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TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPING STUDENTS' PHRASEOLOGICAL COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LESSONS (BASED ON EXAMPLES FROM GRADES 5-9)

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the significance of developing phraseological competence in English language lessons for students in grades 5-9. It highlights the importance of idiomatic expressions, collocations, and fixed phrases in achieving effective communication and language proficiency. The article presents various technological tools, including interactive learning platforms, digital storytelling tools, online phraseology resources, video and multimedia resources, and mobile applications, that can enhance students' understanding and use of phraseological units. Practical classroom examples illustrate how these technologies can be integrated into lesson plans to foster engagement and collaboration among students. Ultimately, the article underscores the role of educators in equipping students with the necessary skills to navigate the complexities of the English language, preparing them for success in diverse contexts.

KEYWORDS

Phraseological competence, Idiomatic expressions, English language education, Technology in education, Grades 5-9, Interactive learning, Digital storytelling, Multimedia resources, Collocations, Language proficiency.

INTRODUCTION



In an increasingly globalized world, the ability to communicate effectively in English is essential. This necessity emphasizes not only the knowledge of grammar and vocabulary but also the mastery of phraseological competence. Phraseology, the study of fixed expressions and idiomatic phrases, plays a critical role in language proficiency, especially for students in grades 5-9 who are transitioning from basic language skills to more advanced communication abilities. This article explores various technologies that can aid in developing students' phraseological competence in English language lessons, offering practical examples and pedagogical strategies.

Phraseological competence refers to the ability to understand and use phrases, idioms, collocations, and fixed expressions appropriately in different contexts. For students, this competence enriches their language use, making it more natural and fluent. It enables them to comprehend authentic texts, participate in conversations, and express themselves more vividly. As students progress through grades 5-9, they encounter increasingly complex texts and communicative situations, highlighting the need for effective phraseological instruction.

Additionally, idiomatic expressions often carry meanings that differ from their literal interpretations, which can pose challenges for non-native speakers. This makes it crucial for educators to provide explicit instruction and practice in using these expressions. By

developing phraseological competence, students not only enhance their language skills but also gain cultural insights, which are essential for effective communication in diverse contexts.

Platforms like Quizlet and Kahoot can facilitate the learning of phraseological units through interactive quizzes and games. Teachers can create flashcards for idiomatic expressions, allowing students to practice their meanings and usage in a fun, engaging manner. For instance, a Kahoot quiz might present a sentence with a missing phrase, challenging students to select the correct idiom from multiple choices. This not only enhances retention but also fosters healthy competition among students.

Moreover, these platforms can provide immediate feedback, which is critical for learning. Students can see their results right away, allowing them to understand which phrases they have mastered and which ones they need to review. Teachers can also analyze class performance, identifying common areas of difficulty and tailoring subsequent lessons to address these gaps.

Digital storytelling tools such as Storybird or Adobe Spark enable students to create narratives using phraseological expressions. By crafting stories or presentations, students can incorporate idioms and fixed phrases relevant to their themes, thereby contextualizing their learning. For example, in a lesson



about emotions, students could create a story that includes phrases like “feeling blue” or “on cloud nine,” helping them understand and use these expressions in context.

These storytelling projects encourage creativity and critical thinking, as students must think about how to integrate phrases into their narratives effectively. Furthermore, sharing their stories with peers can build confidence in their language abilities and promote collaborative learning. Teachers can also assess students' understanding of phraseological competence through these projects, providing targeted feedback on their use of expressions.

Websites like EnglishClub and PhraseMix offer extensive databases of idiomatic expressions and collocations. Teachers can assign specific phrases for students to explore, encouraging them to research their meanings, origins, and contexts of use. For instance, a project could require students to select five idioms, investigate their meanings, and present them to the class, thereby enhancing both their understanding and their speaking skills.

Additionally, these resources often include exercises and quizzes that students can complete independently or in pairs. By utilizing online phraseology resources, educators can help students develop their research skills, as they must look beyond the classroom to find examples of how phrases are used in real-life contexts.

Incorporating video resources, such as TED Talks or educational YouTube channels, can significantly enhance students' exposure to authentic language use. By watching native speakers use idioms and phrases in context, students gain insights into their meanings and appropriateness. After viewing, teachers can facilitate discussions or reflections on the phrases used, prompting students to incorporate them into their speaking or writing.

For instance, after watching a video segment, students could be asked to identify and explain any idiomatic expressions they encountered. This activity not only reinforces their understanding of phraseological competence but also encourages active listening and critical thinking skills. Furthermore, multimedia resources often depict cultural contexts that can enrich students' understanding of how language operates within different social settings.

Mobile apps like Duolingo and Memrise provide gamified learning experiences that include phraseology. These applications often feature exercises focused on idiomatic expressions, allowing students to practice independently. For example, Duolingo's lessons might include exercises that ask students to complete sentences with the correct idiomatic expressions, reinforcing their learning through immediate feedback.



These apps are particularly effective for homework assignments or independent study, as students can practice at their own pace. Additionally, many of these applications utilize spaced repetition algorithms, which help reinforce learning by revisiting previously studied phrases over time. Teachers can encourage students to track their progress within the app, setting goals for learning new phrases each week.

Practical Examples in the Classroom

Example 1: Idiom Day

A weekly “Idiom Day” can be established, where students share an idiom they learned during the week using a digital platform like Padlet. Each student could post the idiom, its meaning, and a sentence demonstrating its use. This not only builds a collaborative learning environment but also encourages students to actively engage with phraseology.

To make this more engaging, teachers can introduce a “Idiom of the Month” competition, where students vote on the most creative use of an idiom in context. This can lead to deeper discussions about the idiom's meaning and usage, enhancing the students' understanding and encouraging peer-to-peer learning.

Example 2: Phraseology in Context

In a unit on literature, students could analyze a short story or poem, identifying and discussing the

phraseological units used by the author. This analytical approach helps students recognize the power of phrases in creating imagery and emotion, reinforcing their understanding of how phraseological competence enriches language.

To expand this activity, students could present their findings to the class, explaining how the phrases contribute to the text's overall meaning. This not only promotes public speaking skills but also allows for a richer discussion about language use in literature, encouraging students to think critically about the texts they read.

Example 3: Phrase of the Week

Teachers can introduce a “Phrase of the Week” where students are encouraged to use the phrase in their spoken or written work. By leveraging social media platforms or class blogs, students can share examples of their usage, fostering a sense of community and collaboration in learning.

Additionally, teachers can create a class wall of phrases, where students can post examples and even illustrations that represent the meanings of the phrases. This visual element can help reinforce the phrases in students' minds and serve as a reference point throughout the year.

CONCLUSION



The development of phraseological competence in students is vital for their overall proficiency in English. By integrating various technologies into the language classroom, educators can create engaging and effective learning experiences that enhance students' understanding and use of idiomatic expressions. Through interactive platforms, digital storytelling, online resources, and multimedia tools, students can explore the richness of the English language, preparing them for effective communication in diverse contexts. As educators embrace these technologies, they contribute to building a generation of confident and competent English speakers who appreciate the nuances of language.

By fostering phraseological competence, teachers equip students with the tools they need to navigate the complexities of the English language, ultimately enhancing their academic performance and preparing them for success in an interconnected world.

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