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A NEW CONCEPT OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES AT THE LVIV UNIVERSITY

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The article deals with training a foreign language specialists of various educational and qualified levels in accordance with professional standards. As English is the most common means of communication in the countries of the European Union, it is stressed on the need for profound reformation of national educational system and its identification to various European higher education institutions. The concept of teaching foreign languages for specific purposes is based on the level principle (from A1 to C2). The practical aim of implementing the new Concept is to develop and improve the intercultural communicative competence of students, which will ultimately be confirmed by the successful completion of the qualification exam. The article says that experts and representatives of certification centers familiarize students with the Cambridge English Language Assessment system. The article also highlights that all University teachers successfully passed the qualification exam and are now working on a new model of teaching foreign languages. It is noted that before introduction the new Concept for the study of foreign languages at the humanities and sciences faculties, a program has been worked out, which needs two-year training using modern Cambridge University methods. After taking the course the students will have the opportunity to take an international Cambridge English exam. The article says that students of the L'viv Ivan Franko National University will have the opportunity to study not only English as a professional, but also German, French and Spanish. It is concluded that the Cambridge Language Assessment certificate opens opportunities for young people to have advantages in terms of employment in many countries of the world.

Key words: the concept for teaching a foreign language; qualification exam; educational level B2; communicative competence; Cambridge Language Assessment System; compulsory learning; European certificate.

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Introductory part: Integration of Ukraine into the European educational space, expansion of international cooperation in the spheres of economy, education, science, and culture set before higher education institutions the task of qualitative training a foreign language the specialists within various educational-qualification levels in accordance with professional and international standards.

Socio-economic and political changes in the Ukrainian society on the base of globalization time challenges determine the need for timely modernization of the higher education system. Ukraine European integration aspirations predetermine the need for profound reformation of the national educational system for its identification in the European space. In view of this, the strategic goal is to prepare a competitive specialist and expand the range of his

professional competencies, which in turn involves students' academic mobility in order to expand the opportunities for learning or improve the educational level in various European higher education institutions.

Today, the need to study foreign languages becomes particularly acute and relevant. Foreign language serves a bridge between cultures of different nations and makes it possible to exchange spiritual values. Economic, political and cultural relations between countries are impossible without a foreign language. The concept outlines the main parameters of the study and teaching a foreign language for specific purposes, which mainly involves changes in the area of methodology and didactics, as well as creation a normative base for the development of university courses in a foreign language in accordance with the needs of the student.

English is the most common means of communication in the countries of the European Union. Therefore, it is quite obvious that in the L'viv Ivan Franko National University, the vector of the educational process development is aimed precisely at the qualitative training for specialists of various educational qualification levels, based on the principles ensuring high quality of teaching foreign languages, providing additional opportunities for students and teachers, motivational stimulation to study the languages of other nations as a necessary condition for integration into the European and world educational space.

The main body: The concept of teaching foreign languages for specific purposes is based on the level principle (from A1 to C2). The practical aim of implementing the new Concept is to develop and improve the intercultural communicative competence of students, which will ultimately be confirmed by the successful passing of the qualification exam.

The L'viv University has always had a respectful attitude towards the study of foreign languages, and in view of the European integration processes in Ukraine, it has now acquired political and social dimensions. Therefore, this program, which was born at the faculty of foreign languages as compulsory learning of a foreign language and reaching the level B2, to some extent is ahead of time. The new concept of language learning implies well-known European-wide principles of didactics and methods of studying foreign languages, when language is studied on the basis of communicative competences that enable a student to pass over from thinking in his native language to a foreign one as quickly as possible.

For the students of L'viv University, in order to be competitive along with leavers of other foreign universities, all conditions have been created at the University, so that the young people who are studying here can use the most of their potential.

It should be noted, that the level of teachers' competence in foreign languages at L'viv University is so high that each of them can teach a foreign language on the base of Cambridge University textbooks and manuals without any additional studies. During the process, the student's tend to achieve the highest possible level of language proficiency as a tool of thinking and communication in the branch of their specialty, which is much of importance.

On June 16, 2015, the University hosted an educational and methodological seminar for teachers and interested students in a training format with the participation of experts and representatives of certification centers who familiarized students with the Cambridge English Language Assessment exam system. Specialists of relevant professional disciplines have discussed a range of training opportunities for both students and teachers. The results of the tests showed that all the teachers successfully passed this qualification exam and still working on a new model of teaching foreign languages, which involves moving away from the common European classical principles and transitioning to the newest teaching methods and didactics.

In the course of introduction the New Concept for teaching foreign languages, it has

been created such a format for inreaching the appropriate number of lexical units and grammar material that is presented in a complex on the basis of area studies information, in order to form a model called a "foreign language proficiency" at a certain level. And then, after completing two courses of study, the student should concentrate on the chosen professional branch.

It should be noted that the TOEFL test results, for example, are valid for two years from the date of the exam, and the results of the IELTS test are available throughout the year. Students at the L'viv Ivan Franko National University will have the opportunity to study not only English as a professional, but also German, French and Spanish. Notably, according to the Concept, during the first two years of study the students will study a foreign language compulsorily, and already in the III-IV courses (as well as masters) they will select from the list subjects for their choice.

Such a system of studying and conducting exams on knowledge a foreign language at the University has been introduced since September 2016. Thus, along with the diplomas of higher education at the University and Diploma Supplement, graduates will be able to get one of the most desirable documents - the Cambridge Language Assessment Certificate, which opens opportunities for young people to choose the best and in the future to have advantages in terms of employment in Ukraine, Europe and the US. This task requires improvement of the system of teaching and a foreign language for professional needs in particular, comprehension of technologies, both obtaining evaluating acquired skills and knowledge, as well as the formulation the purpose, principles and content of training. The basis of the concept covers: the Pan-European Recommendations on Language Education (2001), the English Language for Professional Communication Program (2005) and the German Language for Professional Communication Framework (2014), developed in cooperation with the British Council and the Goethe-Institut in Ukraine and recommended by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science for higher education institutions.

The general purpose of the Concept is to set the parameters for studying and teaching a foreign language at the L'viv Ivan Franko National University in accordance with international standards, to create a normative basis for the development of university language courses in accordance with the needs of the student and the expectations of the society. The practical purpose of implementing the Concept is to form by the students the professionally oriented intercultural communicative competence at B2 level for the educational level "Bachelor" and C1 for the educational level "Master", which is confirmed by the qualification exam. The scale of foreign language proficiency levels has been worked out according to the European requirements: the concept takes into account the levels of language proficiency, specified in the European guidelines on language education. Hence, language knowledge is determined by the following six levels (from A1 - the lowest to C2 is the highest) using the formula "can do" (the amount of competences and skills that a student can demonstrate).

The scale of foreign language proficiency levels is shown below:

- A1 (Survival Level - 140 hours);
- A2 (Elementary Level - 140 hours);
- B1 (Communicative Level - 140 hours);
- B2 (Level for Independent User - 280 hours);
- C1 Proficiency Level);
- C2 Master (Level of Excellence).

At the beginning of the first semester the first year students specialties, where the foreign

language is not a part of the professional training, are TESTING ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE to determine the level of language proficiency. As a result of tests student groups are formed at each faculty. Generally the teaching of a foreign language at an institution of higher education begins with the level B1 + (according to the State standard of basic and complete secondary education) and ends with a qualification examination at B2 level for the Bachelor's level of education (see recommendation letter of the Ministry of Education and Science of 11.03.2015) and the Curriculum COMPULSORY STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE for 1-2 courses in the volume of 10 credits (300 hours); (minimum number of hours for B2 - 140 hours 1 course + 140 hours 2 course). For 3-4 courses, as well as for the educational level "Master", FOREIGN LANGUAGE FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES included as the subject of choice. It is recommended to check the level of the knowledge after the first and after the second semesters - the exam, after the third - the credit (for faculty consideration) and after the fourth semester - the qualification exam (is required).

Consequently, a student, after successfully learning a foreign language for two years and completing a complex qualification examination, receives B2. In the record took it is registered: ESTIMATION, QUANTITY OF HOURS and LEVEL. Students' knowledge is evaluated by a 100-point scale and the record of student's achievements is done in credit book: it's worth mentioning that:

- if a student after the second year of study received a qualifying examination of 75 points or more, the Commission decides to record in the student's grade book B2, along with the number of hours and the corresponding final score.

- if a student has not attained B2 after completing two years of studying, he / she has the opportunity to improve his / her knowledge at the courses or independently and receive the relevant certificate outside the curriculum, since students with B2 level in a course of 3-4 years studying a foreign language for professional purposes as a subject of free choice .

- a student who has confirmed the level of proficiency due to the European Standard B2 before beginning his studies at the first year or has already received a B2 level certificate at the testing center, is released from attending foreign language classes and / or by his wish attends higher level language courses.

- if the student after the summer holidays confirmed his language skills for a higher level (he attended language courses, engaged privately or independently), he has the right to pass one level and study at a group of the higher language level.

For making the wording more precise we supply it with the following examples:

- The student completed his education at level A2. In September (after the holidays) wrote TEST B1 quite successfully. Consequently, he misses the level B1 and goes into the group with the level B2.

- The first year student wrote the first test to determine the level of language proficiency on B1. This gives him the right to start immediately from level B2 and to study the language for only one year at the Bachelor's level.

Upon successful completion of this level, the student receives an assessment in a graduate book for the first year and, if desired, either continues to study a foreign language at a higher-level, or chooses another subject.

The Concept is based on the principles of flexibility and variability that allow students to be aware of their learning objectives and prior experience. The principle of compulsory study a foreign language for B2 level after proper language learning at school is unchanged. This gives the opportunity to offer modular discipline "Foreign language for specific purposes" for the

subjects of free choice at 3-4 courses, which may include the following modules:

- "Foreign language B1" (140);
- "Foreign language B2" (280);
- "Foreign Language C1" (280),
- "Foreign language for professional needs B2" (280);
- "Foreign language for specific purposes C1" (280);

The modularity of the discipline "Foreign Language for Professional Needs" allows students to offer a set of modules in accordance with the entrance level of foreign language proficiency. This means that the minimum required for all specialties where the foreign language is not a part of the professional training is 10 credits (300 hours - that is, at least 4 hours per week) and the opportunity for the student to get B2 level. The maximum for the number of hours and the acquisition of levels of language proficiency is on the verge of the corresponding normative matrix. The getting of a B2 certificate is a prerequisite for admission to the Master's program at the L'viv National University without taking a foreign language test.

Model of studying "Foreign language for professional needs" for entrants to the educational level "Bachelor" with level B1:

- 1st year: "Foreign language B2.1" (140)
- 2nd course: "Foreign language B2.2" (140) (qualification exam in international format B2)
- 3 course: "Foreign language for professional orientation B2.1" (140)
- 4 year: "Foreign language for the professional needs B2.2" (140)

MASTER / SPECIALIST

Level C1. (Foreign language for professional needs)

- 1 year of study (according to the amount of hours as subject choice);
- 2 years of study (according to the amount of hours as subject choice);

Principles of the Concept:

The concept of studying a foreign language for specific purposes is based on the following principles:

- orientation to modern requirements of society and professional needs of students;
- flexibility, variability;
- professional orientation;
- awareness of intercultural characteristics;
- social behavior (cooperation and communication);
- autonomous learning.

Contents of the educational process:

- based on international language proficiency levels;
- meets the national qualification levels of achievements;
- has well-defined goals;
- based on professional and educational skills;
- covers professional and academic content;
- takes into account previous experience of students;
- is modular in its organization.

Concept implementation

The implementation of the new Concept for the Study of Foreign Languages in Specialties, where a foreign language is not a part of vocational training, requires the following steps:

- Changing the didactics and teaching methods of foreign languages at the science and humanities faculties through additional training sessions with the teaching staff of the respective departments. The result of these classes should be modernized and improved using methods of teaching and check knowledge based on the European standards and the student professional orientation.
- Creation of new curricula in accordance with the requirements of the European-wide framework of language proficiency, taking into account the specialty of faculties.
- Conducting consultations for first-year students with a view to clearly explain the purpose, tasks and mechanisms of the functioning new Concept Language Learning.
- Providing students with the necessary teaching and methodological literature.
- Creation of the Center for Certification of Foreign Languages.
- Setting up the foreign language courses at Ivan Franko National University in order to obtain by the students and teachers knowledge of foreign languages and corresponding certificates on a paid basis.

Conclusoin: during the process of preparation and introduction the new Concept for learning foreign languages at the humanities and sciences faculties, a program has been worked out, which needs two-year training for the students applying modern Cambridge University methods, after which students will have the opportunity to take an international Cambridge English exam, the successful results of which will enable them to obtain an internationally recognized certificate to confirm the level of proficiency in a foreign language that is valid throughout life and recognized by 13,000 large successful companies and leading institutions all round the world.

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НОВА КОНЦЕПЦІЯ ВИКЛАДАННЯ ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ ЗА ПРОФЕСІЙНИМ СПРЯМУВАННЯМ У ЛЬВІВСЬКОМУ УНІВЕРСИТЕТІ

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Статтю присвячено огляду Нової концепції викладання іноземних мов у Львівському університеті. Потреба вивчення іноземних мов набуває особливої гостроти й актуальності. Розширення міжнародної співпраці у сферах економіки, освіти, науки, культури ставить перед вищими навчальними закладами завдання якісної підготовки фахівців різних освітньо-кваліфікаційних рівнів з іноземної мови за професійним. Євроінтеграційні прагнення України зумовлюють необхідність глибинного реформування національної освітньої системи задля її

ідентифікації у європейському просторі. З огляду на це стратегічною метою є підготовка конкурентоспроможного фахівця та розширення спектра його професійних компетенцій. Іноземна мова служить своєрідним містком між культурами різних народів і робить можливим обмін духовними цінностями. У статті висвітлено, що концепція охоплює основні параметри вивчення та викладання іноземної мови за професійним спрямуванням, а також створення нормативної бази для розроблення університетських курсів з іноземної мови відповідно до потреб студента. У Львівському національному університеті імені Івана Франка вектор розвитку навчального процесу націлений саме на якісну підготовку фахівців різних освітньо-кваліфікаційних рівнів, що базується на принципах забезпечення високої якості викладання іноземних мов як необхідної умови для інтеграції у європейський та світовий освітній простір. У статті акцентовано увагу на тому, що концепція викладання іноземних мов за професійним спрямуванням, основана на рівневому принципі викладання іноземних мов (від А1 до С2). Практичною метою впровадження нової Концепції є розвиток і вдосконалення міжкультурної комунікативної компетенції студентів, що в кінцевому результаті підтверджуватиметься успішним складанням кваліфікаційного іспиту та досягнення рівня В2. Нова концепція вивчення мов передбачає відомі загальноєвропейські принципи дидактики і методики вивчення іноземних мов, коли мову вивчають на основі комунікативних компетенцій. Викладачі іноземних мов Львівського університету можуть викладати іноземну мову на основі підручників і посібників Кембриджського університету. У червні 2015 року в Університеті відбувся навчально-методичний семінар викладачів та студентів у форматі тренінгу за участю експертів і представників сертифікаційних центрів з метою ознайомлення із системою іспитів Cambridge English Language Assessment. У статті зазначено, що за результатами тестувань усі викладачі успішно склали цей кваліфікаційний іспит і тепер працюють над новою моделлю викладання іноземних мов. У площині запровадження Нової концепції викладання іноземних мов, випрацьована модель, що забезпечує «володіння іноземною мовою на певному рівні», а після завершення двох курсів навчання, студент зосереджується на обранні професійних напрямів. Випрацьовано програму, яка передбачає дворічне навчання студента за сучасними методиками Кембриджського університету, по завершенні якого студенти матимуть можливість складати міжнародний іспит Cambridge English та отримати міжнародно-визнаний сертифікат на підтвердження рівня володіння іноземною мовою, який дійсний протягом усього життя і визнається у 13 000 великих успішних компаніях і провідних установах усього світу. Студенти Львівського національного університету імені Івана Франка матимуть можливість вивчати не лише англійську мову за професійним спрямуванням, а й німецьку, французьку та іспанську. Зауважимо, що відповідно до Концепції упродовж перших двох років навчання вони вивчатимуть іноземну мову обов'язково, а вже на III-IV курсах (а також і магістри) обиратимуть її із переліку дисциплін за вибором. Таким чином, у статті зроблено висновок про те, що поруч із дипломами про вищу освіту Львівського національного університету імені Івана Франка та Diploma Supplement випускники зможуть отримати один із найбажаніших документів – сертифікат Cambridge Language Assessment, який відкриває можливості працевлаштування в інших країнах світу.

Ключові слова: нова концепція викладання іноземних мов; кваліфікаційний іспит; обов'язкове вивчення мови; рівень В2; комунікативні компетенції; сертифікат щодо рівня володіння мовою.