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SPEAKING CLUB AS AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF NON-FORMAL ENGLISH LEARNING IN SCHOOL AND ADULT EDUCATION

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Non-formal education is often used interchangeably with terms such as community education, adult education, lifelong education and second-chance education [2]. Non-formal learning can be preparatory, supplementary or an excellent alternative (where necessary) to formal education types. It includes accredited courses run by well-established institutions as well as locally based operations with little funding. It arises from the learner's conscious decision to master a particular activity, skill or area of knowledge and is thus the result of intentional effort [2, 4].

Non-formal learning typically takes place in community settings: swimming classes for schoolchildren, sports clubs of various kinds for all ages, reading groups, debating societies, language clubs, amateur choirs and orchestras, etc. Some non-formal learning arrangements become increasingly formal as learners aim to be more proficient; for example, a student takes a graded exam in music or gets certified as a B1-B2 English Independent user. For their part, adult migrants can be engaged in non-formal language learning when they participate in organised activities that combine the learning and use of their target language with the acquisition of a particular skill or complex of knowledge [3].

Consequently, the system of non-formal foreign language teaching to pupils and adult students comes up with a variety of ways to learn a new language promptly and effectively. There are special courses, online schools, master classes, workshops, circles, clubs, forums and many other options to get knowledge and master skills in the most convenient way for the learner. Hence, trying to be relevant to the learner's life and the needs of society, non-formal education programmes have the potential to become exceptionally qualitative, flexible and student-centered.

Speaking club is presented as an integral part of the foreign language studies that, being a student-driven activity, promotes motivation as well as develops interaction and communication skills of its members. There is evidence of overall improvement of the four basic language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) and, therefore, a general increase in the English language proficiency level of the speaking club participants [1]. It also proves to be an effective extracurricular activity in learning English for both schoolchildren and adult learners in different institutions.

Along with one of the obvious benefits of joining a public speaking club or course – improving your communication skills (both verbal and non-verbal) – the learners are taught to structure their speech, use appropriate language and tone, engage their audience, and handle questions and feedback. They practice their body language, eye contact, voice projection, and gestures, which can enhance their message and make them more confident and credible. These skills are essential for

any situation where they need to express themselves clearly and persuasively, such as interviews, presentations, negotiations, or social interactions [6].

Another benefit of being a speaking club participant is that a student expands their network and opportunities, both personally and professionally. The learners meet new people who share the same interest and passion for public speaking, they have an opportunity to showcase their skills and talents, and demonstrate their value and potential to others. Furthermore, they open themselves to new possibilities and connections, such as mentors, collaborators, clients, or employers, who can help them advance their career and goals [6].

Besides, developing your students' leadership and teamwork skills through speaking club practice is crucial for any role or project. They learn how to lead and motivate others, as well as how to follow and cooperate with others. They are also taught how to give and receive constructive feedback, how to handle conflict and criticism, and how to respect and appreciate diversity and different perspectives [6]. Finally, they enhance their emotional intelligence and social skills, which make them a more effective and influential leader and team member.

Last but not least, a speaking club member has a chance to boost their creativity and critical thinking skills, which are vital for solving problems and generating ideas. They learn how to research, analyze, and synthesize information, how to use logic and evidence, and how to present their arguments and opinions in a clear and convincing way [6]. Moreover, studying various techniques to make their speech more engaging and memorable, the learners stimulate their imagination and intellect, which can help them in any situation where they need to think creatively and critically.

To summarize, the effectiveness of speaking club in terms of the language proficiency level of the participants and their social activity engagement deserves special attention. This way of non-formal English learning expresses the core principles that should be at the heart of all good education. The learning is oriented to practical skills, life skills and personal development. It empowers students, instilling confidence and promoting decision making. The learners are also educated how to recognize their achievements and progress, celebrating their successes and coping with failures [2, 5]. After all, each participant realizes their potential and develops a positive attitude which is vital in today's world.

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