CHALLENGES FACED BY STUDENTS IN LEARNING ENGLISH GRAMMAR

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Annotation. *Learning English grammar remains one of the most demanding components of English language acquisition. Despite years of study, many learners continue to struggle with grammatical accuracy and fluency. This article examines the key challenges students face in learning English grammar, including linguistic interference, teaching methodologies, lack of exposure, and psychological barriers. It also suggests pedagogical strategies to enhance grammar learning in both traditional and modern classroom settings.*

Key words: *English grammar, language learning challenges, grammatical interference, teaching methods, learner motivation, communicative approach, EFL students.*

INTRODUCTION

Grammar is the foundation of any language, forming the structural framework through which meaning is conveyed. In English language learning, grammar plays a vital role in enabling learners to produce coherent, accurate, and contextually appropriate sentences. However, for many non-native learners, mastering English grammar is a long and complex process.

Students in various regions especially those where English is taught as foreign language encounter consistent difficulties despite years of formal instruction. These challenges stem from several factors such as first language interference, insufficient practice, outdated teaching methods, and the inherent irregularities of English grammar itself. Understanding these obstacles is crucial for improving grammar instruction and facilitating effective learning outcomes.

Major Challenges in Learning English Grammar

1. Interference from the Mother Tongue. One of the most prominent issues students face is the influence of their native language. When learners apply grammatical rules from their first language to English, errors occur in sentence structure, verb tense, and article usage. For instance, learners whose native language lacks articles or strict tense systems find it difficult to apply them correctly in English. Such interference affects accuracy and hinders fluency development.

2. Complexity and Irregularity of English Grammar. English grammar is filled with irregularities and exceptions that confuse learners. The inconsistent patterns in verb conjugations, plural forms, and prepositional use make it hard for students to

internalize the rules. Moreover, the gap between English spelling and pronunciation creates additional confusion, especially when learners attempt to apply rules mechanically without contextual understanding.

3. Ineffective Teaching Methods. Traditional grammar teaching often focuses on rote memorization and rule recitation rather than practical application. As a result, students may know the rules theoretically but fail to use them effectively in speaking and writing. Teachers who rely heavily on grammar-translation or lecture-based approaches limit learners' ability to think critically and apply grammatical structures in real communication.

4. Limited Exposure and Practice. Grammar cannot be fully mastered without consistent exposure and practice. Students who only engage with English in the classroom rarely develop intuitive understanding. A lack of authentic materials such as books, movies, or interaction with proficient speakers prevents learners from seeing how grammar functions naturally in real-life contexts.

5. Psychological Barriers. Emotional and psychological factors also play an important role. Many learners experience anxiety, low confidence, or fear of making mistakes when using grammar in communication. When grammar is presented as something rigid or intimidating, students may lose motivation and interest, perceiving it as a repetitive or difficult subject rather than a practical tool for expression.

Effective Strategies for Overcoming Grammar Learning Difficulties

1. Contextualized and Communicative Learning. Grammar instruction should be integrated into meaningful communication. Teachers can design interactive activities such as role-plays, debates, and storytelling, allowing students to apply grammar in natural contexts. This helps transform abstract rules into practical skills.

2. Learner-Centered and Interactive Teaching. Modern pedagogy emphasizes learner autonomy and interaction. Encouraging students to discover rules through guided examples and peer collaboration increases engagement. Using group work, online exercises, and gamified activities promotes motivation and long-term retention.

3. Integration of Technology. Digital resources, including grammar learning applications, online quizzes, and video-based lessons, can enhance both motivation and comprehension. Technology allows personalized learning where students can progress at their own pace, receive instant feedback, and access authentic English content beyond the classroom.

4. Constructive Feedback and Error Correction. Feedback should be supportive rather than punitive. Teachers can encourage self-correction by highlighting patterns

of error and explaining the underlying grammatical concepts. Positive reinforcement helps students develop confidence and awareness of their learning process.

5. Reading and Writing for Reinforcement. Extensive reading and regular writing practice allow students to see grammatical patterns in context. By analyzing sentence structures in books, articles, and essays, learners can subconsciously acquire correct grammar usage and improve both accuracy and fluency.

CONCLUSION

Mastering English grammar is a challenging yet essential aspect of language learning. Difficulties often arise from linguistic differences, irregular grammatical systems, traditional teaching methods, and emotional barriers. However, with communicative, contextual, and technology-based teaching approaches, grammar learning can become engaging and effective. Teachers should focus on creating a supportive environment where students can experiment, make mistakes, and learn grammar as a natural part of communication rather than as a mechanical set of rules.

Ultimately, the key to overcoming grammar challenges lies in balancing accuracy with fluency, theory with practice, and discipline with creativity—thus enabling learners to use English confidently and correctly in real-world situations.

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