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STUDYING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN COMPARISON WITH THE MOTHER TONGUE

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Annotation. The article discusses the importance of learning foreign languages in comparison with mother tongue and improving the language learning process. It is also highlighted the further improvement of learning English grammar and language skills.

Key words. reinforcement tasks, faced challenges, ways of assessment, increasing, growing tendency, fluent, developments and issues, reading comprehension exercises, better integrate vocabulary learning, comprehensive approach.

Аннотация. В статье рассматривается важность изучения иностранных языков по сравнению с родным языком и совершенствование процесса изучения языка. Также подчеркивается дальнейшее совершенствование изучения английской грамматики и языковых навыков.

Ключевые слова. задачи подкрепления, стоящие перед нами проблемы, способы оценки, увеличение, тенденция роста, свободное владение языком, упражнения на понимание прочитанного, лучшая интеграция изучения словарного запаса, комплексный подход.

Students are encouraged to work on the grammar topics of the diagnostic exercise by taking an assessed test in the second half of semester. We suggest that they make a revision plan, which they show to their language tutor. They work on these topics autonomously with the help of their grammar book and its accompanying workbook (Hawkins *et al.*, 1997) as well as online exercises on WebCT. The latter may need to be reinforced to enable those who, despite their good A Level results, are now coming to university with very little knowledge of grammar and limited grammatical terminology.

In the first year we also have a weekly lecture on key grammatical topics. These

lectures comprise a series of explanations given by the tutor which alternate with exercises that the students complete and that are corrected immediately. Students can ask questions, although some cohorts avail themselves of this opportunity more than others. The language of delivery of the lecture has gone full circle, from predominantly English to almost all French and back again, both as a result of student feedback and tutor experience. Reinforcement tasks are provided for students in their study pack to complete in their own time. Fair copies are available on WebCT.

Speaking and listening. Our old language course did not include any language laboratory component, but one oral and one written exercise linked to the lectures on Modern France which were given in French. When the language module was first revised, we introduced five laboratory sessions initially as part of the Modern France module. We subsequently felt that students needed more hours in the language laboratory and that these should form part of the language module – their number was increased up to their current frequency. These sessions take place in new digital laboratories and are used to foster both accurate pronunciation and good comprehension skills. In addition, through their study pack and WebCT, students are provided with exercises to complete autonomously (comprehension, pronunciation, vocabulary tasks). This year, for the first time, students were required to buy a vocabulary book (Lamy, 1998). At the end of each exercise it is suggested that students learn the vocabulary in the sections corresponding to the exercise.

WebCT is largely used to support guided autonomous work. However, we also use it as part of our assessed coursework. Students are required to complete a number of gap-filling exercises on verb forms in a variety of tenses and other key grammatical topics. We believe that such topics require regular practice and that WebCT is particularly appropriate for this type of practice. However, we also know that few students would do them regularly were it not for the fact that they contribute to the module mark.

Challenges faced. Several of the new challenges facing us seem to stem from the way assessments are undertaken in schools. Students now expect us more and more to coach them for their exams. Increasingly, they think classes should prepare them directly for particular assessments and they have a growing tendency to view as irrelevant exercises that do not seem to do this. Although they all say they want to become fluent in French, they would like us to provide them with a very clearly defined list of words to learn for each exam. In addition, students now think they should be allowed to retake particular assignments to improve on their grades, not realising that at university one can only retake (in the resit period) a module that has been failed overall, not individual components.

Another challenge is students' diminishing ability to read in French, which colleagues now notice in non-language modules, as growing numbers of students struggle to keep up with the reading they are given. There is undoubtedly a shift in culture as we move increasingly into an audiovisual world. However, reading remains a necessary skill, not only from a cultural or literary angle, but also because when students read more, they learn more vocabulary, become more aware of grammatical structures and avoid confusing basic words.

These developments and issues mean we need to review our course again, to incorporate reading comprehension exercises and better integrate vocabulary learning within the whole module, finding ways to foster more independent learning and make students realise that learning a language is about having a comprehensive approach, not one limited to passing a few tests.

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UNLOCKING THE POWER OF LANGUAGE: EXPLORING ITS INFLUENCE, EVOLUTION, AND IMPACT ON SOCIETY

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola tilning dinamik sohasini o'rganadi, uning chuqur ta'sirini, evolyutsion sayohatini va jamiyatga keng qamrovli ta'sirini ochib beradi. Keng qamrovli tadqiqot orqali u tilning inson munosabatlarini qanday shakllantirishini, o'ziga xoslikni yaratishini va turli madaniyatlar va kontekstlarda muloqotni osonlashtirishini o'rganadi. Maqola tilning eng qadimgi kelib chiqishidan to hozirgi kungacha namoyon bo'lish evolyutsiyasini o'rganib, til taraqqiyoti va jamiyat taraqqiyoti o'rtasidagi murakkab o'zaro bog'liqlikni yoritib beradi.

Аннотация: Эта статья исследует динамичную сферу языка, раскрывая его глубокое влияние, эволюционный путь и далеко идущее воздействие на общество. Благодаря обширному исследованию он изучает, как язык формирует человеческие отношения, создает идентичность и облегчает