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LEARNER CENTERED TEACHING AND APPROACHES FOR SECOND LANGUAGE  
LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Learner-centered teaching approaches have gained increasing recognition in the field of second language learning due to their potential to enhance students' motivation, engagement, and overall language proficiency. In contrast to the traditional teacher-centered approaches, which prioritize the transmission of knowledge from the instructor to the learners, learner-centered teaching focuses on the learners' individual needs, preferences, and objectives. This pedagogical approach acknowledges that learners come to the language classroom with unique backgrounds, learning styles, and prior knowledge, which should be considered when designing instructional methods and materials. Moreover, learner-centered teaching emphasizes the active involvement of learners in the learning process, encouraging critical thinking, collaboration, and autonomy. By creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment, learner-centered teaching approaches aim to empower students and equip them with the necessary tools to become lifelong learners and independent language users. This essay will explore the principles and benefits of learner-centered teaching, as well as various instructional strategies that can effectively be employed to facilitate second language learning.

Keywords: pedagogical approach, objectives, involvement, strategies, needs.

Theoretical Framework of Learner-Centered Teaching

In the field of education, learner-centered teaching has gained significant attention as an effective approach for second language learning. Theoretical framework of learner-centered teaching refers to the underlying principles and concepts that guide this instructional approach. One key theoretical framework is constructivism, which posits that learners construct knowledge and understanding through active engagement with the learning materials and experiences. According to this perspective, learners actively participate in the learning process, interact with their peers and teachers, and make sense of the new information in relation to their prior knowledge and experiences. Another theoretical framework is sociocultural theory, which emphasizes the role of social interactions and cultural factors in learning.

This perspective suggests that language learning occurs within specific social and cultural contexts, and learners develop their language skills through meaningful interactions with others. Both constructivism and

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sociocultural theory emphasize the crucial role of the learner in the learning process and advocate for teaching methods that promote active engagement, collaboration, and meaningful interactions. Overall, understanding the theoretical framework of learner-centered teaching provides educators with a basis for designing instructional practices that facilitate second language learning effectively.

### **I. Benefits of Learner-Centered Approaches in Second Language Learning**

One key benefit of learner-centered approaches in second language learning is increased motivation and engagement. When learners are actively involved in the learning process, they become more invested in their own progress and take ownership of their learning experience. This can lead to a higher level of motivation to learn the language and a greater sense of achievement as they see themselves making progress. Learner-centered approaches also promote active engagement by providing opportunities for learners to interact with the language in meaningful ways, such as through authentic communication tasks, group discussions, and project-based assignments. These activities can help learners develop language proficiency more effectively as they are encouraged to actively use and apply the language in real-life contexts. Overall, learner-centered approaches not only enhance motivation and engagement, but also contribute to more effective language acquisition.

### **II. Implementing Learner-Centered Teaching in the Classroom**

One approach to implement learner-centered teaching in the classroom is using technology. Technology can be a valuable tool for engaging students in their own learning and providing them with opportunities to explore and take ownership of their language learning. For example, incorporating interactive online activities and games can motivate students to actively participate and practice their language skills. Additionally, technology can provide instant feedback and individualized instruction, allowing students to track their progress and identify areas for improvement. This personalized approach to learning can enhance students' autonomy and sense of responsibility towards their own language learning journey. Moreover, technology can facilitate collaboration and communication among students, as they can engage in online discussions and virtual group projects. These collaborative learning experiences can foster a sense of community in the classroom and enhance interpersonal skills. Overall, the integration of technology into learner-centered teaching practices can create a dynamic and interactive learning environment that promotes student engagement, autonomy, and collaboration.

### **III. Latest Survey on Learner-Centered Teaching.**

The latest survey on learner-centered teaching provides valuable insights into current trends and approaches in education. According to the survey, there has been a significant shift towards a more student-centered approach in classrooms across various educational levels. This shift is driven by the understanding that learners are unique individuals with different learning styles, preferences, and needs. The survey highlights the importance of actively engaging students in the learning process by encouraging their participation, promoting critical thinking skills, and providing opportunities for collaboration and hands-on experiences. Furthermore, the survey reveals that teachers are increasingly adopting innovative teaching methods, such as project-based learning, flipped classrooms, and personalized learning, to cater to the diverse needs of their students. These findings underline the growing emphasis on learner-centered teaching and the recognition of its positive impact on student achievement and overall academic success. As educators and policymakers continue to explore and refine learner-centered approaches, it is important to ensure that the necessary resources and support are available to facilitate its effective implementation.

### **IV. Trends in Learner-Centered Approaches**

One of the latest trends in learner-centered approaches is the integration of technology in the classroom. With the rapid advancement of technology in recent years, educators are finding new and innovative ways to engage students in the learning process. For example, many classrooms are now equipped with interactive whiteboards, tablets, and other digital resources that allow students to actively participate in their education. Additionally, online learning platforms and virtual reality tools are becoming increasingly popular, providing

students with the opportunity to explore subjects in a more immersive and interactive way. This integration of technology not only enhances students' learning experiences but also prepares them for the digital age. However, it is important to note that technology should be used as a tool to support learning, rather than as a replacement for traditional teaching methods. Therefore, educators must strike a balance between utilizing technology and maintaining a student-centered approach in their classrooms.

#### **V. Challenges and Limitations of Learner-Centered Approaches**

One of the main challenges and limitations of learner-centered approaches in second language learning is the difficulty of ensuring equal participation and engagement from all learners. In a traditional teacher-centered approach, the teacher is the sole authority figure, and students are expected to passively receive information and instructions. However, in a learner-centered approach, students are encouraged to take an active role in their learning process, which can be problematic when dealing with a diverse group of learners with different abilities, motivations, and learning styles. Some learners may be more dominant or vocal than others, leading to unequal contributions and the potential exclusion of quieter or less confident learners. Additionally, learner-centered approaches rely heavily on collaboration and group work, but this can present challenges in terms of group dynamics and the potential for some learners to feel ostracized or left behind. Educators must find innovative ways to address these challenges and ensure that all learners have an equal opportunity to participate and benefit from a learner-centered approach.

#### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, learner-centered teaching approaches have shown to be effective in second language learning. By placing the learners at the forefront and tailoring instruction to their individual needs and preferences, educators can create a more engaging and empowering learning environment. Learner-centered teaching methods such as task-based learning, communicative language teaching, and the use of technology can enhance language acquisition by promoting meaningful interactions and authentic language use. Furthermore, learner autonomy and self-regulation are encouraged through the incorporation of learner-centered approaches, allowing students to take ownership of their learning and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Despite some challenges and limitations, the adoption of learner-centered approaches holds great potential for improving the effectiveness and quality of second language instruction. Therefore, it is important for educators to continuously explore and implement these approaches to provide the best possible learning experiences for second language learners.

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