

# Innovative student-centered methods for increasing motivation in teaching English to young learners in Uzbekistan

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**Abstract:** Motivation is a key factor in successful foreign language learning, especially among young learners. Modern educational reforms in Uzbekistan emphasize the importance of student-centered teaching methods to increase motivation and learning effectiveness. This article examines innovative student-centered approaches that help improve motivation in English language classrooms. The study is based on analysis of Uzbek and international educational practices. Special attention is given to interactive learning, independent student participation, and teacher facilitation. The results show that student-centered methods significantly improve motivation, confidence, and learning outcomes. The article also presents practical innovative ideas for improving motivation in Uzbek classrooms.

**Keywords:** student-centered learning, motivation, English teaching, young learners, innovation, Uzbekistan

## Introduction

In recent years, Uzbekistan has implemented important reforms to improve foreign language education. One of the key documents is the Presidential Decree No. PF-5712 (2019), which focuses on improving the quality of education and introducing modern teaching methods. This reform highlights the importance of developing student independence, critical thinking, and communication skills. The government of Uzbekistan recognizes that traditional teacher-centered methods are not always effective in modern education. Modern society requires students to actively use foreign languages in real-life situations. Therefore, educational reforms encourage teachers to use student-centered approaches.

Student-centered learning focuses on active student participation. In this approach, students are not passive listeners but active participants in the learning process. Teachers guide and support students rather than only providing information. Young learners especially benefit from student-centered methods. When students actively participate, their motivation increases. They feel responsible for their learning and develop confidence. Uzbek educational researchers also emphasize the importance of innovation in teaching. Modern teaching methods help create more effective and

motivating learning environments. This article examines innovative student-centered methods and their role in increasing motivation among young English learners in Uzbekistan.

This section reviews Uzbek and international research on student-centered learning and motivation. Tolipov (2013) [6; 120] explains that student-centered learning improves student independence and motivation. He states that when students actively participate, their interest in learning increases. Muslimov (2016) [3; 45] emphasizes the importance of innovative teaching methods in Uzbekistan. He notes that interactive activities help students develop communication skills and motivation. Nishonaliev (2018) [4; 88] states that modern teaching methods help students become more confident and active learners. He explains that student participation is essential for effective learning. Rakhimov (2019) [5; 21] explains that student-centered classrooms create better learning environments. Students feel more comfortable and motivated when they actively participate. International researchers also support this idea. According to Brown (2007), student-centered teaching improves motivation and learning effectiveness. Students learn better when they actively use the language. These studies show that student-centered methods are effective in improving motivation and learning outcomes.

This study uses a simple analytical method. It analyzes student-centered teaching practices used in Uzbekistan and compares them with traditional teaching methods.

The analysis focuses on:

- student participation
- teacher role
- student motivation
- classroom interaction

The method is based on analysis of teaching practices, educational literature, and modern teaching approaches used in Uzbekistan. The analysis shows that student-centered teaching methods have a strong positive influence on student motivation in English language learning. When students actively participate in the learning process, they feel more responsible and interested in learning.

One of the main findings is that student participation increases motivation. In traditional classrooms, students often listen to the teacher and complete written exercises. This method helps students learn grammar but does not always develop motivation. In student-centered classrooms, students speak, share ideas, and participate in activities. This makes learning more interesting and meaningful.

Another important result is the change in the teacher's role. In student-centered learning, the teacher becomes a facilitator rather than the only source of knowledge. The teacher guides students, helps them, and creates opportunities for participation. This improves student confidence and independence.

The analysis also shows that student-centered methods improve student confidence. When students participate regularly, they become less afraid of making mistakes. Confidence is an important factor in motivation because confident students are more willing to speak and use the language.

Classroom interaction also increases in student-centered environments. Students work in pairs, groups, and discussions. This helps them practice communication skills. Communication practice improves both motivation and language ability.

Another important result is emotional engagement. Students feel more motivated when they enjoy the learning process. Interactive activities, discussions, and student participation create positive emotional experiences. Positive emotions increase motivation.

In Uzbekistan, educational reforms encourage teachers to use student-centered approaches. However, traditional methods are still common in some classrooms. The analysis shows that combining traditional and student-centered methods can produce the best results.

Student-centered learning does not mean eliminating teacher guidance. Teachers still play an important role, but they support students rather than control every activity. The results also show that even simple student-centered activities can improve motivation. Activities such as asking students questions, encouraging discussion, and allowing students to express ideas can significantly improve motivation.

### Conclusion

This study examined the role of student-centered teaching methods in increasing motivation among young English learners in Uzbekistan. The results show that student-centered approaches significantly improve student motivation, confidence, and participation. Student-centered learning is one of the most effective ways to improve motivation. When students actively participate, they feel more interested and responsible for their learning. Passive learning reduces motivation, while active participation increases it. One important observation is that motivation increases when students feel independent. When students make decisions, answer questions, and express their ideas, they develop confidence. Confidence is essential for successful language learning.

From my perspective, one innovative idea is the "Student Voice Method." In this method, every student is given regular opportunities to speak during the lesson. For example, students can share opinions, answer open questions, or explain simple ideas. This helps students feel valued and involved. Another innovative idea is the "Mini Leader Strategy." In this method, students take small leadership roles during the lesson. For example, one student can lead a short activity or help classmates. This increases responsibility and motivation. I also believe that student-centered learning helps develop important life skills. Students learn communication, independence, and

confidence. These skills are important for future success. Educational reforms in Uzbekistan support the use of modern teaching methods. However, successful implementation depends on teachers. Teachers should gradually introduce student-centered activities and create supportive learning environments.

In conclusion, student-centered teaching methods significantly improve motivation and learning effectiveness. My personal view is that giving students more opportunities to participate and express themselves is one of the most effective ways to improve motivation in English language learning.

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