KAPITEL 5 / *CHAPTER 5* [5]
PRONUNCIATION AS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ELT: MODERN TRENDS

Introduction.

In the realm of second language acquisition, it is a well-known fact that pronunciation is a crucial component of communicative competence. Being able to produce and understand sounds, intonation, stress, and rhythm patterns of a language can be just as important as understanding its grammar and vocabulary. It is therefore **vital** to teach pronunciation to adult students who are learning English as a second language.

Many foreign (Brown, 1994; Cook, 2001; Fraser, 2001; Jenkins, 2000; Kelly, 2000; Crystal, 1997, Yang, 2004; Roach, 1983) and Ukrainian scholars (Kalyta, 2018; Taranenko, 2017; Kalyta, Taranenko, 2010; Sokyrska, 2020) study this important issue in their works. One of the main reasons why teaching pronunciation is essential for adult learners is that it improves their ability to communicate effectively. Even if a student knows a lot of words and can construct complex sentences, if their pronunciation is poor, they may struggle to make themselves understood, especially in those cases when pronunciation change the meaning of a word. Mispronounced words can lead to misunderstandings, and this can cause frustration and embarrassment. Moreover, when communicating with native speakers, an adult student with good pronunciation will be more easily understood and respected. Thus, teaching English pronunciation is relevant in ESP.

Another reason why teaching pronunciation is important is that it helps adult learners to become more confident in using the language. Pronunciation errors can make students feel self-conscious and hesitant to speak. However, when they are taught the correct pronunciation of words, they will feel more confident to speak and interact with others. This can lead to increased participation in class and a greater willingness to take risks in using the language.

Teaching pronunciation can also help adult learners to develop better listening skills. When students are taught to recognize and produce the sounds of a language,

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they become more attuned to the sounds of that language. This can lead to greater understanding of what is being said and help to reduce listening fatigue. In addition, by teaching students to distinguish between different sounds in a language, they become better able to identify words when they hear them, even if they are spoken quickly or in a different accent.

Another benefit of teaching pronunciation to adult learners is that it can help to improve their overall language proficiency. When students are able to produce the correct sounds, stress patterns, and intonation of a language, they are better able to use that language in a natural way. This can lead to increased fluency and greater accuracy in grammar and vocabulary. Moreover, by focusing on pronunciation, students will become more aware of the differences between their native language and the language they are learning, and this can help them to avoid making mistakes that are specific to their native language.

It is worth mentioning that one of the problems teachers face while teaching English is that pronunciation is not always included in the curriculum so teachers need to find ways to integrate it. Herrero (2014, p.21) suggests that if pronunciation is not included in the curriculum, there are still ways to incorporate it into your teaching. The first thing a teacher should do is to *identify areas of difficulty*. Observe your students' speech patterns and identify areas of difficulty, such as specific sounds or suprasegmental features like intonation or stress. This will help you target your instruction more effectively.

If teaching pronunciation is not included in the curriculum, a teacher should *integrate pronunciation practice into existing lessons and activities*. For example, have students practice reading aloud, work on pronunciation during group discussions, or incorporate pronunciation exercises into writing assignments.

Another useful thing is to *use resources*. There are many online resources available to help you teach pronunciation, such as pronunciation guides, videos, and activities. Incorporate these resources into your lessons to provide additional support to your students. *Providing students with a feedback* is also an important stage. Give your students feedback on their pronunciation and encourage them to keep practicing. You could also provide additional practice activities or refer them to outside resources.

The aspect which must be taken into consideration is the choice of the right book and other teaching materials. Thoroughly planned lesson and appropriate materials can be determinative in pronunciation teaching when a teacher has stick to the curriculum. Remember that pronunciation is an important aspect of language learning, so don't be

afraid to take the initiative and incorporate it into your teaching, even if it's not part of the curriculum.

5.1 Modern trends in English pronunciation teaching

Teaching English pronunciation has evolved considerably over the years, with the emergence of new technologies and pedagogical approaches (Couper, 2006; Field, 2005; Kolisnyk, Kornytska, Ogurtsova, Sokyrska. 2022). In recent years, the focus of English language teaching has shifted towards a more communicative and interactive approach, with an emphasis on the development of oral communication skills. This has had a significant impact on the teaching of pronunciation, with modern trends reflecting the need for a more dynamic and engaging approach to pronunciation teaching.

One of the most prominent trends in teaching English pronunciation is *the use of technology*. Advances in technology have revolutionized the way English is taught, and the teaching of pronunciation is no exception. With the use of speech recognition software, students can practice their pronunciation and receive instant feedback on their accuracy. Tools such as online dictionaries with audio pronunciations and mobile apps that offer pronunciation drills are widely available and accessible. These technologies can provide students with a more individualized learning experience, as they can practice at their own pace and receive feedback tailored to their individual needs.

Another trend in teaching English pronunciation is a greater *emphasis on communicative activities*. Rather than simply focusing on the repetition of sounds and words, teachers are now using communicative activities to create a more meaningful and interactive learning experience. For example, role-playing, debates, and discussions can be used to encourage students to speak and listen to each other, and to provide feedback on each other's pronunciation. Pronunciation can also be incorporated into project-based learning activities, where students work in groups to create presentations, podcasts or videos on a particular topic, using correct pronunciation and intonation.

A third trend is *a focus on individual needs*. Teachers are now more aware of the fact that each student has unique pronunciation needs, and they are tailoring their teaching approach accordingly. By identifying the specific areas of difficulty for each student, teachers can create customized exercises and activities to help them improve

their pronunciation. For example, some students may have difficulty with specific sounds or stress patterns, while others may struggle with intonation or rhythm. A more personalized approach can help students to focus on their individual needs and make progress at their own pace.

A fourth trend is *a greater emphasis on multilingualism*. With the increasing diversity of classrooms, teaching pronunciation has become more multilingual. Teachers are now encouraging students to embrace their multilingualism, and to use their knowledge of different languages to improve their English pronunciation. For example, a teacher may ask a student to pronounce an English word using the sounds of their native language, or to compare and contrast the pronunciation of a particular sound in English and their native language. This approach can help students to understand the differences between their native language and English pronunciation and to develop greater awareness of the subtleties of pronunciation.

A fifth trend is *the use of gamification*. Gamification refers to the use of game elements and mechanics in non-game contexts, such as education. By incorporating elements of competition, challenge, and reward, teachers can create a more engaging and motivating learning experience for students. Gamification can be used in the teaching of pronunciation through activities such as pronunciation quizzes, tongue twisters, and pronunciation games. These activities can help students to improve their pronunciation skills while having fun and being motivated to learn.

The abovementioned allows us to make a conclusion that the teaching of English pronunciation has undergone significant changes in recent years, reflecting the need for a more dynamic, interactive, and engaging approach. The trends in pronunciation teaching reflect a move towards a more personalized and communicative approach, with an emphasis on technology, individual needs, multilingualism, and gamification. These trends reflect the evolution of English language teaching and the recognition of the importance of pronunciation in developing oral communication skills. Teachers who embrace these trends are likely to create a more effective and engaging learning experience for their students, leading to greater proficiency in English pronunciation and oral communication.

5.2. Common pronunciation problems for English language learner

Ukrainian students who learn the English language often face a number of

pronunciation challenges, as English has many sounds that do not exist in their native language, as well as a complex system of stress and intonation which is different from Ukrainian. It is worth studying some of the most common pronunciation problems for English language learners.

Consonant sounds. English has several consonant sounds that are not present in Ukrainian language, such as /ð/, /w/, /r/, /ŋ/, /θ/ which can be difficult for learners to produce correctly. In English there are some consonants that can create confusion and affect intelligibility. Walker (2010, p.130) points out some of them, for example the confusion between /s/, /z/, /ʃ/ and /ʒ/, another example occurs with the sounds /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /ʒ/ and /j/. /θ/ is absent in some varieties of Spanish, it happens for example with the word "thin" / θɪn/. Sometimes it is replaced for /f/ or /s/.

Vowel sounds. English has a complex system of vowel sounds, including diphthongs (two vowel sounds that combine to form one sound), which can be difficult for learners to differentiate and produce accurately. The following sounds can cause difficulties: -/ei/-/ɛ/ ("ages" /eɪdʒs/ and "edges" /ɛdʒs/), /ʌ/ ("must" /mʌst/ or "but" /bʌt/), -/ɪ/-/i/ ("bit" /bɪt/ and "beat" /bit/), /u/-/ʊ/ ("boot" /but/ and "book "/bʊk/), etc.

Word stress. English has a system of word stress, where certain syllables in words are emphasized more than others. This can be difficult for learners to master, as the rules for word stress in English are not always predictable (Hahn, 2004).

Sentence stress: There is a difference between English and Ukrainian speech with regard to sentence stress, and because of this many meanings which are conveyed in English through sentence stress are conveyed in Ukrainian through particular words.

An important aspect is **intonation**. Walker (2010, p. 36-37) points out that there are three areas that need attention.

Pitch range. Spanish speakers use a too narrow pitch range, they keep a very restricted pitch movement over a phrase or clause.

Final falling pitch movement. It may not sound low enough. This is because Spanish speakers rarely use a slight rise before the final falling pitch, which makes the final pitch movement sound too flat.

The rise-fall seems difficult: This is because the pitch-reversal by itself is hard for learners to do, especially on short phrases or one syllable or because of shyness or self-consciousness.

Connected speech. In English, words often run together in connected speech, with sounds blending together and certain sounds being omitted. This can be difficult for learners to understand and produce accurately

Regional accents: English is spoken with many different accents around the world, which can make it difficult for learners to understand and communicate with speakers from different regions.

By identifying these common pronunciation problems, teachers and learners can focus on specific areas of pronunciation that need improvement and develop targeted strategies for addressing these challenges. With regular practice and targeted instruction, learners can improve their English pronunciation skills and become more effective communicators in English.

5.3. Reasons behind common pronunciation problems for English language learners

There are several reasons why English language learners commonly struggle with pronunciation. Here are some of the most common factors:

Native language interference. Learners' native languages often have different sound systems and pronunciation rules than English. This can make it difficult for learners to produce English sounds accurately, as they may rely on pronunciation patterns from their native language.

Lack of exposure. The amount of exposure deals with the quantity of English that learners receive. Learners who do not have regular exposure to English in real-world settings may struggle to develop their pronunciation skills. This is particularly true for learners who live in areas where English is not commonly spoken (Jennifer, Amy, Holtby, Tracey, 2011).

Limited practice. Pronunciation is a skill that requires regular practice in order to improve. Learners who do not have opportunities to practice their pronunciation skills may struggle to make progress.

The age factor. Numerous research studies indicate that learning a second language as a child can help one develop a native-like accent, whereas it can be challenging for an adult to achieve the same level of pronunciation. The majority of these studies suggest that younger individuals are more adept at perceiving the sounds of new languages and developing good pronunciation, but it is crucial to maintain exposure to the language during adulthood to avoid deterioration. Nevertheless, some studies present conflicting findings, and there are several potential interpretations and outcomes, indicating that the relationship between age and the ability to pronounce a

new language is not straightforward (Herrero, 2010, p.26).

Phonetic ability. Individuals vary in their ability to learn foreign languages, which is determined by a combination of their aptitude for oral mimicry and phonetic coding ability, also known as auditory ability. Numerous studies indicate that certain people possess superior skills in discriminating between sounds and replicating them accurately, while others may struggle in this regard. However, all human beings have an innate ability to acquire language to some extent, indicating that everyone possesses a degree of phonetic ability.

Attitude and identity. The acquisition of precise pronunciation in a foreign language is significantly influenced by factors such as identity and group affiliation. Studies suggest that individuals tend to imitate the speech patterns of those with whom they feel positively connected and share a sense of camaraderie. Thus, when people adopt the pronunciation of their language partner, it often reflects a friendly and positive attitude towards that individual.

Motivation and concern for good pronunciation. As is widely recognized, language learners display varying levels of anxiety regarding their pronunciation, with some being particularly self-conscious about their ability to articulate words correctly. These learners may interrupt their speech to seek feedback on their pronunciation accuracy. Conversely, others have a strong inclination to excel in their language skills, which serves as a form of motivation.

Lack of feedback. Learners may not receive regular feedback on their pronunciation, which can make it difficult for them to identify areas for improvement and make progress.

Fear of making mistakes. Learners may be hesitant to practice their pronunciation skills out of fear of making mistakes or being judged by others. This can prevent them from getting the practice they need to improve.

Complex sound system. English has a complex sound system, with many vowel and consonant sounds that are not present in other languages. This can make it difficult for learners to differentiate between sounds and produce them accurately.

By understanding these factors, teachers and learners can develop strategies to address common pronunciation problems and help learners make progress in their pronunciation skills. Regular practice, feedback, and exposure to English in real-world settings can all help learners improve their ability to communicate effectively in English.

5.4. Pronunciation levels and features

Teaching pronunciation requires careful attention to the different levels and features of pronunciation as it is a critical aspect of language learning. Let's systematize some of the pronunciation levels and features that are important to teach.

Phonemes are the smallest units of sound in a language, and English has 44 phonemes. It is essential to teach students the phonemes of English, as this helps them distinguish between different sounds and improve their overall pronunciation. Teachers can use various techniques, such as phonemic charts and minimal pairs, to help students practice and differentiate between sounds that may be difficult for them.

Stress and intonation are crucial features of English pronunciation. Stress refers to the emphasis placed on certain syllables or words in a sentence, while intonation refers to the rise and fall of the voice during speech. These features are essential for conveying meaning in English and can have a significant impact on how a speaker is perceived. Teachers can help students understand and practice stress and intonation through various activities such as drilling, sentence stress exercises, and intonation practice.

English has many words that contain consonant clusters, which are groups of two or more consonant sounds that appear together in a word. Teaching students how to pronounce these clusters correctly is essential to improving their English pronunciation. Teachers can use various techniques, such as modeling and repetition, to help students practice and produce these sounds accurately.

English has many vowel sounds, and some of them can be difficult for non-native speakers to produce accurately. Teaching students the different vowel sounds in English and how to produce them correctly is an essential part of teaching English pronunciation. Teachers can use various techniques, such as vowel charts and minimal pairs, to help students practice and differentiate between these sounds.

Word stress is the emphasis that is placed on a particular syllable in a word. It is essential to teach students how to identify and use word stress correctly, as it can help them to distinguish between different words that may have the same spelling but different meanings. Teachers can use various techniques, such as word stress drills and sentence stress exercises, to help students practice and produce correct word stress.

In English, words are often pronounced differently when they are spoken in a sentence than when they are spoken in isolation. Connected speech refers to the way that words are connected together in a sentence, and it can have a significant impact on

how natural a speaker sounds. Teaching students how to use connected speech is essential to improving their overall English pronunciation. Teachers can use various techniques, such as connected speech drills and listening exercises, to help students practice and produce connected speech accurately.

Finally, it is important to teach students about pronunciation variation in English. English is spoken in many different countries and regions, and there can be significant differences in pronunciation between them. Teaching students about these differences and how to adapt their pronunciation accordingly can help them to communicate more effectively with speakers from different parts of the English-speaking world. Teachers can use various techniques, such as listening to different accents and practicing different pronunciation variations, to help students improve their overall pronunciation flexibility.

The analysis of existing knowledge allows us to conclude that teaching English pronunciation requires attention to many different levels and features, including phonemes, stress and intonation, consonant clusters, vowels, word stress, connected speech, and pronunciation variation. By focusing on these areas, teachers can help students to improve their overall pronunciation and communicate more effectively in English. With consistent practice and targeted instruction, students can develop confidence in their pronunciation skills and become more effective communicators in English.

5.5. Advantages and disadvantages of teaching pronunciation online and in-person

Teaching ESL pronunciation is considered to be one of the most difficult aspects. The phonetics learning process involves three main stages, which are demonstrating to learners how to produce a sound, practicing the sounds through drilling, and providing ongoing feedback. Additionally, asynchronous learning approaches can be employed, such as utilizing online tools, instructional videos, and audio tracks to demonstrate specific sounds. Platforms like Zoom, Google Classroom, and Classtime can be used to evaluate students' pronunciation by allowing them to playback sounds or phrases, select the correct option from a list, and then repeat it themselves (Sokyrska, Buha, 2021). Also, there are many useful applications which facilitate teaching pronunciation providing clear explanation and demonstrating the right position of their tongue, lips

etc. that allows to pronounce certain sounds.

Certain English language learning platforms, such as My English Lab, offer exercises where students can listen to sentences that incorporate the grammar and vocabulary taught in the lesson, pronounce them, and then record their pronunciation. The teacher then evaluates the recording and provides feedback, which is accessible on the website and sent to the student's account. It is worth noting that the advent of online learning tools has enhanced the level of interaction between students and teaching staff.

As online lessons are becoming more and more popular nowadays, it is worth paying attention to advantages and disadvantages of teaching pronunciation online and offline.

Teaching pronunciation online has become increasingly popular in recent years, as advances in technology have made it possible to deliver high-quality pronunciation instruction through virtual platforms. Teaching English pronunciation online has its advantages.

One of the main pros is flexibility. Online instruction allows for greater flexibility in scheduling and location. Students can participate in online pronunciation lessons from anywhere with an internet connection, and can schedule sessions that fit their busy schedules.

Another important advantage is individualization. Online instruction also allows for greater individualization of instruction. Teachers can tailor their instruction to meet the specific needs of each student, providing personalized feedback on pronunciation accuracy and offering targeted instruction to address individual areas of difficulty.

Access to resources leads to wider possibilities for educators and learners. Online instruction provides students with access to a wealth of resources, including audio and video recordings, pronunciation guides, and interactive exercises. These resources can be easily shared and accessed, making it easier for students to practice and improve their pronunciation skills outside of the classroom.

Modern technologies make an immediate feedback possible. Online instruction often utilizes speech recognition software, which can provide students with immediate feedback on their pronunciation accuracy. This instant feedback can be a powerful tool for improving pronunciation, as it allows students to make adjustments and corrections in real-time.

Cost-effectiveness is worth mentioning also. Online instruction can also be more cost-effective than in-person instruction, as it eliminates the need for travel and reduces

the overhead costs associated with traditional classroom instruction.

Though, teaching pronunciation online can have such disadvantages as limited feedback when it's more difficult to provide learners with the same level of detailed feedback on their pronunciation as when working with them in person, technical difficulties such as poor internet connections or glitches in software (it can disrupt the learning process and make it more difficult to conduct effective pronunciation instruction), difficulty hearing and understanding (learners may have difficulty hearing and understanding the teacher's pronunciation due to poor sound quality or other technical issues) and limited interaction (online instruction can limit opportunities for interaction between the teacher and learners, which can make it more difficult to address individual learner needs and provide personalized feedback).

Overall, teaching pronunciation online offers numerous advantages, including greater flexibility, individualization, access to resources, immediate feedback, and cost-effectiveness. As technology continues to evolve and improve, online instruction is likely to become an increasingly popular and effective way to teach English pronunciation.

Though, teaching pronunciation offline also has its benefits. Teaching pronunciation offline, or in-person, has many advantages that cannot be replicated in online instruction. While online instruction has its own set of benefits, face-to-face interaction between teachers and students can be invaluable when it comes to improving pronunciation.

Personal interaction. In-person instruction allows for personal interaction between teachers and students. Teachers can observe their students' body language, facial expressions, and other nonverbal cues, which can provide valuable insight into how well students are understanding and retaining the material.

Really immediate feedback in contrast to online instruction. Offline instruction also allows for immediate feedback, as teachers can correct students' pronunciation errors in real-time. This can be especially important when it comes to correcting subtle pronunciation differences, which can be difficult to pick up on in recordings or through speech recognition software.

Authenticity. In-person instruction can also provide a more authentic learning experience, as students are exposed to the natural rhythms and intonations of spoken English. This can help students develop a more natural-sounding accent and better understand the nuances of English pronunciation.

Group interaction. In-person instruction also allows for group interaction, which

can be helpful for practicing pronunciation in a naturalistic context. Students can engage in role-playing activities, conversations, and other interactive exercises that allow them to practice their pronunciation skills in a supportive and collaborative environment.

Cultural immersion. Finally, in-person instruction can provide students with a cultural immersion experience that is difficult to replicate online. Students can learn not only the pronunciation of English words, but also the cultural context in which those words are used.

Combining online and offline learning tools while teaching phonetics can provide several benefits that can help improve learners' understanding and mastery of the subject. Here are some reasons why it is important to integrate both. Audio and visual input. Online tools can provide learners with access to multimedia resources such as videos, audio files, and interactive activities, which can enhance their understanding of phonetics concepts. Offline tools, such as textbooks and workbooks, can provide visual and written input to complement the online resources, creating a more well-rounded learning experience. Real-world examples. Offline tools can provide learners with real-world examples of how phonetics concepts are used in communication. Combining offline tools with online resources can help learners apply what they have learned in real-world situations, improving their understanding and mastery of the subject. Individualized practice. Online tools can provide learners with individualized practice opportunities, such as quizzes and self-assessment activities. Offline tools, such as group activities and peer feedback, can provide learners with opportunities for collaborative learning and support. Accessibility. Online tools can make phonetics resources accessible to learners with disabilities or those who live in remote areas. Combining online and offline tools can help bridge the digital divide and ensure that everyone has access to quality phonetics education. Flexibility. By combining online and offline tools, learners can have the flexibility to choose how, when, and where they want to learn. This allows learners to personalize their learning experience and can help improve their motivation and engagement.

Thus, while online instruction has its own set of benefits, teaching pronunciation offline can provide students with valuable personal interaction, immediate feedback, an authentic learning experience, group interaction, and a cultural immersion experience. Both online and offline instruction can be effective ways to teach English pronunciation, and the choice between the two will ultimately depend on the specific needs and preferences of the teacher and the students.

5.6. Best practices for teaching English pronunciation

The English language has many variations, and it is essential to have a good understanding of the pronunciation rules to communicate effectively. Pronunciation is one of the key components of spoken language, and it is crucial to teach learners how to speak English correctly. In our work some of the best practices for teaching English pronunciation were analyzed.

Focus on Sounds. The first step in teaching English pronunciation is to focus on the sounds of the language. English has 44 sounds or phonemes, and learners need to master these sounds to communicate effectively. Teachers can use various techniques such as articulation exercises, showing the correct mouth and tongue positions, diagrams or pictures, or playing recordings of native speakers.

It is also essential to teach learners how to distinguish between similar sounds, such as /b/ and /p/, or /v/ and /f/. One way to do this is by using minimal pairs, which are pairs of words that differ by only one sound, such as "bat" and "pat", or "van" and "fan".

Use Phonetics and IPA. Phonetics is the study of speech sounds, including their production and transcription. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is a system of symbols that represents the sounds of English. By using phonetics and the IPA, teachers can help learners understand the correct pronunciation of words and practice the sounds of English more effectively.

The IPA is particularly useful when it comes to teaching the pronunciation of words that are spelled differently than they are pronounced, such as "through," "plough," or "bough." It is also essential to teach learners how to use the IPA and provide them with opportunities to practice with it.

Teach Stress and Intonation. Stress and intonation are critical elements of English pronunciation that significantly affect meaning and communication.

As Kenworthy (1987, p.180) says, if learners do not use these English features or if they use different ways of linking words, it will be really difficult for English listeners to properly identify the phrases.

The use of stress. Stress refers to the emphasis placed on a particular syllable or word in a sentence. In English language, syllables can be perceived differently based on factors such as the volume and duration of the vowel. Learners need to be cognizant of the importance of stressing one syllable over another and avoiding placing stress on the incorrect syllable, as doing so may lead to difficulties in understanding the word by

the listener.

The use of intonation. Intonation refers to the rise and fall of pitch in a sentence, conveying emotions, attitudes, and emphasis. In English, listeners receive information from the pitch of the voice that the speaker produce s. Intonation is an important weapon for intelligibility, because it is used to transmit intentions.

The use of rhythm: English language has a distinctive rhythm that listeners expect to hear. Learners should bear in mind that English requires a pattern of alternating between stressed and unstressed syllables, with stressed syllables falling on a consistent beat.

By teaching learners how to use stress and intonation, teachers can help them communicate more effectively and accurately. Exercises such as sentence stress and rhythm exercises can be effective in teaching stress and intonation. To help learners grasp the concept of intonation, teachers can also use rising and falling intonation patterns in questions and statements, or use contrastive stress to highlight different meanings.

Provide Opportunities for Practice. Practice is a vital aspect of English pronunciation teaching. Learners need to practice their pronunciation consistently to improve their accuracy and fluency. Teachers can provide opportunities for practice by having learners read aloud, repeat after the teacher, practice dialogues with a partner, or practice listening and repeating phrases from recordings. It's also essential to provide homework assignments that focus on pronunciation practice.

To make pronunciation practice more engaging, teachers can also use games, role plays, and other interactive activities that encourage learners to speak in English and practice their pronunciation in context.

Use Authentic Materials. Authentic materials, such as songs, videos, and podcasts, can be a valuable tool in English pronunciation teaching. Learners can listen to authentic English speakers and practice mimicking their pronunciation. Teachers can use these materials to provide listening comprehension exercises that also focus on pronunciation. Learners can transcribe dialogues or repeat phrases from songs, for instance.

Using authentic materials also exposes learners to different accents and dialects, which can help them develop a more nuanced understanding of English pronunciation and improve their listening skills.

Provide Feedback. Providing feedback is essential in English pronunciation teaching. Teachers need to provide students with specific feedback on their

pronunciation and offer suggestions for improvement. Feedback can include pointing out specific sounds that need improvement, demonstrating the correct mouth and tongue positions, or providing examples of how to use stress and intonation correctly. It's essential to provide feedback regularly and consistently.

Encourage self-reflection. Encouraging self-reflection is an effective way to help students improve their pronunciation. Teachers can provide opportunities for students to record themselves speaking and listen to their own pronunciation. Students can compare their recordings to native speakers and identify areas that need improvement. Teachers can also encourage students to reflect on their progress over time and set goals for improvement.

Make it fun. English pronunciation teaching can be a fun and engaging process. Teachers can use various games, tongue twisters, and other fun activities to make pronunciation practice more enjoyable. This approach can help students stay motivated and engaged in their pronunciation practice.

Cater to different learning styles. Students learn differently, so it's essential to cater to different learning styles when teaching English pronunciation. Some students may be visual learners and benefit from diagrams and pictures, while others may learn best by listening and repeating after the teacher.

Effective classroom management is key to keeping students engaged and active throughout the lesson. Pair and group work can foster interaction and enhance students' interest in the activities. Using gestures, voice, and eye contact can help to establish a welcoming atmosphere throughout the lesson. Utilizing visual aids, such as pictures in the introductory activity, can capture students' attention right from the start. The teacher plays different roles during each stage of the lesson to assist students in successfully completing the tasks. During the practice stage, students receive necessary support, while during the production stage, monitoring can help identify and address any difficulties with the activity. Grouping weaker students with stronger ones can help the former complete tasks more effectively. Given the potentially large class sizes, splitting students into groups is extremely beneficial for improving monitoring and providing assistance (Sokyrska, Buha, 2021).

My English Lab platform offers homework activities to enhance speaking and pronunciation skills. These tasks are evaluated by the teacher, and the feedback provided to students helps them identify their mistakes and areas that need improvement. One of the activities includes listening to sentences with relevant vocabulary and grammar, followed by mimicking the sentence. The students' speech is

recorded and sent to the teacher for evaluation and feedback.

5.7. Types of exercises to master English pronunciation

Teaching English pronunciation is a crucial aspect of language learning, and there are several exercises that teachers can use to help their students improve their English pronunciation skills. In this text, we will explore some of the best exercises that teachers can use to teach English pronunciation.

Minimal pairs. A minimal pair is a pair of words that differ by only one sound, such as "cat" and "bat" or "ship" and "sheep." This exercise is effective for teaching students to differentiate between similar sounds in English. Teachers can provide students with a list of minimal pairs and ask them to practice saying each word pair correctly. This exercise can be done in pairs, where one student says a word, and the other student must repeat the word using the correct pronunciation.

Tongue twisters. Tongue twisters are phrases that are difficult to say because they contain many similar sounds or difficult combinations of sounds. This exercise is an enjoyable way to practice pronunciation, and it can help students improve their ability to produce certain sounds accurately. Teachers can provide students with a list of tongue twisters and ask them to practice saying each one several times. This exercise can also be done in pairs, where one student says a tongue twister, and the other student must repeat it using the correct pronunciation.

Stress and Intonation Exercises. Stress and intonation are essential aspects of English pronunciation, and exercises that focus on these features can be very effective. Teachers can provide students with a list of sentences and ask them to practice saying each sentence with different stress and intonation patterns. This exercise can help students develop a better understanding of how stress and intonation can change the meaning of a sentence. For example, the sentence "I didn't say he stole the money" can have different meanings depending on the stress and intonation patterns used.

Connected Speech exercises. Connected speech is the way that words are pronounced together in a sentence, and exercises that focus on connected speech can help students improve their overall fluency and naturalness in English. Teachers can provide students with a list of sentences and ask them to practice saying each sentence with natural connected speech patterns. This exercise can also be done in pairs, where one student says a sentence, and the other student must repeat it using the correct

connected speech patterns.

Vowel and Consonant Drill. Vowels and consonants are crucial aspects of English pronunciation, and drills that focus on these sounds can be very effective. Teachers can provide students with a list of words that contain difficult vowels or consonant clusters and ask them to practice saying each word several times. This exercise can also be done in pairs, where one student says a word, and the other student must repeat it using the correct vowel or consonant sounds.

Pronunciation Videos and Audio Materials. There are many excellent online resources that provide videos and audio materials to help students improve their English pronunciation. Teachers can use these resources to supplement their own lessons and provide students with additional practice opportunities. This exercise can be done in the classroom or as homework, where students watch or listen to the pronunciation videos or audio materials and practice repeating the words and phrases.

Role-playing Exercises. Role-playing exercises can be an effective way to help students practice their English pronunciation in a real-world context. Teachers can provide students with scenarios and ask them to role-play different situations, such as ordering food in a restaurant or making a phone call. This exercise can be done in pairs, where one student plays the role of the customer, and the other student plays the role of the waiter or the person on the other end of the phone.

The examples of exercises for English pronunciation instruction provided below can be used to improve students' pronunciation skills.

Phonemic bingo. Each student receives a bingo card with six words that contains the target phonemes. Then, students listen to words with the target sounds. Students have to recognise them and cross out the words that they have in their cards.

Memory game. In this game the class is divided in groups of four students. Each group receives a set of cards to play memory game. They have to look for the word and its pronunciation. They play in turns, if one student find out a pair he or she will keep both cards and will continue looking for more. The student that at the end of the game has more pairs of cards is the winner.

Stand up. Each student receives a list with four words containing the same sound. Teacher pronounce one word and students have to recognise the sound and guess if they have it in their list, if they have it they have to stand up.

Resources for Teaching English pronunciation online. Teaching English pronunciation online can be a challenging task, but there are many online resources available that can help teachers improve their instruction and help learners improve

their pronunciation skills. There are many useful and convenient resources for mastering learners' pronunciation skills. We analyzed ten popular services for teaching English pronunciation online used worldwide.

Pronunciation Power is a website that offers a range of interactive exercises and activities for learners to practice their English pronunciation. The website has a large library of lessons that cover various aspects of English pronunciation, such as intonation, stress, and vowel sounds. Teachers can also use the website's tools to create customized lessons and exercises for their learners.

Speechling is a website that offers free and paid English pronunciation lessons for learners of all levels. The website offers a range of exercises and activities, including listening and speaking exercises, to help learners improve their English pronunciation skills. Teachers can also use the website to track their learners' progress and provide personalized feedback.

English Central is a website that offers a range of video-based pronunciation lessons and exercises for learners. The website features a library of videos that cover various aspects of English pronunciation, such as vowel sounds, consonant sounds, and word stress. Teachers can also use the website to create customized lessons and exercises for their learners.

YouTube channels offer a wide range of English pronunciation lessons and exercises for learners. YouTube channel feature videos that cover various aspects of English pronunciation, such as intonation, stress, and vowel sounds. Teachers can also use the channel's videos to supplement their lessons and provide additional resources for their learners.

The British Council is a website that offers a range of free English pronunciation lessons and exercises for learners of all levels. The website features a library of lessons and activities that cover various aspects of English pronunciation, such as intonation, stress, and word stress. Teachers can also use the website's tools to create customized lessons and exercises for their learners.

FluentU is a website that offers a range of English pronunciation lessons and exercises for learners. The website features a library of videos and exercises that cover various aspects of English pronunciation, such as intonation, stress, and rhythm. Teachers can also use the website to create customized lessons and exercises for their learners

ELSA Speak is a website that offers a range of English pronunciation lessons and exercises for learners. The website uses artificial intelligence technology to provide

personalized feedback on learners' pronunciation, intonation, and stress. Teachers can also use the website to track their learners' progress and provide additional resources for their learners.

American English Pronunciation is a website that offers a range of English pronunciation lessons and exercises for learners. The website features a library of videos and exercises that cover various aspects of American English pronunciation, such as intonation, stress, and accent reduction. Teachers can also use the website to create customized lessons and exercises for their learners.

ESL Pronunciation Lessons is a website that offers a range of English pronunciation lessons and exercises for learners. The website features a library of lessons and activities that cover various aspects of English pronunciation, such as intonation, stress, and phonetics. Teachers can also use the website to create customized lessons and exercises for their learners.

Oxford Online English is a website that offers a range of English pronunciation lessons and exercises for learners. The website features a library of videos and exercises that cover various aspects of English pronunciation, such as intonation, stress, and connected speech. Teachers can also use the website to create customized lessons and exercises for their learners.

5.8. Incorporating pronunciation into online lessons

As online learning becomes more prevalent, incorporating pronunciation exercises into online language lessons has become increasingly important. While there are some challenges to teaching pronunciation online, there are many exercises that can be used to help learners develop their speaking skills and improve their overall communication. Here are some examples of exercises that can be used to incorporate pronunciation into online language lessons:

Pronunciation Videos. Pronunciation videos are a great way to help learners practice their pronunciation in an online setting. Teachers can create short videos that focus on specific sounds or words in the language they are teaching, or they can use existing videos. For example, the BBC Learning English website has a series of pronunciation videos that cover various topics such as vowel sounds, consonant sounds, and intonation.

Voice Recording Assignments. Voice recording assignments are a great way to

get learners practicing their pronunciation on their own time. Teachers can assign learners to record themselves speaking, focusing on specific sounds or words. Learners can then submit their recordings to the teacher for feedback. This exercise not only helps learners develop their pronunciation skills but also provides them with an opportunity to practice speaking in a low-pressure environment.

Online Pronunciation Quizzes. Online pronunciation quizzes are a fun and engaging way for learners to test their knowledge of pronunciation. Teachers can create quizzes that focus on specific sounds or words, or they can use existing quizzes. Quizlet, for example, has a variety of pronunciation quizzes for different languages. This exercise allows learners to practice their pronunciation and receive immediate feedback on their performance.

Virtual Tongue Twisters. Tongue twisters are a classic pronunciation exercise, and they can be easily adapted for online learning. Teachers can create virtual tongue twisters by using Google Slides or other presentation tools. Learners can then practice the tongue twisters individually or in groups, repeating them several times to improve their pronunciation. This exercise not only helps learners develop their pronunciation skills but also promotes collaboration and communication.

Online Shadowing. Shadowing is a technique where learners repeat what they hear as closely as possible, ideally with a native speaker's recording. This exercise can be easily adapted for online learning by using a video conferencing platform such as Zoom or Skype. The teacher can share their screen and play a recording of a native speaker, and learners can then repeat what they hear. This exercise helps learners develop their pronunciation and listening skills by imitating native speakers' intonation and rhythm.

Thus, incorporating pronunciation exercises into online language lessons is essential for learners to develop their speaking skills, improve their communication, and build their confidence. Pronunciation videos, voice recording assignments, online pronunciation quizzes, virtual tongue twisters, and online shadowing are just a few examples of exercises that teachers can use to incorporate pronunciation into their online lessons. By using these exercises, teachers can help learners become more comfortable with the sounds of the language they are learning and improve their overall communication abilities, even in an online setting.

5.9. Why is it important to teach all language aspects

Language is a complex system that involves multiple interrelated components, and each of these components plays an essential role in communication. As such, it is crucial to teach all language aspects, including reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, to ensure that learners develop a comprehensive understanding of the language they are learning.

One of the primary reasons why it is important to teach all language aspects is that they are all necessary for effective communication. For example, reading and writing enable learners to exchange written messages, while speaking and listening are crucial for oral communication. Grammar and vocabulary provide the structure and meaning of language, and pronunciation ensures that the message is conveyed accurately. By neglecting any one of these aspects, learners may struggle to express themselves clearly and effectively, which can impede their ability to communicate with others.

Another reason why it is important to teach all language aspects is that they are all necessary for language proficiency. Proficiency in a language requires a well-rounded understanding of all its aspects, as neglecting any one of them can lead to gaps in learners' understanding and hinder their ability to communicate effectively. For example, a learner who has a strong grasp of grammar and vocabulary but struggles with pronunciation may find it difficult to be understood by native speakers of the language.

Teaching all language aspects is also essential for real-world language use. In most situations, learners will need to read, write, speak, listen, and understand grammar and vocabulary to communicate effectively. For example, in a business context, learners may need to read and write emails, speak on the phone, and participate in meetings. They may also need to understand the grammar and vocabulary specific to their industry or profession.

Moreover, teaching all language aspects is crucial for learners to develop cultural understanding. Grammar and vocabulary, for example, can provide insights into the cultural norms and values of the language. By learning about the language's culture, learners can develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of the language, its speakers, and their way of life.

Lastly, proficiency in all language aspects is necessary for professional development. In many professions, effective communication is crucial for success, and

proficiency in all language aspects can enhance learners' career opportunities. For example, a person working in an international business environment may be required to speak multiple languages fluently, and their proficiency in all language aspects will be a significant asset to their employer.

In conclusion, teaching all language aspects is essential for effective communication, language proficiency, real-world application, cultural understanding, and professional development. By providing learners with a comprehensive understanding of the language, they are learning; they can communicate more effectively, better understand the culture of the language, and improve their career prospects.

Conclusions

Teaching pronunciation is an essential aspect of language teaching, especially for adult learners. It can improve their ability to communicate effectively, increase their confidence, develop better listening skills, and improve their overall language proficiency. As language teachers, we must emphasize the importance of pronunciation and ensure that it is given the attention it deserves in our teaching practice.

In general, teaching English pronunciation is shifting towards an approach that is more active, participatory, and personalized. Teachers are using technology, interactive exercises, and tailored instruction to make learning more interesting and impactful for students.

Incorporating pronunciation into language lessons is essential for effective communication and language acquisition. By using audio materials, phonetic symbols, repetition and practice, feedback, and games and activities, teachers can help students develop their pronunciation skills and become more confident in their ability to communicate in the target language.

Students of technical universities need to learn English pronunciation because English is the primary language of international communication, especially in the fields of science, engineering, and technology. Technical students need to be able to communicate effectively with colleagues, clients, and partners from around the world.

In order to communicate effectively, technical students must be able to articulate English sounds accurately and speak with clear pronunciation. This ensures that they can convey their ideas and thoughts clearly and be understood by others.

Moreover, learning English pronunciation can also help technical students in their future careers as it can enhance their confidence when communicating with people from different cultural backgrounds, leading to more successful collaborations, and career advancement opportunities.

Therefore, learning English pronunciation is an essential part of the technical education process, as it can improve a student's ability to communicate effectively in the international arena and further their professional development.

To effectively teach pronunciation to students from diverse backgrounds in non-English speaking countries, the teacher must possess ample knowledge and preparedness. It is crucial for the teacher to understand the nuances of English pronunciation and be able to communicate this understanding to the students. The teacher's expertise is pivotal in ensuring that the students are able to accurately learn and apply English pronunciation.

It is necessary to pay attention to teaching all English language aspects to make the learning process effective. Teaching all language aspects is essential for effective communication, language proficiency, real-world application, cultural understanding, and professional development.