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SOME ISSUES OF INTENSIVE READING TEACHING

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В статье затрагиваются вопросы преподавания английского языка для специальных целей. В частности, рассматриваются некоторые практические аспекты обучения чтению. Описываются методики обучения интенсивному чтению студентов неязыковых вузов.

Ключевые слова: обучение английскому языку для специальных целей, методика обучения чтению, интенсивное чтение.

Some issues of intensive reading teaching for specific purposes are touched upon in the paper. In particular some practical aspects of teaching reading are being regarded. The techniques aimed at the development of reading skills are being described.

Keywords: teaching English for specific purposes, teaching methods and techniques of reading, intensive reading.

Intensive reading refers to reading texts thoroughly with clear goals; it is aimed at a complete understanding of the text meaning with its deep analysis. Such kind of reading implies the completeness and the accuracy of understanding. Although reading comprehension can be the goal of intensive reading, its goals may include learning subject matter, vocabulary learning and studying the author's intentions.

The acquisition of the whole range of skills is performed during the following stages: pre-reading, while-reading and post-reading. Pre-reading stage activities are focused on modeling background information that is necessary and sufficient for the reception of a particular text. While-reading activities may consist of summarizing, reacting, questioning, arguing, evaluating, and placing a text within one's own experience.

These processes may be the most complex to develop in a classroom setting, the reason being that in English reading classes most attention is often paid to dictionaries, the text, and the teacher. Interrupting this routine and encouraging students to dialogue what they are reading is a challenge for the ESP teacher. During post-reading stage it is necessary to state that post-reading activities almost depend on the purpose of reading and the type of information extracted from the text. The following example of activities performed in intensive reading class can be provided as an illustration of such kind of practice.

Text

FRESH LOOK AT NUCLEAR ENERGY

John Parsons, Jacopo Buongiorno, Michael Corradini, David Petti

We are running out of time, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned last October in a special report, Global Warming of 1.5°C. National commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement are only the first step toward decarbonization, but most countries are already lagging behind. It is time to take a fresh look at the role that nuclear energy can play in decarbonizing the world's energy system.

Nuclear is already the largest source of low-carbon energy in the United States and Europe and the second largest source worldwide (after hydropower). In the September report of the MIT Energy Initiative, The Future of Nuclear Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World, we show that extending the life of the existing fleet of nuclear reactors worldwide is the least costly approach to avoiding an increase of carbon emissions in the power sector. Yet, some countries have prioritized closing nuclear plants, and other countries have policies that undermine the financial viability of their plants. Fortunately, there are signs that this situation is changing. In the United States, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York have taken steps to preserve their nuclear plants as part of a larger decarbonization strategy. In France, decisions on nuclear plant closures must account for the impact on decarbonization commitments. In the United Kingdom, the government's decarbonization policy entails replacing old nuclear plants with new ones. Strong actions are needed also in Belgium, Japan, South Korea, Spain, and Switzerland, where the existing nuclear fleet is seriously at risk of being phased out.

What about the existing electricity sector in developed countries – can it become fully decarbonized? In the United States, China, and Europe, the most effective and least costly path is a combination of variable renewable energy technologies – those that fluctuate with time of day or season (such as solar or wind energy), and low carbon dispatchable sources (whose power output to the grid can be controlled on demand). Some options, such as hydropower and geothermal energy, are geographically limited. Other options, such as battery storage, are not affordable at the scale needed to balance variable energy demand through long periods of low wind and sun or through seasonal fluctuations, although that could change in the coming decades. Nuclear energy is one low carbon dispatchable option that is virtually unlimited and available now. Excluding nuclear power could double or triple the average cost of electricity for deep decarbonization scenarios because of the enormous overcapacity of solar

energy, wind energy, and batteries that would be required to meet demand in the absence of a dispatchable low-carbon energy source.

One obstacle is that the cost of new nuclear plants has escalated, especially in the first-of-a-kind units currently being deployed in the United States and Western Europe. This may limit the role of nuclear power in a low-carbon portfolio and raise the cost of deep decarbonization. The good news is that the cost of new nuclear plants can be reduced, not only in the direct cost of the equipment, but also in the associated civil structures and in the processes of engineering, licensing, and assembling the plant. The implication is that a large impact on the cost of new nuclear plants may come from several sources: improvements in project management practices; innovations in the serial construction of standardized designs to minimize reengineering and maximize learning; adoption of modular construction, to shift labor from construction sites to productive factories and shipyards; advanced concrete solutions to reduce the need for reinforcement steel formwork at the site; and seismic isolation to protect the plant against earthquakes, which simplifies the structural design of the plant.

It's time to transform our thinking. Renewable and nuclear energies are not mutually exclusive, but complementary. We should preserve existing nuclear power plants and reimagine how new plants can be delivered.

Pre-reading tasks

1. Read the title of the article and guess what the article is about.

2. Read the first sentence of the paragraphs and tell what issues are discussed in the article.

3. Check whether you know how to pronounce the following words: *decarbonization, nuclear energy, emission, prioritize, fluctuate, scenarios, dispatchable, isolation.*

4. Match the term and its definition:

viability, closure, entails, available, average, demand, implication, adoption.

a) a strong or urgent command or request,

b) ability to work as intended or to succeed,

c) to make something necessary, or to involve something,

d) able to be bought or used,

e) the result you get by adding two or more amounts together and dividing the total by the number of amounts,

f) the act of closing something, or an end or resolution of something,

g) an occasion when you seem to suggest something without saying it directly,

h) the choosing and making that to be one's own which originally was not so; acceptance; as, the adoption of opinions.

5. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate term:

to lag behind, commitment, battery storage, equipment, earthquakes, renewable, mutually exclusive, complementary.

1. The right mix of renewable energy, … and efficiency measures offers a much better alternative".

2. The proposition is …

3. The men … the ladies.

4. We would not be a great country without those …". The … also includes sensors for measurements of the electric and magnetic field fluctuations in the frequency range from 0.1 Hz to 40 kHz.

5. The three … severely damaged structures, heavily changed landforms and disturbed geophysical environments?

6. Hydrogen has been proposed as a possible fuel for future internal combustion engines and can be produced from … sources.

7. The two procedures play … roles: the former is suitable for implementation, and the latter can be used to select an initial value for use in the former.

8. Pay attention to the grammar constructions used in the article.

While-reading tasks

1. Note down 3-5 key words and word combinations in each paragraph.

2. Divide the article into 3-5 logical parts and make an outline of the article.

Post-reading tasks

1. Answer the questions:

a) What's decarbonization? Is it time to take a fresh look at the role of nuclear energy in decarbonizing the world's energy system?

b) Why is it so important?

c) What is the situation in the existing electricity sector in developed countries?

d) Why are other options of energy not affordable?

e) What obstacles may limit the role of nuclear power in deep decarbonization?

f) What measures should be taken to reduce the cost of new nuclear power plants?

2. Make a summary of the article.

3. State:

a) the topic of the article,

b) the message of the article,

c) the author's attitude to the issue discussed,

d) your attitude to the issue discussed.

Mastering the ability to read foreign-language text information of professional content is one of the important features of a modern highly-qualified specialist of any profile of education. In order to receive the newest information in their professional sphere future specialists should be able to acquire various reading techniques and achieve the level of a complete text understanding.

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