



The benefits and advantages of written speech and discourse in foreign language learning: insights from German language acquisition

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ABSTRACT

This article highlights the importance of written speech in foreign language education, focusing on German language learning. Writing improves grammar, expands vocabulary, fosters critical thinking, and deepens cultural understanding. It also serves as an effective assessment tool and equips learners with lifelong communication skills. Practical strategies, such as free writing and peer review, are suggested to overcome challenges like fear of mistakes. The article concludes by emphasizing the value of written discourse in building linguistic competence and fostering global connections.

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Chet tilini o'rganishda yozma nutq va yozma nutqning afzalliklari: nemis tilini o'zlashtirishdan olingan tushunchalar misolida

ANNOTATSIYA

Kalit so'zlar:

Yozma nutq,
yozma diskurs,
nemis tilini o'rganish,
grammatik o'zlashtirish,
so'z boyligini kengaytirish,
tanqidiy fikrlash,

Ushbu maqolada nemis tilini o'rganishga e'tibor qaratib, chet tilini o'qitishda yozma nutqning ahamiyati ta'kidlangan. Yozish grammatikani yaxshilaydi, so'z boyligini kengaytiradi, tanqidiy fikrlashni rivojlantiradi va madaniy tushunishni chuqurlashtiradi. Shuningdek, u samarali baholash vositasi bo'lib xizmat qiladi va o'quvchilarni bir umrlik muloqot qilish

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tilni baholash,
nemis sintaksisi,
madaniy tushunish,
yozish strategiyalari,
tengdoshlarni tekshirish,
tilni bilish.

ko'nikmalari bilan ta'minlaydi. Xatolardan qo'rqish kabi qiyinchiliklarni yengish uchun bepul yozish va tengdoshlarni tekshirish kabi amaliy strategiyalar taklif etiladi. Maqola lingvistik kompetensiyani shakllantirish va global aloqalarni rivojlantirishda yozma nutqning ahamiyatini ta'kidlash bilan yakunlanadi.

Преимущества письменной речи и письменного дискурса при изучении иностранного языка: выводы из изучения немецкого языка

Ключевые слова:

письменная речь,
письменный дискурс,
изучение немецкого
языка,
усвоение грамматики,
расширение словарного
запаса,
критическое мышление,
языковая оценка,
немецкий синтаксис,
культурное понимание,
стратегии письма,
рецензирование,
владение языком.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье подчеркивается роль письменной речи в обучении иностранным языкам, с особым акцентом на изучении немецкого языка. Отмечается, что письмо не только улучшает грамматику и расширяет словарный запас, но и способствует развитию критического мышления и углубляет культурное понимание. Письменная речь выступает важным инструментом оценки и вооружает учащихся навыками общения, которые пригодятся на протяжении всей жизни. В статье предлагаются практические стратегии, включая свободное письмо и рецензирование, чтобы помочь учащимся преодолеть страх перед ошибками. Заключительный раздел подчеркивает значение письменного дискурса в формировании языковой компетенции и способствовании глобальным связям.

INTRODUCTION

The process of learning a foreign language is multifaceted, involving listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Among these, written speech and discourse play a critical role in solidifying linguistic competence. In academic settings, the emphasis on written communication provides learners with an opportunity to explore grammatical structures, expand their vocabulary, and engage in meaningful self-expression. For learners of German – a language renowned for its complex grammar and nuanced vocabulary – written discourse is particularly advantageous. This article explores the benefits and advantages of written speech in foreign language classrooms, focusing on German language acquisition. It will discuss pedagogical theories, real-life examples, and effective strategies that highlight the importance of incorporating written discourse in language education.

The role of written speech in language learning

Written speech, defined as the ability to communicate ideas, opinions, and information in a structured, written format, is a cornerstone of foreign language learning. Research in applied linguistics indicates that engaging in written discourse enhances cognitive processing of the target language. Learners must not only recognize grammatical rules and vocabulary but also apply them in context, fostering deeper comprehension. Key aspects of written discourse in language learning include:

1. **Grammatical Accuracy:** Writing encourages learners to focus on precise grammar usage. This is particularly relevant for German learners, who must navigate complex verb conjugations, noun cases, and article genders.

2. **Vocabulary Expansion:** Written tasks expose learners to new words and phrases, providing opportunities for active usage and long-term retention.

3. **Critical Thinking:** Writing requires learners to organize ideas logically, thus improving analytical skills and clarity of thought.

For example, when German learners write essays about their daily routines, they practice verb placement in subordinate clauses and the use of reflexive verbs such as *sich duschen* (to shower oneself). This conscious application reinforces language rules learned in class.

Lifelong benefits of writing in a foreign language

Beyond the classroom, the skills gained through written discourse in a foreign language provide lifelong advantages. Writing promotes a level of precision and clarity that extends to other areas of communication, including professional emails, reports, and personal correspondence. For German learners, these skills are especially valuable in contexts such as international business, academic research, and cultural exchanges. Furthermore, the habit of maintaining written communication in a foreign language – whether through journaling, blogging, or social media – allows learners to continue refining their language skills long after formal education ends. This ongoing engagement not only ensures language retention but also keeps learners connected to the cultures and communities where the language is spoken, fostering a deeper sense of global citizenship.

Advantages of written discourse in German language acquisition

Learning German presents unique challenges due to its linguistic features. Written discourse offers a structured approach to mastering the language's complexities, providing several advantages:

1. Mastery of Grammar

German grammar is often perceived as daunting for beginners. Its system of four cases (*Nominativ, Akkusativ, Dativ, Genitiv*), extensive use of compound words, and word order rules are best understood through written exercises. Tasks such as translating sentences, writing summaries, or crafting argumentative essays compel learners to internalize these rules.

For example:

- Writing sentences like *Ich gebe dem Mann das Buch* (I give the book to the man) helps learners practice the dative case.
- Formulating questions such as *Warum lernst du Deutsch?* (Why are you learning German?) reinforces word order in interrogative sentences.

2. Enhanced Vocabulary Acquisition

Writing in German requires learners to use diverse vocabulary. Through writing assignments such as diary entries, email drafts, or formal letters, students are exposed to words relevant to daily communication and professional settings.

Example assignments:

- Writing a cover letter for a German internship application.
- Describing a city tour in Berlin, incorporating travel-related vocabulary such as *das Brandenburger Tor* (the Brandenburg Gate) and *die öffentlichen Verkehrsmittel* (public transportation).

3. Improved Pronunciation and Intonation

While written speech is non-verbal, it indirectly aids pronunciation. Writing down words and sentences makes learners more aware of spelling patterns, which correlate with pronunciation. For instance, recognizing the difference between *viel* (much) and *Fiel* (fell) helps students with spoken accuracy.

4. Cultural Insight

Writing in German also introduces learners to cultural norms. Composing formal emails (*Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren...*) teaches them politeness conventions unique to German-speaking societies. Such tasks bridge the gap between linguistic competence and cultural fluency.

Written Discourse as a Tool for Assessment

Another key benefit of incorporating written discourse in German language classes is its effectiveness as an assessment tool. Unlike oral exams, written assignments provide a clear record of a student's progress, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.

Types of assessment include:

- **Short Essays:** Students demonstrate their ability to use conjunctions like *weil* (because) and *obwohl* (although) to create complex sentences.
- **Dictations:** These evaluate listening and writing skills simultaneously, ensuring accurate spelling and comprehension.
- **Summaries and Reports:** Writing concise summaries of German texts encourages critical reading and effective paraphrasing.

For example, summarizing a German fairy tale such as *Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten* (The Bremen Town Musicians) helps learners grasp narrative styles and expand storytelling vocabulary.

Practical Applications and Classroom Strategies

Incorporating written discourse into German language classes requires careful planning to maximize its benefits. Below are practical strategies for teachers:

1. Free Writing Exercises

Encourage students to write short journal entries in German without focusing on grammar or spelling. This method fosters creativity and reduces the fear of making mistakes. Over time, students naturally correct their errors as they grow more confident.

2. Peer Review

Collaborative writing exercises, where students review each other's work, promote critical thinking and cooperative learning. For instance, learners can exchange essays on topics like *Mein Traumurlaub* (My Dream Vacation) and provide constructive feedback.

3. Integrated Technology

Digital tools like Duolingo or language learning apps with writing prompts can complement traditional methods. Additionally, platforms like Google Docs enable real-time feedback from teachers.

Challenges and Overcoming Them

Despite its advantages, integrating written discourse into language learning has challenges:

1. **Fear of Errors:** Students may hesitate to write due to fear of mistakes. Teachers should emphasize that errors are a natural part of learning.

2. **Time-Intensive Tasks:** Writing assignments require more time than speaking exercises. Balancing written and oral activities ensures comprehensive skill development.

Solutions include:

- Breaking assignments into smaller, manageable tasks.

- Encouraging iterative writing, where students revise their drafts based on feedback.

Broad Implications of Written Discourse in Language Learning

The integration of written discourse in foreign language education highlights the transformative power of structured communication. Writing not only bridges linguistic theory with practical application but also encourages learners to think critically and express themselves authentically. Its benefits extend beyond language acquisition, cultivating transferable skills such as organization, analysis, and adaptability that are valuable across disciplines and professions. By engaging with writing, learners develop a holistic understanding of the language, laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning and cross-cultural collaboration. The emphasis on written speech ultimately reinforces the idea that language is not just a tool for interaction but also a means of shaping thought, identity, and global understanding.

CONCLUSION

Written speech and discourse are indispensable in foreign language education, offering unique benefits for learners of German. From mastering grammar and expanding vocabulary to gaining cultural insights, writing fosters comprehensive language acquisition. While challenges exist, thoughtful strategies can overcome them, making written discourse an effective and rewarding aspect of language learning. As globalization continues to connect people across linguistic boundaries, the ability to write in a foreign language such as German will remain a valuable skill for academic, professional, and personal success.

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