

МЕТОДИКА ПРЕПОДАВАНИЯ ВОСТОЧНОСЛАВЯНСКИХ И ИНОСТРАННЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ

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THE ROLE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN DEVELOPING LAW STUDENTS' SENSE OF JUSTICE

Students' ability to use a foreign language in specific professional, business, scientific situations is highly-demanded at the modern labour market. Teaching a foreign language at University should be focused on establishing the links between general and major subjects and developing students' professional culture, including the sense of justice of future lawyers. Mastering a foreign language is to go hand in hand with the development of personal qualities of students, acquisition of special skills based on linguistic and professional knowledge.

Keywords: professional and linguistic knowledge, establish the links between general and core subjects, communicative approach, professional culture, future lawyers, sense of justice

Способность студентов использовать иностранный язык в конкретных профессиональных, деловых, научных областях востребована на современном рынке труда. Преподавание иностранного языка в университете должно быть направлено на установление связей между общими и профильными предметами и развитие профессиональной культуры студентов, включая правосознание будущих юристов. Овладение иностранным языком в вузе должно включать развитие личностных качеств студентов, приобретение специальных навыков, основанных на лингвистических и профессиональных знаниях.

Ключевые слова: профессиональные и лингвистические знания, связи между общими и профильными предметами, коммуникативный подход, развитие профессиональной культуры студентов, будущие юристы, правосознание

According to the current legislation of the Republic of Belarus in the field of education, students of all non-linguistic faculties of any university study a foreign language. The main aim of studying the subject at these faculties is to develop students' communicative competence making them able to use a foreign language as a means of professional and interpersonal interaction [1; 2].

Of particular relevance is a professionally-oriented approach to teaching a foreign language, which provides for the formation of the ability of students to use a foreign language in specific professional, business, scientific fields and situations. It involves a combination of mastering a professionally oriented foreign language with

the development of personal qualities of students, acquisition of special skills based on professional and linguistic knowledge. Besides, the needs of students in learning a foreign language dictated by the peculiarities of their future profession or specialty are also to be taken into account.

To follow the modern tendency, teaching a foreign language at University is greatly focused on establishing the links between general and core subjects and developing students' professional culture. One of the crucial elements of future lawyers' professional culture is the sense of justice that later would greatly affect both their proficiency as an integral part of the system of courts and law enforcement institutions, and the well-being of the whole society that they are supposed to protect [3, p. 51].

Hereinafter the term "sense of justice" is defined as a system of legal theories, views, ideas, concepts, notions, and feelings expressing the attitudes of individuals, social groups and the entire society towards existing legislation and desirable legislation, its principles, values and different legal phenomena, as well as the behaviour of people and activities of the state in the field of law (based on D. Yagofarov's definition from [4, c. 108]). As far as developing sense of justice is a life-long process, when considering the sense of justice of law students, attention should be paid to professional sense of justice specifically that is being developed by the means of specially organized educational process and later on – when practicing law.

A number of factors affect this process. At the macrolevel (being one of the forms of public consciousness) it is influenced by a set of interconnected social, political, economic, cultural factors that are interrelated with political consciousness, the system of moral and religious norms, arts, philosophy and other fields of science. And legal education aiming at developing a high level of sense of justice and legal professional culture while transferring the certain system of legal principles and values makes its significant part (based on [5, p. 55]).

Naturally, different subjects studied at University contribute to legal education to a certain degree, but foreign language is among the most promising subjects even not being a major one in its real sense. It offers a variety of opportunities through the contents of the professional topics studied, as well as diverse active educational methods, techniques and forms of study, thus promoting the development of all four elements that considered together make the structure of the sense of justice. These elements are: cognitive (legal knowledge and awareness), operative (ability to follow the legal norms and rules, use the acquired educational experience in a real life in a right way), axiological (a set of values to follow when practicing law) and reflexive ones. And foreign language is to touch upon each of them, thus promoting the development of the sense of justice as a complex phenomenon.

To reach the objective set, the contents of the teaching materials studied for law students at Mogilev State A.A. Kuleshov University have been designed to implement the principle of interdisciplinarity. On the one hand, it is to promote broadening and enriching students' mind, and helps socialize them through education as one of the agents of socialization; on the other hand, it contributes to laying the

foundation of their successful professional performance as lawyers in future. The demands of law students arising from their future profession are also taken into account when selecting the contents of the teaching materials.

The structure of the module is represented by a terminological dictionary, professionally-oriented texts, a set of exercises for reviewing and systematizing vocabulary and practicing reading comprehension, as well as generating subsequent discussion, annotation and abstracting. Students get acquainted with the definition and functions of the law in the life of society and discuss what the world of lawlessness would be like (the topic “Law and Society”), refresh and consolidate knowledge from the history of law, criminal and civil law acquired in the process of mastering major disciplines (topics “From the history of law”, “Law Enforcement”, etc.), carry out a comparative analysis of some law degree programs in the USA, Britain and Belarus (the topic “My future profession”), conduct a survey and discuss the pros and cons of the death penalty, etc. Students study educational and methodological materials “Legal System in Belarus”, which consolidate their knowledge about the main milestones in the formation of the Belarusian legal system, provide a brief overview of the features of the family of Romano-Germanic law, to which the Belarusian legal system belongs, describe groups of elements in the structure of the legal system, one of which includes legal awareness. It should be stressed, that using the official legal portal of the Republic of Belarus [3] as a source of information ensures its reliability. The practice shows that one of the factors ensuring the success and effectiveness of the professional activity of a future specialist is the ability to function in the modern information environment, receive, process, interpret and transmit professionally significant information, that’s why the special attention is paid to using authentic texts, including legal documents. A significant potential in terms of the formation of professional legal awareness of students of legal specialties belongs to the discussion of briefs of criminal or administrative cases, passed court decisions or precedents, the development of collective regulatory decisions in the course of joint group activities. Based on the results of working with legal texts and a set of exercises, students enrich their active professional vocabulary, make up structural and logical charts, participate in discussing the main features and structure of legal consciousness, share opinions on the current system of law – its justice or injustice, effectiveness or inefficiency, pros and cons, etc.

Such a variety of situations provides an important foundation for studying the structure and nature of the professional activity of future lawyers, lay the foundation of professional ethics. etc. The materials of the professional module included in the content of the discipline “foreign language” complement the complex of knowledge of future lawyers about the law as a system of norms and practice, obtained when studying core subjects, and also create conditions for their assignment at the level of value orientations and further application in their future practical activity. The materials of the professional module provide conditions for studying the subject and content of the specialty, the structure and nature of professional activity of specialists,

typical situations and socio-cultural norms of business communication, the basics of professional ethics and other important aspects. The study of these materials allows students to gain additional professional knowledge and stimulates the formation of professionally significant personal qualities and a system of legal views they form, including the basis of legal consciousness. Besides, communicative approach to teaching a foreign language involves the organization of the teaching process as a model of the communication process. Foreign language classes become classes of learning to communicate through communication: students acquire and master communication techniques, speech etiquette, strategy and tactics of dialogic and group communication, learn to solve various communicative tasks, i.e. they master the skills to communicate, establish contacts with other people, learn to practise initiative, tact, which are among the most professionally significant qualities of a modern specialist. Mastering a language is mastering such a language mechanism that enables a person to be a full-fledged participant of communication, in other words, to generate and perceive a text and thereby exchange information in accordance with the real situation of communication and to the extent set by the pragmatic purpose of communication.

Thus, the study of the professional module as an integral component of foreign language education at a higher educational establishment enriches the complex of knowledge about the law as a system of norms and practice received by law students when mastering major subjects, and has a real regulatory impact, providing conditions for their assignment at the level of value orientations, which will contribute to their respective normative application and consolidation in the course of subsequent practical activities.

Teaching a major subject by the means of a foreign language, teaching a foreign language by the means of a major subject is one of the important problems of professional training of a future lawyer. Such an approach to the organization of the educational and cognitive process in a foreign language lesson provides a set of conditions for the exchange of diverse, sometimes opposite judgments about the law on the basis of analyzed information, which contributes to the formation of highly demanded professional skills of future lawyers and stimulates the formation of their professional legal awareness in the unity of legal ideology and legal psychology.

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