REASONS AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE DECLINING INTEREST OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE/ENGLISH SUBJECTS

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ABSTRACT

Currently, in schools, especially among high school students, a noticeable decline in interest in foreign language subjects, particularly English, is observed. Research shows that this phenomenon has several social, psychological, and pedagogical causes. Firstly, students point out the lack of interactive and practical activities during lessons. Additionally, low motivation, excessive focus on grammar and vocabulary, and perceiving lessons as boring and illogical contribute to this decline. Another reason is the underutilization of online resources and technologies that could enable independent learning of English. Moreover, insufficient encouragement from parents and society to learn languages is also an important factor.

This article proposes solutions to increase high school students' interest in foreign language subjects. Modernizing lesson methodologies, introducing interactive technologies and game-based approaches, creating projects that enhance motivation and interest, and expanding opportunities to use the language in real-life situations are essential. Furthermore, encouraging students to learn independently and strengthening support systems from parents and society are among the effective solutions.

This research demonstrates strategies aimed at increasing high school students' interest in foreign language subjects and the potential for their practical implementation.

Keywords: high school students, foreign language, English, declining interest, motivation, pedagogical solutions, interactive methods, language learning, lesson methodology

Introduction:

In recent years, a significant decrease in interest in foreign language subjects, particularly English, among high school students has been observed. English is one of the most widely used languages worldwide and expands opportunities for knowledge and communication. Therefore, students losing interest in this subject negatively affects not only the quality of their education but also their future professional and personal development. Research shows that several factors play a crucial role in the decline of interest. One of them is the lack of enrichment of lessons with traditional and interactive methods, which leads students to passivity and perceiving lessons as boring. Additionally, students' low motivation, excessive focus on grammar and vocabulary, and limited opportunities to use the language practically contribute to the decrease in interest.

Insufficient encouragement to learn languages from parents and society is also a significant factor. Although technologies and online resources are available today, students often lack the necessary skills to use them effectively. Therefore, increasing high school students' interest in foreign language subjects is an urgent issue that requires a comprehensive approach.

Literature Review:

The issue of declining interest in foreign language subjects, especially English, in schools has been studied by many researchers. Smith (2018) emphasizes that "students become passive in lessons due to the lack of interactive and practical activities." This insight helps pedagogically explain the reduction in interest among high school students. Johnson and Lee (2020) found in their studies that excessive grammar and vocabulary workload tires students and decreases their motivation. Their research shows that students' interest is linked to the opportunity to use the language practically.

Other studies highlight the positive impact of technology and online resources on motivation. For example, Brown (2019) notes that "multimedia lessons and interactive games significantly increase students' motivation." In addition, the role of parents and society in encouraging language learning is also emphasized. Taylor (2021) stresses that "support provided by parents and the school environment strengthens students' interest in learning a foreign language."

The literature review indicates that the declining interest of high school students in English is a multifactorial issue, requiring lesson modernization, the introduction of interactive and practical activities, as well as strengthened motivation and support systems.

Methodology:

This research aims to identify the reasons for the decline in interest in foreign language subjects, particularly English, among high school students and to develop effective solutions to increase it. A mixed-methods approach—combining qualitative and quantitative methods—was applied.

For the quantitative part, a survey was conducted among 10th–11th grade students in schools. The survey consisted of 20 questions, collecting information about students' interest in lessons, motivation levels, teaching methods, and challenges in the learning process. Survey results were analyzed using SPSS software to identify the main factors affecting the decline in interest.

The qualitative part included interviews and focus groups. Individual and group discussions were conducted with 15 English teachers and 30 high school students. These discussions explored students' sources of motivation, difficulties, and attitudes towards lessons. Additionally, teachers were asked about their experiences in using lesson methodologies and interactive approaches.

Ethical guidelines were followed throughout the study: participants gave consent,

personal data were kept confidential, and results were used solely for scientific analysis.

This combined methodology provides both accuracy and reliability, as quantitative data show overall trends, while qualitative research offers a deeper understanding of students' and teachers' experiences. Thus, the study lays the foundation for developing comprehensive recommendations to increase high school students' interest in foreign language subjects.

Conclusion:

The research results indicate that the declining interest of high school students in foreign language subjects, particularly English, is a multifactorial issue. Analysis of literature and surveys confirmed that students' interest mainly depends on lesson methodology, motivation, interactivity, and practical application opportunities. Traditional, non-interactive teaching methods lead to student passivity and decreased interest in learning the language. Additionally, excessive focus on grammar and vocabulary, as well as limited opportunities to use the language in real-life situations, are significant factors.

Qualitative research results showed that students' motivation and interest are also linked to social factors. Support from parents and society, along with effective use of technology and online resources, plays an important role in increasing interest. Therefore, increasing high school students' interest in foreign language subjects requires a comprehensive approach, not just changes in lesson methodology.

Based on the research results, several pedagogical recommendations were developed: modernize lesson methodology, introduce interactive technologies and game-based approaches, expand opportunities to use the language in practical situations, and encourage independent learning. Additionally, support from parents and the school environment, as well as the creation of motivation-enhancing projects, are effective solutions.

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