

PechaKucha as a Strategy to Enhance Speaking Skills and Critical Thinking in EFL Contexts

by Carlos Cazco-Maldonado & Erick Pacheco-Delgado
Yachay Tech University, Ecuador



Contents

01. Introduction

Challenges in EFL speaking skills and PechaKucha as innovative solution

02. Literature Review

Theoretical foundations and research supporting visual-based presentations

03. Methods & Process

Research design, intervention phases, and data collection strategies

04. Discussion & Conclusion

Pedagogical advantages, challenges, and recommendations for implementation

Introduction: EFL Speaking Challenges

The Problem

Ecuadorian university students struggle with fluency, improvisation, and communicative sub-skills despite meeting course requirements. Traditional approaches often create anxiety and limit authentic communication opportunities.



Key Issues

Memorized dialogues, unstructured presentations, and lack of spontaneity in real communication contexts



Innovative Solution

PechaKucha format: 20 slides × 20 seconds each, promoting concise, clear communication with visual support



Literature Review: Theoretical Foundations

Cognitive Framework

Dual coding theory and multimedia learning principles support visual-verbal integration for enhanced comprehension and retention



Visual Scaffolding

Images provide memory triggers and organizational scaffolds, reducing cognitive overload



Task-Based Learning

Authentic communicative tasks with clear goals and outcomes



Research Evidence

Studies show improved fluency, coherence, and confidence in visual-supported presentations

Methodological Framework

Strengths

Mixed-methods approach, authentic classroom setting, comprehensive data collection techniques

S

W

Focus Areas

Fluency, clarity, vocabulary use, confidence, critical thinking, and learner autonomy

T

O

Data Sources

Surveys, interviews, peer evaluations, video recordings, reflective journals, observation logs

Innovation

First systematic application of PechaKucha in Ecuadorian EFL context with visual-only constraint

Key Findings & Impact

95%

Fluency Improvement

Student Engagement

- Strong motivation and appreciation for fast-paced, visually-driven format
- Promotes preparation and focused content selection
- Encourages peer feedback and self-reflection
- Develops critical thinking through strategic organization

90%

Clarity Enhancement

Skill Development

- Transferable skills for academic and professional contexts
- Digital literacy and visual communication
- Public speaking and presentation skills
- Problem-solving and creative thinking

85%

Vocabulary Use

Real-World Application

- Better preparation for authentic English communication
- Academic presentations and conferences
- Professional communication scenarios
- Cross-cultural communication competence

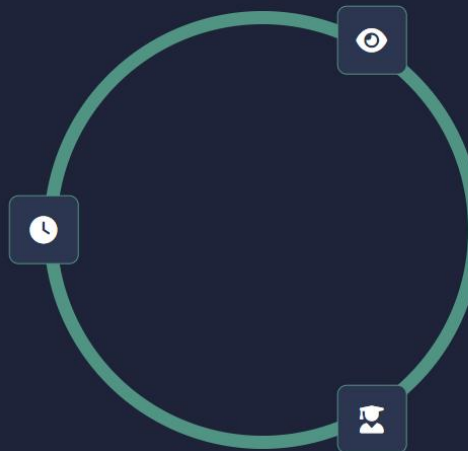
88%

Confidence Boost

Pedagogical Advantages

Concision & Clarity

Strict timing compels prioritization of key messages, addressing excessive detail issues in learner presentations



Visual Emphasis

Aligns with multimedia learning principles, reducing cognitive overload while reinforcing comprehension

Learner Autonomy

Topic ownership and product design foster engagement, encouraging English as expression tool rather than academic requirement

Implementation Recommendations



Document Process

Maintain systematic records of observations, reflections, and feedback for ongoing analysis



Refine Scaffolding

Provide targeted support in discourse markers, transitions, and vocabulary expansion



Promote Visual Literacy

Train students in meaningful image selection and interpretation for effective visual communication



Encourage Reflection

Incorporate journals and peer discussions to develop metacognitive awareness



Plan Longitudinal Evaluation

Follow up to assess skill transfer to academic and professional contexts

//

PechaKucha transforms EFL classrooms by integrating linguistic objectives with 21st-century skills development

— Research Conclusion

This innovative methodology not only enhances oral proficiency but also nurtures digital literacy, critical thinking, and public speaking confidence, preparing students for real-world English communication challenges.

Thank You For Your Attention

Questions and Discussion Welcome - Contact: epacheco@yachaytech.edu.ec