improve active participation 4. It could make learning lively 5. It can break monotony 6. It could promote control over the class and students have interest in class and it allows class discussion [2, 5]. These findings confirm Krashen's input hypothesis which assures that the best methods of second language teaching and learning supplied by comprehensive input and not forcing production. However, there are some drawbacks: 1. Practical eclecticism may not meet the criterion of efficiency. Theoretical eclecticism is suspicious on logical theoretical grounds. 2. It is time consuming. It might not be helpful to particular regional medium of language 3. It might not be helpful to slow learners 4. If the teacher does not have command over all methods and approaches, students might confuse and be unmotivated [3, 6].

Furthermore, there is a risk of over-reliance on certain teaching methods or techniques, which may lead to neglect of other important areas of language learning. For example, if a teacher places too much emphasis on conversation-based teaching, students may not receive adequate instruction in grammar or writing.

Therefore, the eclectic approach in teaching English as a foreign language has both advantages and disadvantages. Its flexibility and potential for improved language learning outcomes make it an attractive option for teachers, but its implementation can be challenging, and there is a risk of neglecting important areas of language learning. Therefore, it is important for teachers to carefully consider the advantages and



disadvantages of the eclectic approach before using it in their instruction.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, we can conclude that when the teacher is passionate, be motivator and encourage students take part in different language activities without hesitation like group whereas few students participate in language activities if teacher is confine to one approach. And also, learners can enhance communication skills by practicing and participating in foreign language activities. Also, it is obvious that teacher plays an active role in improving language skills. We assume that eclectic approach could be useful for making the class more interesting, without monotony and as well as student's communication skills and objectives of language will be leveled up to some extent. The eclectic approach in teaching English offers several advantages. Firstly, it provides teachers with a range of methods to choose from, allowing them to tailor their instruction to meet the specific needs of individual students. This is particularly important in EFL contexts where students have varying proficiency levels and learning styles. Secondly, the eclectic approach promotes student engagement and motivation. By incorporating a variety of teaching methods, students are more likely to stay interested and engaged in the learning process.

This approach can also make language learning more enjoyable and less monotonous for students. Thirdly, the eclectic approach can lead to better language learning outcomes. Research suggests that students who are taught using the eclectic approach show higher levels of language proficiency and greater confidence in their ability to use English than students who are taught using a more traditional, grammar-based approach. Another advantage of the eclectic approach is its flexibility. Teachers can draw on different methods and techniques to create a personalized and adaptable teaching experience. This allows teachers to adjust their instruction as needed and respond to the changing needs of their students. Finally, the eclectic approach can promote cross-cultural communication and understanding. By incorporating different teaching methods that highlight cultural aspects of language, students can gain a deeper understanding of the cultural context in which the language is used. This can be particularly useful for students who plan to use English in a global context or for those who are learning English for specific purposes, such as business or academic communication.

Overall, the eclectic approach in teaching English offers many advantages, including flexibility, improved student engagement and motivation, and better language learning outcomes.

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