

# TED Talks as a Tool for the Development of Communicative Competence in Foreign Language Lessons in High School

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## **Annotation**

This article explores the role of TED Talks as an effective tool for developing communicative competence in foreign language lessons for high school students. The research highlights how TED Talks improve listening and speaking skills, enhance critical thinking, and provide authentic language input. The study includes theoretical foundations, practical classroom applications, and statistical data on student engagement. The findings suggest that TED Talks significantly contribute to the improvement of communicative competence in language learners.

**Keywords:** communicative competence, TED Talks, language learning, listening skills, speaking skills.

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In recent years, technology has played a vital role in education, offering new ways to enhance students' learning experiences. One of the most effective tools for improving foreign language skills is TED Talks. These widely available online speeches cover diverse topics, making them useful resources for language teachers. This article examines how TED Talks help high school students develop their communicative competence by improving their listening and speaking abilities, encouraging critical thinking, and exposing them to authentic language use.

## **The Role of TED Talks in Developing Communicative Competence**

Communicative competence is the ability to use a foreign language effectively in real-life situations. According to Canale & Swain (1980), it consists of four components:

- Linguistic competence – knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.
- Sociolinguistic competence – understanding social and cultural aspects of communication.
- Discourse competence – the ability to construct coherent texts and dialogues.
- Strategic competence – using strategies to overcome communication difficulties.

Listening is a fundamental skill in language learning. TED Talks provide exposure to various accents, speech rates, and real-life conversations. Field (2008) argues that authentic audio materials significantly improve students' listening comprehension. A study conducted by Brown (2017) found that students who regularly engaged with TED Talks improved their listening skills by 25% compared to those who relied only on traditional listening exercises. [1]

Public speaking is an essential part of communicative competence. TED Talks expose students to effective presentation techniques, speech structures, and persuasive speaking styles. Thornbury (2005) states that regular exposure to well-structured speeches improves fluency and confidence in speaking. [2]

A classroom study by Johnson (2019) showed that students who practiced delivering short TED-style presentations experienced a 30% improvement in their speaking fluency over a semester. [3]

TED Talks often introduce complex topics that require analysis and discussion. According to Krashen's Input Hypothesis (1982), meaningful input combined with interaction leads to better language acquisition. By analyzing different viewpoints presented in TED Talks, students improve their ability to express opinions and engage in meaningful debates. [4]

#### Practical Implementation of TED Talks in the Classroom

##### 1 Pre-Watching Activities

Before watching a TED Talk, teachers should introduce key vocabulary and discuss the topic. This activates students' prior knowledge and prepares them for better comprehension.

##### 2 While-Watching Activities

During the video, students can take notes, answer comprehension questions, or focus on specific linguistic features. Research by Smith (2021) found that structured while-watching tasks increase student engagement by 40%. [5]

##### 3 Post-Watching Activities

After watching, students can summarize the talk, participate in debates, or prepare their own TED-style presentations. This helps reinforce new vocabulary and improves speaking skills.

#### Data and Analysis

The effectiveness of TED Talks in language learning has been supported by statistical research. The following table presents a summary of a study conducted in five high schools in the US, where students engaged with TED Talks over a semester.

Skill	Improvement (%)
Listening skills	25%
Speaking fluency	30%
Student Engagement	40%

**Table 1. Summary of Student Improvement**

(Adapted from Brown (2017) and Johnson (2019).)

The underlying goal of these studies was to validate the effectiveness of incorporating modern, authentic multimedia resources into foreign language teaching. Traditional methods often rely on scripted and less engaging content, while TED Talks provide real-life language usage, diverse accents, and topics that spark critical thinking and discussion. The research aimed to demonstrate that such engaging materials not only enhance linguistic skills but also significantly boost overall student motivation and classroom participation.

TED Talks are a powerful tool for improving communicative competence in foreign language lessons. They enhance listening skills, develop speaking confidence, and promote critical thinking. By integrating TED Talks into language teaching, educators can provide students with valuable exposure to authentic speech and real-world topics. Future research could explore how TED Talks impact different proficiency levels and their long-term effects on language learning.

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