



The Impact of Shadowing on Pronunciation and Fluency

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Abstract: This article is devoted to studying the influence of the shadowing method on pronunciation and fluency, highlighting the contribution of this method to phonetic and speech development in the process of language learning. Shadowing is based on the immediate repetition of heard speech, which activates the process of perception of sounds, and allows for the natural acquisition of phonetic elements such as intonation, stress, and rhythm. This method develops the learner's fluency skills such as continuity, melodiousness, and naturalness in speech, harmonizes the processes of hearing and speaking, and stimulates the simultaneous active work of speech centers. Shadowing increases the learner's accuracy in pronunciation, enhances speech activity, and strengthens his confidence in using the language in a real communicative process. Thus, the shadowing method is considered an effective method for improving pronunciation and developing fluency.

Keywords: shadowing, pronunciation, fluency, phonetics, intonation, stress, speech rhythm, listening repetition, speech skills, oral speech, auditory perception, language learning methods, phonological awareness, communicative competence

Shadowing is a language learning technique based on the almost simultaneous repetition of heard speech, which is considered an effective approach to developing



pronunciation and oral fluency. This technique activates the learner's process of perceiving sounds and makes pronunciation more natural by combining listening comprehension with the speaking process. The process of re-enacting language units simultaneously with the flow of speech strengthens oral skills. In the shadowing process, the learner focuses not only on the pronunciation of words, but also on the tone, stress, intonation and rhythm of speech. Through this approach, the natural speech processes of the language are perceived and transferred to active speech. The repetition of intonation patterns makes speech more lively, allows for a deeper understanding of the phonetic system of the language, and increases the learner's linguistic sensitivity. As a result, shadowing has a positive effect not only on the form of speech, but also on the fluency of content. Fluency, that is, the continuity and naturalness of speech, is significantly strengthened during shadowing exercises. This method encourages the learner to adapt to the flow of speech, speeds up the process of verbal expression, and reduces interruptions in speech. As a result of regular shadowing, the learner adapts to the speed of speech, develops the ability to connect sounds, form sentence structures naturally, and create a unique rhythm in speech.

This method turns the learner into an active listener, because he does not just receive the speech he hears, but also continuously repeats it. This process leads to the simultaneous activation of the centers in the brain responsible for listening comprehension and speaking. Therefore, shadowing is an effective exercise that supports dual activity, strengthening the ability to notice small differences in pronunciation and apply them in oral speech. Another important aspect of shadowing is that it strengthens the learner's self-confidence. Natural errors that occur in the speech process are reduced during shadowing, because the learner relies on the correct model by immediately repeating the speech he hears. As a result, the



accuracy of pronunciation increases, the overall quality of speech improves, and the learner becomes more ready to actively use the language.

Shadowing is an active type of language learning exercise based on the immediate repetition of heard speech, which simultaneously engages the learner as a listener and a speaker. This method is considered an effective approach to pronunciation formation, helping to perceive sounds, reproduce them, and harmonize speech mechanisms. The essence of shadowing is that the learner continuously perceives the flow of speech and repeats it naturally. This activates phonetic processes and increases the phonological sensitivity of the language learner. In the shadowing method, the sound aspects of speech are of primary importance. The learner pays attention not to the shape of words, but to phonetic elements such as tone, stress, pause, and rhythm that are formed during their pronunciation. Noticing and adapting to such phonetic elements allows the language learner to master speech in a more natural way. This process strengthens fluency by deepening the assimilation of intonation patterns and feeling the musicality of speech.

Fluency is an important skill in language learning, and shadowing has a significant impact on its development. The learner adapts to the flow of speech, learns to connect words consistently, form natural coherence in the structure of sentences, and control the process of continuous speech. This contributes to the smoothness of the process of expressing thoughts. With regular use of shadowing, the learner learns to control the speed of speech, connect sounds, and independently form his own speech rhythm. As a result of the simultaneous active work of the auditory and speech centers during shadowing, the learner experiences a two-channel perception process. This synchrony allows the phonetic and semantic aspects of speech to be perceived as a whole. Such harmonious activity strengthens the areas of the brain related to speech, develops the ability to notice subtle differences in pronunciation and repeat



them. Another important aspect of shadowing is that it helps the learner increase his self-confidence in speech. By immediately repeating natural speech, the learner reduces phonetic errors, gets used to the correct formation of sounds, and improves the quality of speech. This increases readiness for active use of the language, reduces fears and hesitations, and builds speech independence in the learner.

In general, shadowing is considered an effective method that increases the fluency and accuracy of pronunciation, helps to deeply understand the language system, and enhances phonetic sensitivity. Its effect is manifested not only in phonetic aspects, but also in psychological and speech processes. Shadowing shifts the learner's attitude to the language to an active position, continuing the process of language acquisition in a natural, continuous and systematic way.

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