

# A Context and Theme-Based Pedagogical Framework (CATBELL) for Developing Spoken English Competence

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**Abstract:** *The development of spoken English competence remains a persistent challenge for many learners in contexts where English is taught primarily through grammar-centered instruction. Despite years of formal education in English, many students struggle to communicate effectively in real-life situations. This gap between grammatical knowledge and communicative ability highlights the need for pedagogical approaches that emphasize meaningful language use rather than rule memorization.*

*This paper introduces the Context and Theme-Based English Language Learning (CATBELL) Framework, a communication-oriented pedagogical model designed to enhance spoken English competence through contextual narration, thematic interaction, and experiential grammar acquisition. The framework begins with learners' personal experiences and daily routines as the foundation for language expression and gradually expands to broader communication themes such as social interactions, cultural events, and situational dialogues.*

*The CATBELL model integrates both explicit and implicit learning processes. While learners consciously participate in communication tasks such as narration, questioning, and situational speaking, grammatical structures are acquired implicitly through repeated contextual use. By combining routine narration, thematic vocabulary expansion, behavioral repetition cycles, and real-life communication practice, the framework aims to reduce speaking anxiety and promote natural language development.*

*The paper discusses the theoretical foundations of the CATBELL framework, its pedagogical components, and its potential applications in classroom instruction and digital language learning environments. The framework contributes to contemporary language pedagogy by proposing a structured communication-based model that bridges the gap between language knowledge and spoken communication competence.*

**Keywords:** Spoken English, Context-Based Learning, Theme-Based Learning, Language Pedagogy, Experiential Learning, CATBELL Framework

