THE ROLE OF GRAMMAR IN LEARNING A LANGUAGE

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Annotation: This article discusses the significance of grammar and syntax in the process of language teaching and learning. It highlights how grammar provides the structural foundation of a language, while syntax organizes words into meaningful sentences. The paper reviews different methods of teaching grammar and syntax, such as contextual learning, task-based learning, and communicative approaches. It also examines the common challenges faced by teachers and learners when dealing with grammatical and syntactic structures. The author emphasizes that grammar should not be taught as a set of isolated rules but should be integrated into real communication. The conclusion suggests that combining accuracy and fluency in grammar teaching helps learners use the language naturally and effectively.

Keywords: grammar, syntax, language teaching, communication, pedagogy.

Introduction. When we learn or teach a new language, grammar and syntax are two things we always deal with, even if we don't notice it at first. Grammar shows us how to use words correctly, while syntax helps us put them in the right order to make clear and meaningful sentences. In language teaching, these two parts are very important because they help learners understand how the language really works. In the past, teachers often focused only on memorizing grammar rules. But today, teaching is more about using grammar in real communication -through speaking, writing, and understanding. Good teachers now try to make grammar something practical and connected to everyday use. Grammar is like the backbone of any language. Without it, communication becomes confusing. When students understand grammar, they can express themselves more clearly and confidently:

- Good grammar teaching helps students to:
- Build correct sentences naturally.
- Avoid basic mistakes in writing and speaking.
- Understand how meaning changes when grammar changes.

However, grammar lessons should not only be about rules and drills. Students learn better when grammar is connected to real situations - stories, dialogues, and activities. For example, instead of just teaching the past tense as "-ed" endings, teachers can let students tell short stories about what they did yesterday. This makes grammar more alive and memorable.

Understanding Syntax. Syntax is about how words are arranged to form a sentence. Every language has its own order. For example, in English we usually say "She reads a book," not "Reads she a book." This shows that syntax gives meaning through structure. For language learners, syntax helps them:

- Build sentences that sound natural.
- Understand long or complex sentences while reading.
- Write better paragraphs and compositions.

Teachers can teach syntax through examples and sentence-building games. When students create their own sentences, they start to "feel" how the language flows. This feeling is more powerful than memorizing rules alone.

How to Teach Grammar and Syntax Effectively. There are many ways to teach grammar and syntax. Each class is different, so teachers often mix several methods. Some of the best ways include:

- Teaching in context: showing grammar through stories, conversations, or real-life examples.
- Discovery learning: letting students find rules by themselves after seeing examples.
- Task-based activities: giving students tasks where grammar is needed to complete them, like planning a trip or writing a dialogue.
- Integration with skills: combining grammar with reading, writing, or speaking lessons so it feels natural.
- When grammar and syntax are part of communication, students see them as useful tools, not just boring rules.

Common Challenges. Many teachers find grammar and syntax hard to teach because:

- Students may lose interest if the lesson feels too technical.
- Some learners mix up rules from their first language.

There isn't always enough time to explain everything in class. To solve this, teachers should use creative activities, visual examples, and group work. Grammar doesn't have to be dry - it can be fun if it connects to real communication.

Grammar and Syntax in Communication. Grammar and syntax are not separate from speaking, reading, writing, or listening. They are part of all language skills:

- In speaking, they help make ideas clear and polite.
- In writing, they create logical and correct sentences.
- In reading, they help understand how meaning is built.
- In listening, they help catch patterns and structures quickly. When grammar and syntax are taught together with these skills, students learn faster and remember longer.

Conclusion. To sum up, grammar and syntax are essential parts of language learning. They help learners speak and write with confidence and accuracy. The goal is not only to know the rules but to use them naturally. Teachers should make grammar and syntax lessons meaningful, interesting, and connected to real communication. When learners understand grammar through practice, they gain real language ability - not just memorized knowledge.

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