The Importance of Speaking in English as a Foreign Language between Skillful and Thoughtful Competencies: Studying Sociolinguistics Perspectives

Nguyen Van Huy¹ ✉ Nguyen Thanh Nam² and Bui Ngoc Bon³
¹Faculty of Foreign Languages, Dong Nai Technology University, Bien Hoa City, Vietnam
²Faculty of Foreign Languages & Information Technology, Ho Chi Minh City College of Technology, Thu Duc City, Vietnam
Corresponding Author: Nguyen Van Huy, E-mail: nguyenvanhuy@dntu.edu.vn

ABSTRACT
Speaking in a foreign language demands both attentiveness and proficiency in the language itself so that the other person may understand the speech’s substance more easily. With the aid of an electronic engine based on Google Scholar data, we undertook a series of data gathering activities to explore the link between competent and mindful English speaking. We want to use this data in a number of international journal articles that address these two factors. Following collection, the data is examined thoroughly as part of a descriptive qualitative research using a coding system. We make sure that the data findings adhere to fair and trustworthy criteria before making any inferences. After discussing the results, we can draw the conclusion that speaking English as a second language calls for careful and competent proficiency in order for the other person to grasp what is being said. This discovery should thus be helpful to many people who are learning English.

KEYWORDS
Competence, English, foreign language, international language, language instructors, language skills, social language, sociolinguistics perspectives.

ARTICLE INFORMATION
ACCEPTED: 02 June 2024  PUBLISHED: 12 June 2024  DOI: 10.32996/ijels.2024.6.2.22

1. Introduction
Speaking activities are an integral component of everyday living that should not be ignored (Clampitt, 2016; Coombs, 2014). Confident persons often generate a substantial number of words via daily speech, while some professionals, such as auctioneers, politicians, and negotiators, are capable of producing even greater quantities. The importance of speaking is so significant and necessary that individuals often overlook the need to talk effectively and engagingly, leading to difficulties in developing these abilities. This process also includes aspects of linguistic proficiency and sophistication. The speaker must acquire the ability to do the task once again in a foreign language, which may be challenging in terms of both social and cultural aspects (Light & McNaughton, 2014; Beukelman & Mirenda, 1998). Due to the inherent difficulty of this speaking talent, we ultimately made the decision to study it in order to comprehend and master it.

According to Anggryadi (2014), there is a widespread belief among speakers that studying a language may lead to successful speaking, which is the main objective of learning English as a foreign language. However, only a small number of individuals are able to articulate their thoughts well and comprehensively without receiving suitable coaching. Copland et al. (2020) argue that English language teachers should assist students with exceptional ability in attaining their speaking objectives. According to Al Nakhalah (2016), students have challenges and difficulties when it comes to speaking English, which ultimately affects their confidence as speakers. Students’ confidence will be enhanced via extensive practice, ensuring their English proficiency is exceptional and persuasive. The references used are Leong & Ahmadi (2017), Ehsan et al. (2019), and Suroso et al. (2021).
Due to the significance of oral communication abilities in this global language. In order to excel in both oral and written English communication, it is essential for students and the general public to acquire foreign language abilities. This proficiency will enable them to effectively use English as a means of communication, particularly in academic and professional endeavors. Within many business sectors (Hoa, 2016; Amalayah, 2021). Being more proactive in reacting to the worldwide flow of information is not challenging, given the fast advancement of technology. This may be seen as a benefit in meeting market demands. English, being the global lingua franca, serves not only as an academic need due to its restricted scope to linguistic abilities, but also as a means of international interaction (Hu & McKay, 2012; Jenkins, 2013).

Through the use of English language proficiency, an increasing number of enterprises in Indonesia are venturing into the global business market, hence enhancing their globalization. Additionally, there is a growing influx of international corporations into the local business market of Indonesia (Stainbank, 2010; Levant et al., 2016). The usage of English as a "business" language is becoming more widespread and extensively used due to the growing importance of communication skills in this language. Therefore, if one's ability to communicate effectively and bargain is lacking, it is likely that commercial failure will persist. Although it may appear insignificant, the lack of understanding between potential customers and foreign business partners can lead to delays and even the failure of a business. This is because national workers often struggle when interacting with clients from other countries or lack proficiency in English communication skills (Ahmad, 2016; Al-Mahrooqi, 2012). This is a common obstacle that often prevents the advantageous possibility of collaborating with other organizations. The foreign business sector has come to a halt due to the state's inability to effectively and sufficiently offer English-speaking personnel, particularly those with strong oral and writing language skills (Sanghi, 2016; Koroliova et al., 2021).

Meaningful discussion in any language involves the use of suitable and meaningful vocabulary, allowing participants to freely express themselves (Barrett et al., 2014). It is an aesthetically pleasing location situated between open spaces and thoughtless monologues. Indeed, the conversation is not just centered upon the party. To enhance the quality of the debate, it is advisable for everyone to reduce superfluous noise and distractions. Ensure that the illumination in the location of the talk is optimal. Both sides should refrain from using long and elusive terms as well as sophisticated jargon (Kabilan et al., 2011). Both sides should exhibit patience and provide sufficient time for calm and uninterrupted discussion. Their voices are not loud and they must make an effort to maintain communication with them. Avoid direct eye contact with the listener throughout the speech (Rojas & Iglesias, 2013; Squires et al., 2014).

Now, the issue arises as to why it is crucial to cultivate conscious and deliberate speaking abilities? Speaking is a fundamental skill that humans develop and possess (Myers, 2017). Due to this capability, individuals are able to engage in verbal communication and exchange ideas and feelings for a multitude of reasons and circumstances. The key feature of meaningful and skilled speaking mastery is seen as the expertise that transforms an ordinary circumstance into an amazing one (Sookermany, 2012). Ultimately, verbal communication is the most effective means of conveying information. Speaking is the main method of communication. Effective and confident speaking may capture the audience's attention, providing the speaker with a great chance to demonstrate their oral communication skills (Niu & Niemi, 2020).

Gaining a thorough comprehension of how to effectively engage with colleagues and peers will provide the foundation for strong self-assurance. All of these occurrences may transpire when individuals possess the ability to articulate their thoughts in a deliberate and considerate manner. Proficient speakers will have enhanced social well-being when they possess the ability to communicate adeptly and judiciously, since excellent verbal communication enables the speaker to engage in advocacy and persuasion (Pathare & Pathare, 2013). The following inquiry pertains to enhancing one's proficiency in spoken language communication, specifically focusing on the development of speaker abilities. The solution is to acquire the ability to articulate words with accurate and captivating pronunciation. Perhaps acquiring the ability to mimic the speech patterns of native English speakers is a potential solution. However, it is insufficient if English speakers lack thoughtful or cautious communication abilities (Campbell et al., 2012). Due to the nature of this proficiency, there are no English lessons or courses that will guarantee success. However, they may provide opportunities for individuals to socialize and learn from their peers. I like honing my ability to effectively expand upon my spoken thoughts.

It enables us to establish connections, exert influence over decision-making, and facilitate transformative shifts. Effective communication skills are essential for achieving success in both commercial and personal endeavors. Public speaking is considered one of the most intimidating forms of communication. What is the significance of communicating in a conscious and considerate manner? The solution is on acquiring proficiency in mindful communication to minimize the likelihood of misinterpretation during verbal exchanges. It is important for the speaker to engage in regular interaction with others while functioning as part of a team. Speakers are required to attentively consider the perspectives of others while articulating their own beliefs in a clear and meaningful manner. (Schroeder & Epley, 2015).
Speaking attentively and thoughtfully involves engaging in conversation with a conscious understanding of the speaker’s words and the manner in which they are expressed. Attentive communication encompasses the act of actively listening and using nonverbal clues with qualities such as kindness, compassion, and care. Being truthful and genuine is also crucial for compassionate communication. This will foster confidence and inspire others to follow suit. Practicing mindful communication may enhance speakers’ ability to effectively convey their messages to others. This is quite beneficial for those who tend to engage in excessive rumination. Once individuals regain their rationality, they possess the ability to cease excessive rumination and return to the current moment at their discretion. Individuals have the ability to express their views and emotions without criticism and respond in a composed and rational manner (Hayakawa et al., 2016; Ristati, 2017).

Mindfulness enables individuals to be aware of their mental state, behavior, and verbal communication. Attention serves as a mechanism to notify individuals when they get diverted, so aiding their ability to concentrate on their chosen focal point. It is important to be mindful of the words we choose while communicating with others, since they may shape their internal dialogue. In his notable work, the distinguished scholar and prominent figure Ang (2005) asserts that “To say is to change.” This statement emphasizes the intrinsic ability of words to alter emotions, appearances, and even the trajectory of individuals’ lives. Assume accountability for one’s own words and verbal expressions.

According to Greeson & Chin (2019), mindfulness may be used as a psychological treatment for human diseases. Mindfulness has the potential to alleviate stress, manage cardiac disease, decrease blood pressure, mitigate chronic pain, enhance sleep quality, and alleviate gastrointestinal issues. Practicing mindfulness enhances one’s mental well-being. Why should one use caution? Engaging in mindfulness practice may enhance our capacity to manage and control our emotions, diminish feelings of stress, worry, and despair. Additionally, it may assist us in directing our attention and examining our thoughts and emotions without forming judgments (Teper et al., 2013).

Given the significance of speaking abilities in the realms of employment, education, and social interactions within society and the government, it is imperative for every individual to comprehend and proficiently employ effective and tactful methods of communication. This ensures that they can effectively convey their message and successfully achieve the objective of clear and pleasant communication. The references used are Fauria and Zellner (2015) and Light and McNaughton (2014). To illustrate the importance of communication skills and competences in academic settings, it is essential for every academic community to prioritize effective and successful communication, both in written and spoken forms. In order for cadets to effectively communicate with each other in the context of learning and assessment, they must acquire and use these abilities in a deliberate, considerate, and proficient manner in order to achieve academic achievement (Nanni & Brown, 2016).

2. Method

In order to determine the significance of English language competence as a foreign language, particularly in terms of competent and smart abilities, we conducted a comprehensive analysis of 50 published subjects. These topics were electronically searched in the Google Scholar database from 2010 to 2020. We conducted a study using a phenomenological technique to investigate and get responses to our hypothesis. Data analysis encompasses several tasks, including data coding, critical examination of data, and the creation of accurate and trustworthy data summaries. In our research of communication science and sociology, we opted for a descriptive qualitative approach. Due to the ongoing epidemic and the continued enforcement of limitations on public mobility, we relied on secondary data for our research. We used keyword searching-systems such as “speaking English,” “thoughtful and skillful,” “speaking competency,” and “publication journal.” This study adheres to the descriptive qualitative research review approach that was first developed by Holliday in 2010.

3. Discussion

This section provides the findings of many worldwide publications that investigate the use of effective communication and expertise in the context of work, education, and social interactions. The first authority to address the aforementioned concerns was Rao, (2019). The author acknowledged the importance of oral communication skills in English classrooms. In our modern day, proficiency in communication skills plays a crucial role, and one must possess mastery of these skills in order to attain success in their respective domains. English is widely used worldwide, and students need to acquire proficiency in its communication skills. This research elucidates the importance of oral communication skills in English classrooms in a comprehensive manner. It also elucidates the types of speaking situations and the tangible advantages of speaking (Bickmore, 2014; Djumabaeva & Kengboyeva, 2021). Peacebuilding exchange focuses on teaching practices in Canadian homerooms. In North American study halls, teaching strategies, such as engaging in discussions and debates, are seldom fully implemented, supported, or inclusive of all students’ perspectives. This article presents the findings of a research that explores the many ways in which teachers used dialogic teaching strategies to address challenging topics in Canadian public school classrooms. This analysis examines the essential elements that determine the feasibility and sustainability of dialogic study hall activities. It also explores the extent to
which these exercises include the perspectives of marginalized voices, using skilled communication to transform assessment organizations. Over the last several decades, there has been a significant focus on identifying and comprehending social and semantic diversity (Shirkhani & Fahim, 2011; Ellis et al., 2008). The essay focuses on the need to alter our understanding and connection to the differences shown by the people we interact with. It illustrates Skilled Dialog, an approach that promotes the creation of relational environments where the abundance of diverse minds and voices may be accessed and connected. In the United States, there is a growing focus on standardized, and even predetermined, educational programs. Many initiatives choose a "proof-based" instructional program without acknowledging the limited capacity to adjust to the many aspects of diversity or the potential lack of consideration for these perspectives. This exam will often get less frequent attention than the first two.

Tonn (2005) conducted a study on the analysis of conversation, communication, and public handling. This essay critically examines the concepts of “discussion,” “exchange,” and the language of treatment as tools used to describe various public deliberative processes in the 1990s and beyond. Despite the common belief that “discussion” and “discourse” can restore politeness, populism, and local engagement in public debates, this paper argues that these communication methods, along with the language of negotiation in which they are often framed, are problematic as guidelines for resolving conflicts and addressing public issues (Swann & Deumert, 2018; Campbell-Kibler, 2012). The essay argues that using a conversational model for decision-making can impede the achievement of popularity-based goals. Additionally, it suggests that engaging in discussions might serve as an alternative solution to the strategic planning required to address societal problems.

Tasker et al. (2012) proposed that the cognitive, emotional, and practical aspects of individuals contribute to deliberate interactions in community-based physiotherapy. The physiotherapeutic relationships between a physiotherapist and the customer’s family or care group in local area-based medical services are intricate. The investigation revealed that these physiotherapeutic relationships flourished when clients, their families, and caregivers allowed their therapists to gain knowledge about them. The physiotherapists used intricate and innovative forms of cooperation to enhance communication with their clients. Enhanced understanding of these matters might facilitate the development of novel approaches to physiotherapy.

Sherretz (2011) emphasized the need of meticulous training and thorough examinations of teachers and their teaching practices. For centuries, intellectuals, guardians, investors, and professionals have argued that public schools promote mindless standardization. Care encompasses a broader understanding of knowledge compared to the psychometric approach. Instead of following a linear progression from inquiry to answer, the meticulous person actively seeks other perspectives to understand the situation. Consequently, this might give rise to various problems and circumstances that may want fresh solutions. The trial readings provided evidence supporting the notion of concern. Based on these findings, providing persons with more choices, presenting other perspectives, and delivering alternative forms of assistance may enhance care (Allami & Naeimi, 2011; He et al., 2017). They discovered that individuals had a more remarkable capacity to recall intricate details in a narrative after reading a book from several perspectives.

Nguyen (2011) discovered effective communication strategies in a globalized world: To what extent do school reading materials contribute to the development of intercultural impartiality skills? Although considered a crucial component of English language education programs, English textbooks have been criticized for not providing classroom pupils with sufficient time to acquire authentic language. This is because many course books have relied on native speakers’ intuition about language use, rather than on language exams that are really made by native speakers, which may not always be accurate. This article focuses on the results of a study that aims to investigate and evaluate the practical content of a newly published set of textbooks designed for use in Vietnam’s secondary schools (Mason & Krashen, 1997; Rahimi & Katal, 2012). The analysis specifically analyzes the phonetic introduction of discourse activities in the course texts and evaluates whether sufficient context-oriented and meta-commonsense material is provided to support these discourse actions. The study also provides recommendations for the improvement of ESL/EFL materials in order to develop effective intercultural skills in relation to English as a Global Language.

Swapna and Jiang (2012) made significant findings by analyzing online media comments. This essay examines the problem of sensitive comments in online customer feedback. In order to get reliable comments, we carefully analyze various textual characteristics, discourse interactions, and importance. Through our analysis, we have determined that discourse relations and relevance, together with crucial literary elements, are the most influential factors in predicting the quality of comments in terms of thoughtfulness.

Gayshon’s ability to convey complicated ideas in a deceptively simple way is remarkable, as seen via Anna Freud’s struggle for autonomy in 2018. The creator most vividly recalls and really admires her intense sense of liberation. She vigorously advocated for a thorough examination of what she believed should be scrutinized before making a decision. Miss Freud had a very contemporary mindset toward children and careers. She approved the creator’s application that was submitted to the planning
Stoddard (2014) provides guidance on how to teach with and about the film in a thoughtful manner. Recent research has shown a growing range of effective and comprehensive instructional techniques using the use of films. Some lecturers require students to evaluate the historical authenticity of a film, while others include film into a comprehensive reenactment. The creator primarily focuses on his investigation on how educators use film to teach in ways that extend beyond using film as a direct representation of a historical or current event or subject.

Hoffman & Duffy (2016) raised the topic of the existence of consciously flexible teaching. An examination to evaluate instructors. This essay explores the fundamental principles of mindful and inclusive teaching. We examine the use of intelligent practice in education as a means to resist institutional pressures to standardize teaching practices. We present two research initiatives related to this topic. An exploratory program focuses on implementing pedagogical variants in the classroom, while the subsequent program focuses on training teachers to develop strategies for inclusive education.

Puiman (2019) observed the comprehensive manual on conflict resolution, which provides guidance on effectively managing challenging circumstances, talks, and individuals with mindfulness. The mindful approach to conflict resolution provides essential tools for effectively communicating in any challenging situation with mindfulness. The course covers a wide range of topics, including improving emotional comprehension, effectively communicating with persons in different situations, navigating difficult conversations, achieving mutually satisfactory resolutions, and disengaging when necessary. Thompson (2017) shown reverence for our history while also embracing the possibilities of our future. The primary concern over intellectual and developmental disorders was disseminated in February of 1963. The most recent publication by the Association was titled “Mental Retardation,” a word that had not yet acquired positive connotations and was deemed derogatory. John F. Kennedy served as the President of the United States, while Beatlemania was a phenomenon in the United Kingdom. However, the band had little recognition or popularity in the United States. AT&T was prepared to release the distinctive “touch-tone telephone” with 10 buttons. Fairbanks et al. (2010) examined the factors that contribute to the varying levels of adaptability among teachers. Instructors have observed that the mere dissemination of knowledge does not elicit the high level of performance that we strive for. We focus on essential aspects outside traditional forms of expertise to assist knowledgeable instructors in making progress. The acquisition of self-knowledge and a sense of structure, with the aim of managing personal and professional environments, may be as, if not more, important than traditional notions of professional development. According to Brookfield (2015), the effective teacher demonstrates strategy, confidence, and responsiveness in the classroom. The competent teacher serves as a valuable resource for effective tactics, methodologies, and contemporary educational institutions. Stephen Brookfield’s This edition will have six new chapters that provide guidance on how educators and their students may continue their education. Stephen Brookfield explores his strategies for successful instruction, managing diverse student populations, and fostering truly inclusive learning environments.

4. Conclusion
This section provides a concise overview of the results from many international publications that investigate the correlation between effective communication and cognitive abilities in the domains of work, education, and social interactions. In this study, we have effectively addressed the research issue by thoroughly examining and deliberating on the findings of a study that investigates the significance of proficient English speaking in conversations (Proctor et al., 2014; Ino et al., 2017). It is crucial to take this matter seriously, particularly for professionals who are responsible for oral and written communication tasks. The effectiveness of communication relies not only on the speaker’s thoughts, but also on their ability to negotiate with a thoughtful and meaningful speaking approach. This aligns with Sofer’s (2018) perspective, which emphasizes the need for clear and direct communication from the speaker. The efficacy of adopting a mindful approach to peaceful communication is very relevant in the present period. This result is expected to provide valuable insights for those skilled in communication activities, particularly those involved in speaking jobs such as corporate professionals, educators, and political authorities.

Funding: This research received no external funding.
Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.
Publisher’s Note: All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers.
The Importance of Speaking in English as a Foreign Language between Skillful and Thoughtful Competencies: Studying Sociolinguistics Perspectives

References


[19] https://doi.org/10.1016/j.system.2008.02.001


