

**INCREASING STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL SKILLS THROUGH
ENGLISH TOPICS
ПОВЫШЕНИЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНЫХ НАВЫКОВ СТУДЕНТОВ
ЧЕРЕЗ ТЕМЫ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА**

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Abstract

This paper explores how English language instruction can be strategically used to enhance students' broader educational skills. English, as both a subject and a medium of instruction, offers rich opportunities for developing critical thinking, communication, reading comprehension, writing proficiency, and analytical abilities. By engaging with diverse English topics—such as literature, persuasive writing, debates, and media literacy—students cultivate essential academic competencies that are transferable across disciplines. The integration of skill-building within English classes promotes not only language development but also cognitive growth and intellectual engagement. This approach fosters holistic student development and prepares learners to meet academic and real-world challenges more effectively. The study advocates for a skills-based English curriculum that aligns language learning with the demands of modern education.

Keywords: teaching methodology, teaching aims, pedagogical methodological character, framework, principles of psycholinguistic, pedagogical, education, foreign language.

Introduction

In today's interconnected and knowledge-driven world, proficiency in English extends far beyond the boundaries of language learning. It serves as a powerful tool for developing a wide range of educational skills essential for academic success and lifelong learning. English is not only a subject in itself but also a medium through

which students can enhance critical thinking, creativity, communication, and analytical abilities. By integrating educational skill-building within English topics—such as reading comprehension, essay writing, debate, and media analysis—students are better equipped to understand complex ideas, express themselves effectively, and engage with the world around them.

This approach transforms English classes into dynamic environments where students practice real-world skills through thematic content. As they analyze literature, craft arguments, interpret texts, and present their ideas, they simultaneously sharpen cognitive and academic skills that are transferable across all disciplines. Therefore, increasing students' educational skills through English topics is not just a pedagogical choice—it is a strategic investment in their overall intellectual and personal development.

Methodology

Reading comprehension and analysis help build a foundation for success in all academic areas. Through guided reading and critical examination of texts, students strengthen the following key skills:

Critical thinking develop through evaluating characters, plot decisions, and the author's intent.

If students learn to “read between the lines “ and draw conclusions beyond what is explicitly stated. Exposing to varied texts introduces new words in context provides students' vocabulary expansion. Summarizing and paraphrasing improve memory and understanding lead to the information retention.

Whether you're travelling to the islands or the mountains of Thailand, you're likely to spend at least one night in its capital city on the way. Bangkok might be noisy and polluted but it's also an exciting city with plenty of things to see and do. Why not make it a longer stay?

The text below gives us the opportunities for improving our key skills.

Where to stay

The Khao San Road was a famous traveller spot even before Leonardo di Caprio's character in the film *The Beach* stayed there. But it's noisy, not very pretty and not very Thai. For something more authentic, Phra Kanong offers an alternative place to stay, with its fantastic street markets where everyday Bangkok people eat, work and live. It's not as convenient for the main tourist sites, but it has a Skytrain station so you can be at the Grand Palace in 20 minutes.

How to get around

Bangkok's traffic can be a nightmare. Sure, you can easily take a taxi – if you want to spend hours stuck in traffic jams – but there are two much better ways to get around the city. To explore the temples and historical sites, catch an express boat river taxi or a longtail boat along the Chao Phraya river and the canals. For the modern part of the city, the Skytrain is a fast, cheap way to travel from the river to the shopping malls and nightlife of Sukhumvit, and the famous Chatuchak street market.

Where to eat

The simple answer is: everywhere! Thai street food is among the best in the world, and for around \$5 you can eat a filling and delicious meal. Some food stands have little plastic seats where you can sit and eat and they cook the same dish over and over, like fried chicken on rice or Pad Thai noodles. Head for Chinatown – Yaowarat Street – and choose whatever looks most interesting from the many excellent Chinese and Thai restaurants and food stands.

What to do

After you've seen the main sites like the Giant Buddha at the temple of Wat Pho and the spectacular Grand Palace, and shopped at Chatuchak market, check out the snake

farm and watch the live snake show. You can even touch a snake yourself if you want to!

Reading B1: A travel guide – 1

Match the Bangkok landmarks and places with the descriptions

Khao sen road, Chao Phraya, Sukhumvit, Wat Pho, Phra Kanong, Yawaorat Street

a place that you might see in the film 'The Beach'

a place where local Thai people go

an alternative route through the city

a place to go for shopping and bars

a place to go for food

an important sightseeing spot

Literature Review

One important approach related to this idea is **Content-Based Instruction**. In this approach, students learn English through meaningful subject matter rather than isolated language exercises. Content-Based Instruction allows learners to study interesting and useful topics while also improving their English language ability. Villalobos explains that in a typical CBI course, students learn something meaningful through the target language, which helps them develop linguistic abilities at the same time. ([Dialnet](#)) This shows that English topics can support both language development and broader educational growth.

Research also suggests that content-based English instruction can improve students' language performance. For example, Vanichvasin's study on content-based instruction investigated its effects on English language performance among Thai undergraduate students and reported positive student perceptions of this method. ([ERIC](#)) Similarly, Kasper's study found that content-based ESL instruction helped improve English language skills and supported students' academic transition.

([ScienceDirect](#)) These findings support the view that English topics are useful not only for learning English but also for developing academic readiness.

Another relevant method is **Task-Based Language Teaching**. In this approach, students learn English by completing meaningful tasks, such as discussions, problem-solving activities, presentations, interviews, role plays, and group projects. Nunan defines a pedagogical task as classroom work where learners understand, manipulate, produce, or interact in the target language while focusing on meaning. ([Кембриджские ресурсы](#)) This is important because English topics become more effective when students do something active with them, not only read or memorize information.

Task-based learning can improve students' communicative competence because it gives them opportunities to use English in practical situations. A systematic review on Task-Based Language Teaching states that TBLT affects speaking, listening, reading, and writing by encouraging task engagement and communicative use of language. ([ResearchGate](#)) Therefore, English topics can increase students' educational skills when they are taught through interactive tasks rather than teacher-centered explanation only.

Discussion

Advantages

1. Improves communicative competence

Using English topics encourages students to speak, discuss, and express ideas. Instead of memorizing grammar, they actively use the language in meaningful contexts, which strengthens speaking and listening skills.

2. Increases student motivation

Real-life topics such as health, technology, and lifestyle are more interesting than isolated exercises. Students become more engaged because they can relate the topic to their own lives.

3. Develops critical thinking skills

When students discuss topics, they must give opinions, compare ideas, and justify

their answers. This promotes higher-order thinking rather than simple memorization.

4. Integrates multiple skills

Topic-based lessons combine reading, listening, speaking, and writing. This reflects real communication and helps students develop balanced language skills.

5. Supports learner-centered teaching

Approaches like **Task-Based Language Teaching** shift focus from teacher to students. Learners become active participants instead of passive listeners.

Disadvantages

1. Difficult for low-level students

Students with low proficiency may struggle to understand or discuss complex topics. Without proper support, they may become silent or dependent on stronger students.

2. Requires strong teacher planning

Topic-based lessons are not simple to design. Teachers must carefully select materials, tasks, and vocabulary. Poor planning leads to confusion and ineffective lessons.

3. Risk of focusing more on content than language

In approaches like **Content-Based Instruction**, students may focus on ideas but ignore grammar accuracy. This can slow down language development if not balanced.

4. Unequal participation

In group work, stronger or more confident students may dominate discussions, while weaker students participate less.

5. Time-consuming

Topic-based and task-based lessons often take more time than traditional methods. Completing discussions, presentations, and tasks within one lesson can be challenging.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, enhancing students' educational skills through English topics is a powerful and effective approach to holistic learning. English, as both a language and a subject, supports the development of critical thinking, communication, reading comprehension, and writing proficiency. By integrating diverse English topics—such as literature, grammar, essay writing, and public speaking—students not only improve their language abilities but also strengthen their analytical and problem-solving skills. This multi-dimensional learning fosters confidence and prepares students for academic success across all disciplines. Therefore, a strategic focus on English topics is essential in nurturing well-rounded, competent learners equipped for the demands of the modern world.

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