

# **Measures taken to stimulate students' motivation in learning grammar**

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## **Abstract:**

The teaching of English grammar is set in the whole process of English learning. Learning grammar is a very vexing thing for both teachers and students. With the expansion of vocabulary and the increasing difficulty of grammar, compared with the teaching of grammar in junior school, the grammar teaching in high school becomes more detailed and difficult in the content, which requires higher teaching ability and learning capability. The teaching effect is toilsome and vain, and students have low motivation in grammar class. Based on the above, this thesis targets the learning motivation of students. It's about discussing the influence factors of effect of English grammar teaching as well as the improvement approaches.

**Key words:** Motivation; English grammar; Measures

## **1. Introduction**

This chapter mainly demonstrates three parts. Formulating the question is presented at first. The purpose and significances of the study are explained in the following part.

### **1.1 Formulating the question**

The teaching of English grammar is set in the whole process of English learning. However, the teaching effect is toilsome and vain, and students have low motivation in grammar class. Based on the above, this thesis targets the learning motivation of students. It's about helping stimulate students' motivation to learn English grammar.

### **1.2 Purpose and Significance of the study**

It is clearly mentioned in the new High School English Curriculum Standards: improving students' grasp of grammar, so that they can analyze and use grammar to construct sentences, and understand the structure of articles in the analysis of grammar(教育部, 2018) . From the language system, vocabulary can be compared to the basic building materials, while grammar is an adhesive that links these building materials together (Gui, 2006). Thus, grammar is extremely important. Students' learning motivation is the most lasting and stable. The purpose of this study is to improve the efficiency of grammar teaching, stimulate students' interest to learn grammar and solve practical problem in English teaching.

## **2. Problem identification**

This part mainly demonstrates low motivation and the causes of student's low motivation in learning grammar.

### **2.1 Learning motivation**

Motivation usually refers to students make efforts to satisfy some learning desire. Gardner and Lambert(1972) divided motivation into instrumental and integrative motivation. The former refers to students' functional goals, such as passing a exam or finding a job. The latter refers to the learner has a desire to integrate with the target language. Arnold and Brown(1999) also draw a rough distinction between motivation: extrinsic and intrinsic motivation. The desire to be rewarded and to avoid punishment is extrinsic motivation. And if there is intrinsic motivation, the learning experience is a kind of reward. Obviously, motivation is a set of factors that motivate behavior and indicate direction, which is important for learning grammar.

### **2.2 The causes of students' low motivation in learning grammar**

Teachers' personality, quality and mastery of professional knowledge will affect students' learning motivation. If a teacher does not have a perfect mastery of professional knowledge, it is easier to make mistakes in teaching and concrete application. If a teacher does not have strong teaching skills, his teaching methods will be boring. Thus, from this two perspectives, teachers will have a strong influence on students' enthusiasm and initiative.

From the aspect of grammar teaching content, teachers' methods are single and backward. Most teachers explain grammar explicitly and then ask students to do lots of mechanical exercises. There is no denying that students can master and consolidate new knowledge. However, the classroom atmosphere is dull and learners are in a passive state.

From the perspective of students, students' own learning ability and cognition also affect learning motivation. The main reasons of the low motivation of students is that students find it difficult to learn grammar. What's worse, students are afraid to learn grammar so that they do not take it seriously, especially for some students with weak foundations. If a student has a weak learning ability, he may put a lot of effort into learning, but he can't get good learning results all the time.

### **3. Measures taken to stimulate students' motivation**

Reform and enrich English grammar teaching methods. Teachers can combine audio-visual and communicative approach according to the learning rules of English grammar. At the same time, teachers not only teach grammar rules, but also the context and background in which grammar is used. In classroom, grammar class can be combined with listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing. Teachers also can combine specific situations and then divide students into groups to play different roles. Students can create some situations in their daily life according to the grammar they have learned.

Help students set appropriate learning goals. Learning goals are generally divided into two kinds: the long-term goal and short-term goal. Teachers should not only help students to establish long-term goals, but also guide them to set short-term goals, so as to enhance their sense of accomplishment in achieving goals, obtain spiritual satisfaction, and make them feel that the possibility of realizing long-term goal is great. Teachers should fully help students to realize the importance of learning English, only in this way can arouse students' initiative and enthusiasm. For example, students should make clear the teaching objectives and learning objectives before class, and test the objectives in a relatively relaxed and pleasant way when the class is completed.

Create a pleasant and harmonious classroom atmosphere. A pleasant and harmonious classroom atmosphere can greatly affect students' learning motivation and mentality. Learning in a harmonious and relaxed atmosphere helps students to concentrate and gain confidence, thus stimulating their motivation to learn grammar. Teachers should respect students' personality, be good at listening to their opinion, and establish a good teacher-student relationship, so that they will not be nervous and excessive anxiety in class. For example, when students answer questions, if there are mistakes, the teacher should first do not directly correct, but actively guide students to find find mistakes in order to achieve self-correction.

Stimulate students' interest in learning. Interest is the best teacher, and it is easier to stimulate learning motivation. As a teacher, we can adopt diversified individualized teaching mode for different types of students in class. According to students' interests and hobbies, we organize various learning activities with rich contents and various forms, such as English recitation, English

songs and appreciation of beautiful sentences, so that most of them can have chance to learn English, and they can make full use of their observation and appreciation ability.

Give feedback and evaluate students timely. Educators should analyze students' learning status effectively and timely, which can stimulate their learning motivation effectively and help them to realize their own advantages and disadvantages. Positive reinforcement can be taken for students with excellent performance. And for the performance of insufficient and different students can take individual talk, active observation, so that they fully realize their own shortcomings and correct timely.

#### 4. Conclusion

From what has been discussed above, only by reforming and enrich grammar teaching methods, helping students set appropriate learning goals, creating a pleasant and harmonious classroom atmosphere, stimulating students' interest in learning and giving feedback and evaluate students timely can teachers improve grammar learning motivation. Finally, it can enhance learning effect.

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