



Collaborative learning methods in improving English speaking in blended learning environments

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Collaborative Learning (CL) is a method of learning where students can work in pairs or groups. It provides opportunities for learners to interact, express ideas and listen to others' opinions, and to be autonomous. Teaching speaking using collaborative methods motivates learners to speak regularly in English as they can get the support of their peers facilitate the development of social interaction among learners. Teaching speaking cycle is a common method used in teaching speaking in classrooms. Most stages of this procedure involve collaborative activities. For example, the initial brainstorming activities can mostly be done as group/pair activities. Also planning, delivering and revision stages can be done as collaborative activities. The feedback stage can also encourage peer learning through peer feedback. This collaborative speaking cycle can be implemented in a blended teaching mode too. At present blended learning is becoming popular and collaborative learning can be aided by modern technology through applications such as Zoom, Google classroom and Microsoft teams. For example, brainstorming and planning stages of the teaching speaking cycle can be done collaboratively in an online environment. It increases learner engagement as it can involve different types of materials such as videos, pictures and podcasts. This pre-preparation can aid speaking in the face-to-face class. It is time saving for the teacher and facilitates interaction among students in different locations. In this talk, we will demonstrate how teaching speaking cycle can be implemented in a blended learning environment through collaborative activities to improve speaking skills of learners.

Keywords: Collaborative Learning, Teaching Speaking, Blended Learning, Interaction, Engagement

