



USING METHOD 635 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS FOR DEVELOPING WRITING AND SPEAKING SKILLS

Siddikova Nargisa Badirovna

German teacher at Fergana state university

Annotation

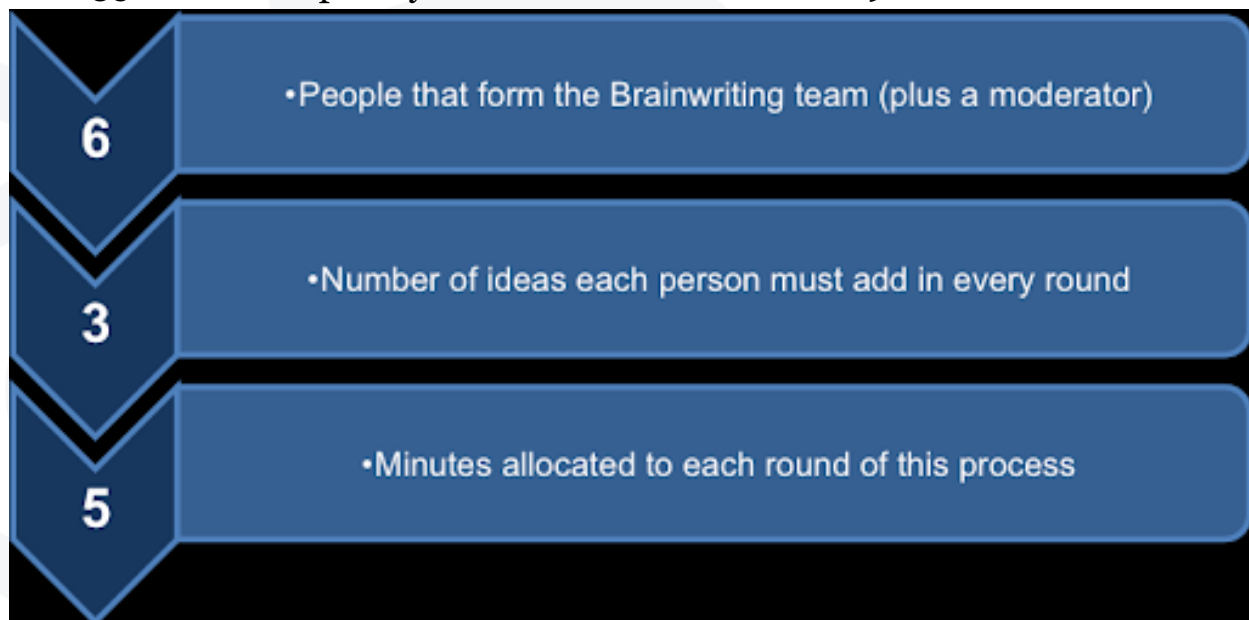
The article analyzes the use of 635 methods in foreign language lessons. The application of the method, its advantages and disadvantages are described.

Key words: method 635, foreign language, writing, speaking, brain-writing, group, moderator

Method 635 is a creativity technique that extends the principles of brainstorming. It is also known as brain-writing and consists of people in a group producing ideas about a specific problem using a specific process.

The process requires 6 people to complete 3 each in 5 minutes. Write down solutions. After the time has elapsed, the proposed solutions are handed over to the respective neighbor, who then either develops the 3 ideas further or adds 3 new ideas. The passing on of the potential solutions to the neighbors continues until each group member has seen each of the three original proposed solutions at least once and has contributed to the document themselves.

Method 635 was developed by Prof. Bernd Rohrbach in 1968.



Picture 1. 635 method



Like many other creativity techniques, Method 635 can be used in a variety of situations, for example:

- Idea development - around 108 new ideas can be created in less than an hour;
- Arise find solutions to a problem
- Find new ways to get things done - new systems and processes;
- Team building processes (getting to know each other and the skills of colleagues;
- Working together on a solution;
- Improving communication in the team or in an organization;
- Encouraging team members to present their ideas and solutions, as the origin of the idea can easily be determined.

This technique can also be applied to more complex problems and is particularly useful when you want to focus the group on one goal and have everyone involved in the process.

One of the main advantages of using 6-3-5 brainwriting is that it is a very straightforward method and therefore is easy and quick to learn. In addition to this, no particular training for the supervisor is required.

Secondly, it valorises the possible different backgrounds of participants since it encourages sharing and exchanging knowledge. Differently than traditional brainstorming, it assures an active participation from all members and at the same time avoids issues of domination over introverts that are also likely to feel more free about expressing their own ideas instead of risking to have their potential inhibited by those who shout louder.

All ideas are recorded on the worksheet, this means that nobody has to be in charge of taking notes throughout the session and this adds a motivational factor since it is possible to keep track of the author of a particular idea.

Overall this leads to a gain of efficiency that might imply an economic benefit since by hiring 6 members 108 possible content ideas are generated.

Possible advantages:

- The method is very easy to use.
- The method does not need a specially trained moderator.
- The innovative potential of a group can be tapped (experts from different fields of knowledge).
- Knowledge sharing (learning from others).





- All participants are active (which is not necessarily the case in a brainstorming session).
- It is useful for problems within the group - conflicts in the group can have negative effects in conventional brainstorming because some participants are reluctant to articulate their ideas.
- A useful idea is systematically developed further.
- The “author” of a creative idea can easily be determined. That can be an important, motivating factor.

Possible disadvantages:

- Some participants have problems describing their ideas succinctly, so that the train of thought is not clear enough for the others (the handwriting must also be legible!).
- The 5 minute time limit can make some participants feel pressured and limited in their ability to think.
- The results of method 635 can be less creative because the mostly individual nature of the contributions does not benefit from group discussions

Tips on the 6-3-5 method

There are a number of tips that are useful when using the 6-3-5 method:

The template for the documentation should be designed / reproduced in a uniform manner.

Nobody should write their name on the sheets of paper. Ideally, it is an anonymous method. Of course it can happen that the participants know each other well and can assign the different writing styles to individual colleagues. Nevertheless, the goal is to find ideas together and to evaluate the ideas independently of the author.

Uniform pens with identical colors should be used.

In later rounds, finding ideas can take a little longer than at the beginning of brain-writing. Here it is up to the moderator to provide a little more time if necessary.

Opinions differ as to whether additional sheets should be made available for further ideas.

The pro-argument is: the more ideas, the better. The contra argument is: If an idea does not make it into your own "Top 18" (6 rounds of 3 ideas per person), then the idea is not worth dealing with.

It is important to discuss how to proceed from the beginning. If further ideas arise in the joint exchange after the 6 rounds, these are usually included in the assessment.





Conclusions

Expressing ideas in a written form may lead to issues in clarity due to participants having trouble summarizing their ideas or reading their colleagues' handwriting or graphical representations.

Stress due to time constraints might cause quality of ideas to decrease, and this might require some people time to become familiar with the methodology.

There is a risk of clash of similar ideas since there is no immediate group discussion which constitutes a loss of possible innovation.

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