

Vocabulary of Political Discourse at the English Lessons

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Abstract: Teaching English is based on the development and improvement of lexical skills, the appropriate use of words, phrases, idioms that are most suitable for describing a particular situation. Understanding words and expressions allows us to convey the meaning of our intentions in the process of communication. The goal of a teacher of a foreign language is to gradually expand the vocabulary of the student and activate the studied vocabulary by organizing a system of exercises that stimulate communicative expressions. «The secondary language personality is viewed by modern linguistics as abilities to communicate in foreign languages. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of that conclusion for the process of teaching a foreign language as it assumes basic distinctions in the choice of teaching methods for various groups of language learners». One of the major problems in learning English is listening comprehension. This problem is faced not only by beginners, but also people with a high level of knowledge. One of the effective teaching methods is to include video materials in the learning process at the English lessons.

Keywords: Training, English, political discourse, video materials.

INTRODUCTION

The relevance of this research is due to the importance of the formation of lexical skills among schoolchildren. As emphasized in the methodology of teaching foreign languages, it is impossible to learn to communicate in a foreign language without mastering this skill, so the teacher faces the task of forming students' communicative competence.

In the system of language means, vocabulary is the most important component of speech activity such as listening and speaking, reading and writing. This important component determines its substantial place in every foreign language lesson, the formation and improvement of lexical skills is constantly within the teacher's field of view. Lexical units of the language, along with grammatical ones, are the source and necessary building material for speech activity, and therefore constitute one of the main components of the content of foreign language teaching. (Averina, 2006; Gafiatovaa, 2015)

Unfortunately, the vocabulary which is studied at the first stage of learning a foreign language and is actively used at junior school is sometimes forgotten afterwards, and teachers observe a decrease rather than an increase in the pupils' vocabulary. In particular, it is seen in the fact that the monological and dialogical speech of pupils is characterized by the use of monotonous vocabulary with a low level of lexical variation, that looks unnatural. One of the reasons of

this phenomenon may be the fact of not paying enough attention to vocabulary work. Or the work is being done, but the vocabulary is not revised in the future and, as a result, is forgotten. For the steady formation of receptive and productive skills, it is necessary for students to work carefully with the necessary lexical minimum, which can be collected, for example, from the speeches of politicians. Political discourse plays a special role in the study of translation transformations.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

We can consider political discourse as verbal communication in a certain socio-psychological context in which the sender and recipient of speech are endowed with certain social roles according to their participation in political life, which is the subject of communication today. Political discourse is characterized by system-forming features, such as: the purpose of communication or discourse, participants in communication, method of communication, chosen tactics and strategies.

To analyze the usage and understand the role of political discourse at the English language lessons, the researchers used such methods as systematic observation, case study and survey techniques, and analysis of the results of educational activities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Political discourse texts can be either official or unofficial. Hierarchy in the genre space of political communication can be considered as a movement from family discussions of political events to signing laws and decrees (from maximum informality of

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communication to maximum formality / institutionalist) (Sheigal, 2000).

“Global changes in politics, economics and culture are accompanied at the same time by the disconnection of cultures and peoples, causing some nations to strive for cultural self-affirmation, self-identification and the desire to preserve their own cultural values” (Achaeva, Pospelova, & Subbotina, 2017).

Regarding the social and cultural variability of political discourse, each organized community has its own political culture with its own structure of norms and values. It has been repeatedly determined that the main political vocabulary, which denotes ideological concepts, is understood by political opponents in different ways, which indicates the presence of different sets of vocabulary among participants in political communication (Komissarov, 2002).

Political events are usually regular and follow a set schedule. Elections, election campaigns, inauguration ceremonies, Patriotic holidays and the annual presidential speech include such kind of features. Events such as meetings with voters, visits of politicians, negotiations and parliamentary hearings have a certain predictability, but at the same time variability in determining the time, place and number of participants.

An inaugural speech is a special kind of political speech. Its characteristics may differ greatly from the generally accepted norms that cohere with a particular culture. The inaugural speech is thought out and prepared in detail in advance. Every phrase and every word are carefully checked, since these are state-scale speeches that are intended for a multi-million audience. In addition, much attention is paid to the historical background of such speeches, since the subject content of speeches depends on the socio-political situation in the world and the country. At the same time, inaugural speeches reflect both national and linguistic features of the political era, and the analysis of them in comparison with election speeches allows one to follow the development and the change of leaders' views.

There are also spontaneous political situations that cannot be planned or predicted, such as rallies, demonstrations, referendums, and strikes. The same group of presidential rhetoric includes the crisis speech, which is a historical interpretation of the crisis situation in order to join the citizens to the position of the head of the country by the head of state himself.

“The active function of the language, as a rule, is primarily associated with expressiveness” (LMuhametzyanova, & Mardieva, 2017).

Including various genres, political discourse consists of a field structure with marginal genres on the periphery and prototypical in the center. To determine marginality or centrality one or another genre in the space of political discourse should be understood as measures of compliance with the main orientation of political communication, that is, the struggle for power. Public speech, voting and parliamentary debates of a politician belong to the prototype genre. Exactly the same prototypical genres include primary texts and there are no intersections with other types of discourse (Lazutkina, 1994).

Official activities have always been an essential part of society. In the modern life, the importance of official and business communication is increasing, this is directly related to the fact that the political and social structure of the state is the subject of increasing democratization. The place of a country can directly depend on a certain political position held by a leading person. On the international arena it has an effect on relations with other countries.

So, we can conclude that understanding and knowledge of the linguistic features of official discourse is important for political figures, since it is simply necessary for competent dialogue and attracting the attention of the opponent. The official discourse can be an instrument of manipulation. These are the facts that determine the presence of certain features of political texts at all language levels: lexical, word-formation, syntactic, etc.

It should be mentioned that the way the country's image is presented by leading figures is extremely important. During the speeches politicians have the opportunity to address their point of view to citizens not only of their country, but also the world community.

As noted above, political discourse plays an important role in the study of translation transformations, the development of a new vocabulary, and the acquisition of skills for applying this vocabulary in context (Komissarov, *et al.*, 2002). It can be presented in the form of documentaries, public speeches. Video films in English are one of the means by which you can diversify educational materials in English, develop the skill of listening to spoken English and add new words and expressions to your vocabulary.

An example:

D. Cameron's speech on the creation of "Silicon Valley" in London on November 4, 2010.

British Prime Minister David Cameron pronounced this speech during the construction of the SKOLKOVO innovation center in Russia. «Silicon valley» has been known for a long time for its developments, and there were its analogues – Hefei and Bangalore in Asia. D. Cameron outlined the government's plans, gave the information about the upcoming reforms and innovations meant to speed up the process of creating a center for high-tech companies in East London. D. Cameron is considering the possibility of creating a «Silicon valley» in East London and implicitly expresses his positive attitude to this.

The politician uses the tactic “analysis – plus”:

Original text	Translation
<p>So why here in East London and why now with this Government? Let me start with the 'why here'. Something is stirring in East London. Only three years ago, there were just fifteen technology start-ups around Old Street and Shoreditch. Companies like the concert service Songkick; Moo, which prints business cards; and Last.fm, an online music community that was sold for £140 million. Fast forward to today, and there are now over one hundred high-tech companies in the area.</p>	<p>Почему тогда это получится в Восточном Лондоне и у нашего правительства? Начну с того, «почему здесь». В Восточном Лондоне есть какая-то энергия. Всего три года назад в районе Олд-стрит и Шордича было всего пятнадцать технологических стартапов. Это были компании типа концертного сервиса Songkick, компании Moo, занимавшейся печатью визиток, и Last.fm, онлайн-музыкального сервиса, проданного за 140 млн фунтов. А теперь посмотрим, что здесь есть сейчас. И мы обнаружим в этом районе более ста высокотехнологичных компаний. Одно это способно внушить потрясающие надежды.</p>

In this passage the interpreter found the expression "something is stirring". Such words as “swarming”, “moving”, “dangling”, “swaying” are indicated in the dictionary as correspondences to the lexeme "stirring". None of them would sound idiomatic in the Russian language. The author of the translation assumes that the basis of stirring and swarming is a certain energy. Therefore, we can see the original expression transmitted by the generalization as "there is some energy".

These examples demonstrate us that while translating the speech of native speakers, it is necessary to perform a large number of complex transformations, for the development of which political discourse is very relevant.

Nowadays, the use and application of video resources is becoming a very popular and effective method in teaching English to schoolchildren. For really effective usage of the video during the lesson, you need to make sure that:

- 1) the content of the video materials corresponds to the level of general and language proficiency of students;
- 2) the duration of the video fragment does not exceed the actual capabilities of the lesson or some lesson stage;
- 3) video clip situations provide interesting opportunities for the development of language, speech, and socio-cultural competence of students;
- 4) the context has a certain degree of novelty or surprise;
- 5) the text of the video is accompanied by clear instructions aimed at solving a specific educational task, understandable for students and justified by the logic of the lesson (Tsapko, 2012).

Sometimes teachers complain that while watching videos students are distracted from the lesson and perceive the beginning of viewing as a signal for entertainment. Of course, situations can be different, but more often such situations occur when the teacher:

- does not take into consideration the real interests and opportunities of students;
- does not clearly explain the purpose of the task and how its performance will be evaluated or affect the course of further work;
- does not succeed in preparing differentiated tasks for good completion;
- did not use a video before;
- is not sure in the necessity and effectiveness of such work.

Using video materials to search for information related to language learning is necessary for fixing, highlighting and memorizing language material: grammar, phonetics and vocabulary. The important part of the exercise is content and the effectiveness of the lesson depends on it. It is enough to offer simple

tasks: watch the video, choose a foreign equivalent to the words you heard, and, conversely, choose a Russian translation to a foreign word, insert the missing words, name all the adjectives with a specific noun, write down the verbs in the form in which they sounded in the video and so on (Tsapko, 2012).

Currently, many teachers offer the class to watch videos. In most cases, these videos are educational films, feature films or cartoons. Few people share their experience of using documentaries during the English lessons, although they contain the most interesting facts from the life of foreign citizens and the necessary vocabulary that is actively used in everyday life.

SUMMARY

One of the most important tasks for teachers of a foreign language is forming communicative competence in students. Evidently, it can be done in many different ways, using a whole range of methods. One of the most effective methods is using authentic video materials. Different elements of language play different role in the system of language means, vocabulary being the most important one, as it is the source and the necessary building material for speech activity. It is a good idea to use not only general vocabulary at the lessons of English, but political vocabulary as well, because political discourse plays an important role in the development of a new vocabulary, and the acquisition of skills for applying this vocabulary in context. Political discourse possesses its peculiar features, that can be extensively used at the foreign language lessons, for example frequent use of the clichés (last but not least; boom and bust; apart from the fact that; in the absence of; to the extent that; strictly speaking) and set phrases (to take smth for granted; to lay foundations of; to go hand in hand; to break new grounds; to set in motion) (Gagarina, Shelestova *et al.*, 2019).

CONCLUSION

Students try to learn to perceive speech by listening and speak the language regardless if they learn a foreign language on their own or attend some courses.

At the same time, the perception of English by listening is often a very difficult task not only for beginners who learn the language, but also for students with a high level of knowledge of the language.

The speech of a Russian-speaking teacher seems clear, but when a native speaker begins to speak, serious problems can appear with the listening comprehension. The study of political discourse at foreign language lessons contributes to the development of new constructions, remembering new words, learning the technique of applying various translation transformations, thereby improves the auditory perception of the English language and general understanding of the text.

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