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**The value of the case study as a research strategy**

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### **Abstract**

This article explores the use of the case-study method in teaching English as a foreign language. The given work includes the benefits of using the case-study method, such as its ability to encourage critical thinking and problem-solving skills, foster collaboration and teamwork, and engage students actively in the learning process. Some limitations of the case-study method are also mentioned. The article is based on the research and provides practical examples of the case-study method implementation in English lessons. It also provides insights on how to choose appropriate case studies and how to lead case-study discussions. It's a valuable resource for educators and researchers who are interested in using the case-study method in teaching English. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the benefits and limitations of the case-study method and offers practical guidance on how to implement it in the classroom.

**Keywords:** case-study method, teaching English, critical thinking, problem-solving tasks, collaboration, teamwork, active learning, learning styles, real-world scenarios, implementation of casestudy method.

The object of research is the acquisition of knowledge through education. Learning can be done in different ways, each method has its own advantages and disadvantages. In this case, the subject of research is the "Case-study" method, in particular its use in English language lessons. My hypothesis: this method is the most effective for acquiring knowledge in the academic environment of students. A case is a situation that is similar to real life or taken from real practice. Case-study is education that is built on the basis of practical situations and problems. This situation has several solutions, approaches. In the process of finding an answer, students offer their reasoned ideas. In the process of brainstorming, students not only engage their own experience, but also exchange knowledge with their group. The case-study method has been used in various disciplines for

centuries. It is considered as one of the oldest forms of research and has been used in fields such as law, medicine, and business. Harvard Business School (HBS) began using the case-study method in their teaching in the 1920s. The method was introduced by Harvard professor, Wallace Donham, who believed that the traditional lecture-based teaching method did not adequately prepare students for real-world business challenges. HBS developed the case-study method as a way to provide students with an opportunity to analyze and solve real-world business problems. The case studies used at HBS were based on actual business situations and provided students with detailed information about a company or organization, including its history, strategy, and performance. The case-study method at HBS involves a combination of classroom discussion and independent study. Students read and analyze a case before class, and then participate in a discussion led by a faculty member. The discussion is designed to encourage students to think critically and make decisions based on the information presented in the case. HBS also developed a case-writing program, where Harvard professors and business professionals write cases based on their own experiences and research. The case-writing program provides a steady supply of new cases for HBS to use in its classes. HBS's use of the case-study method quickly became popular and was soon adopted by other business schools around the world. Today, the case-study method remains a staple of business education and continues to be used at HBS and other business schools worldwide. In the field of education, the case study method has been used since the 1960s. It is often used in teacher education programs to help future teachers understand and apply educational theories to real-world scenarios.

The case-study method remains a popular research method today, particularly in fields such as psychology, business, and education. The case-study method is also used in fields such as sociology, anthropology, and political science. This method has several distinctive features:

1. Discussions. People's opinions are initially different - in the Case-study method, this feature is used, which results in a wide range of opinions that can be developed into full-fledged ideas that have a factual basis, facts and examples from real life; Flexibility. Participants are not limited in their choice of answers. Achieving non-standard solutions is the key goal of this method;
2. Activity. Unlike passive learning methods, students are involved in the process of selecting ideas. This feature generates the following important components in the learning process: motivation, interest;
3. Analysis. In the process of discussion, students need to analyze the case, take into account all the nuances, identify contradictions in the ideas of other students;

4. Synthesis. After analyzing all the components and combining all the factors, the student proposes a solution.

The case-study method has several advantages, including:

- **Real-world relevance:** Case studies provide a way for students to apply their knowledge and understanding of a subject to real-world scenarios. This helps to increase their understanding and engagement with the material.
- **Problem-solving skills:** The case-study method encourages critical thinking and problemsolving skills. By analyzing and interpreting case studies, students learn how to evaluate different options and make decisions.
- **Collaboration:** The case-study method often involves working in small groups, which helps to foster collaboration and teamwork. This allows students to learn from each other and develop their communication skills.
- **Active learning:** The case-study method encourages active learning as students are actively engaged in analyzing and interpreting the case studies. This helps to increase their understanding and retention of the material.
- **Flexibility:** The case-study method can be used in a variety of subjects and disciplines. It can be adapted to different learning styles and can be used to teach both theoretical and practical concepts.
- **Encourage critical thinking:** The case-study method is a great way to teach critical thinking skills, as it requires students to analyze and interpret information in order to come to a conclusion.
- **Helps students to relate the information to their own lives and experiences:** By using realworld scenarios, students can better relate the information to their own lives and experiences. This helps them to see the relevance of the material and to understand how it can be applied in the real world.

The case-study method also has some limitations compared to traditional methods, including:

- **Time-consuming:** Preparing and analyzing case studies can be time-consuming, both for the teacher and the students. It can also be difficult to find relevant and appropriate case studies.
- **Limited applicability:** Some students may find the case-study method less applicable to their specific field of study or career path.
- **Lack of control over variables:** Case studies are based on real-world scenarios, which can be complex and unpredictable. This can make it difficult to control variables and to generalize findings to other populations or contexts.
- **Subjectivity:** Case studies are based on subjective observations, which can lead to bias or misinterpretation.

- Inability to experiment: Case studies are not appropriate for experimentation, as it is not possible to manipulate variables and control the environment.
- Limited sample size: Case studies typically involve a small number of participants, which limits the generalizability of the findings.
- Limited to qualitative data: Case studies are primarily used to collect qualitative data, which can be difficult to quantify and compare to other studies. It's worth noting that case study method can be used in combination with other methods to balance the pros and cons of each method and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the topic. For practical use of the method in English lessons a teacher can choose different situations to be solved. We provide you with some examples to use:

- 1.Environmental conservation and sustainability
- 2.Cultural diversity and multiculturalism
- 3.Gender equality and women's rights
- 4.Immigration and integration
- 5.Racial and ethnic relations
- 6.Human rights and social justice
- 7.Mental health and well-being
- 8.Technology and its impact on society
- 9.Globalization and its effects on economies and cultures
- 10.Political systems and governance

An example of using the method in an English lesson:

The teacher divides the students into 4 groups and gives them the task to discuss topic № 7 (mental health and well-being). Groups present their findings: Group 1: The first group presented their findings by highlighting the importance of sleep and exercise in maintaining good mental health. They emphasized that getting enough sleep and regular exercise can help reduce stress and improve mood. They also mentioned that healthy eating and avoiding substance abuse are other important factors. Group 2:The second group discussed the importance of having a support system and connecting with others in maintaining good mental health. They pointed out that having friends, family, or a therapist to talk to can help alleviate feelings of isolation and loneliness. They also highlighted the importance of seeking help when needed and not being afraid to ask for support. Group 3: The third group focused on the importance of self-care and mindfulness in maintaining good mental health. They discussed that taking time for oneself,

engaging in activities that bring joy, and practicing mindfulness techniques such as meditation or yoga can help improve mood and overall well-being. Group 4:

The fourth group discussed how work and career stress can impact mental health, and the importance of having a healthy work-life balance. They emphasized the importance of setting boundaries, taking breaks, and not overworking oneself. They also recommended seeking help from a therapist or counselor if work stress becomes overwhelming. Overall, all groups presented the importance of various factors that contribute to good mental health, including getting enough sleep and exercise, having a support system, practicing self-care and

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