

MODERN APPROACHES AND TRENDS IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES TO LAW STUDENTS

СУЧАСНІ ПІДХОДИ І ТРЕНДИ У ВИКЛАДАННІ ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ СТУДЕНТАМ-ЮРИСТАМ

Learning a foreign language is an integral part of training future lawyers. This is due to a number of factors. Among the main ones, the following can be distinguished: globalization, because the world is becoming more and more globalized, and lawyers often have to work with international cases, where knowledge of a foreign language is necessary; international law, as many legal acts and treaties are published in English, so it is important for lawyers to know this language in order to be able to read and understand them; communication with foreign colleagues, so knowledge of a foreign language is necessary for effective cooperation.

Modern approaches to teaching a foreign language to future lawyers emphasize the development of such skills as reading, writing, speaking and translation skills. Lawyers must be able to read and understand legal texts in English; write legal texts in English, such as contracts, letters, memoranda; communicate in a foreign language with colleagues and clients from other countries; translate legal texts from English into Ukrainian and vice versa.

Among the modern approaches used to teach a foreign language to future lawyers, the following can be distinguished: – use of authentic materials. The use of texts and audio recordings of a legal nature, which are used in real practice; – simulations and role-playing games. Creating situations that lawyers may encounter in their work, and practicing communication and negotiation skills in English; – project works. Implementation of projects that allow lawyers to apply their knowledge of a foreign language in practice; – use of online resources. The use of online courses, platforms for communication with native speakers and other resources for learning a foreign language, etc. The article analyzes the main approaches and trends in teaching a foreign language to future lawyers, highlights the advantages of each approach and gives examples of how one or another approach can be integrated precisely in the process of teaching future lawyers a foreign language.

It is important to note that there is no single best approach to teaching a foreign language to future lawyers. The most effective approach will depend on many factors, such as the level of expertise of lawyers, their learning goals, and the resources available to educators.

Key words: *English language, training of future lawyers, foreign language of professional direction, blended learning, communicative approach.*

Вивчення іноземної мови є невід'ємною частиною підготовки майбутніх юристів. Це пов'язано з низкою факторів. Серед основних можна виділити наступні: глобалізація,

адже світ стає все більш глобалізованим, і юристам часто доводиться працювати з міжнародними справами, де знання іноземної мови є необхідним; міжнародне право, оскільки багато правових актів та договорів публікуються англійською мовою, тому юристам важливо володіти цією мовою, щоб мати можливість їх читати та розуміти; спілкування з іноземними колегами, отже знання іноземної мови є необхідним для ефективної співпраці.

Сучасні підходи у викладанні іноземної мови майбутнім юристам роблять акцент на розвитку таких навичок як читання, письмо, усне мовлення та навички перекладу. Юристи повинні вміти читати та розуміти тексти юридичного характеру англійською мовою; писати тексти юридичного характеру англійською мовою, такі як договори, листи, меморандуми; спілкуватися іноземною мовою з колегами та клієнтами з інших країн; перекладати тексти юридичного характеру з англійської мови на українську мову і навпаки.

Серед сучасних підходів, які використовуються для викладання іноземної мови майбутнім юристам, можна виділити наступні: – використання автентичних матеріалів. Використання текстів та аудіо-записів юридичного характеру, які використовуються в реальній практиці; – симуляції та рольові ігри. Створення ситуацій, які юристи можуть зустріти в своїй роботі, і відпрацювання навичок спілкування та ведення переговорів англійською мовою; – проектні роботи. Виконання проектів, які дозволяють юристам застосувати свої знання іноземної мови на практиці; – використання онлайн-ресурсів. Використання онлайн-курсів, платформ для спілкування з носіями мови та інших ресурсів для вивчення іноземної мови, тощо В статті проаналізовано основні підходи та тенденції до викладання іноземної мови майбутнім юристам, виділено переваги кожного підходу та наведено приклади як той чи інший підхід може бути інтегрований саме у процес навчання майбутніх юристів іноземній мові.

Важливо зазначити, що не існує єдиного найкращого підходу до викладання іноземної мови майбутнім юристам. Найефективніший підхід буде залежати від багатьох факторів, таких як рівень знань юристів, їх цілі навчання, а також ресурси, які доступні викладачам.

Ключові слова: *англійська мова, підготовка майбутніх юристів, іноземна мова професійного спрямування, змішане навчання, комунікативний підхід.*

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Formulation of the problem. Proficiency in a foreign language at a sufficiently high level in the modern world is a necessity for a specialist who wants to develop professionally, expand his career opportunities and reach new levels of interpersonal and business communication. English as the language

of international communication has penetrated into all spheres of our life. However, without modern approaches to learning a foreign language, it will be difficult to achieve good results in its study, since the development of information and communication technologies, increased demands of the labor market and

changes in the pace and lifestyle dictate completely different approaches and trends in learning a foreign language.

The field of activity of future lawyers is no exception. The legal world is increasingly globalized, making foreign language proficiency a valuable asset for law students. To cater to this need, language teaching for law students is undergoing a shift, incorporating innovative approaches and reflecting contemporary trends.

Analysis of recent research and publications.

The sphere of English language teaching and modern approaches to it has always been the focus of attention of many linguists. Various aspects of foreign language teaching were the subject of research by such scientists as E.I. Pasov, P.O. Bekh, A.P. Martyniuk, A.M. Hubina, T.S. Antonova, A.L. Kharytonov, and many others. However, the constant development of society requires the use of new and interactive approaches to teaching the English language, which causes constant scientific research in this issue.

Presenting main material. In the conditions of globalization and integration, which have become integral elements of our socio-cultural and economic life, the educational system of each country, especially the one that aspires to the European educational space, needs revision and new teaching methods that need to be developed and used. This mainly concerns the teaching of foreign languages, since the globalization of education and the development of international programs, grants and educational programs make the knowledge of foreign languages a key point for the integration of many exchange students and researchers into the local and international community. Therefore, teachers of foreign languages face the problem of how to teach foreign language students effectively and productively, which causes the search for new and modern approaches in the educational process. Among the modern trends in the teaching the English language the following can be distinguished:

1. Focus on Legal Language and Communication. Here we can distinguish two approaches: **1) Language for Specific Purposes (LSP):** this approach tailors the curriculum to the specific language needs of law students, focusing on legal terminology, writing styles, and communication skills relevant to their field. This ensures they can comprehend legal documents, communicate effectively in different legal contexts, and participate in international collaborations; **2) Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL):** this integrates language learning with legal studies, using authentic legal materials like case studies, contracts, and judgments. Students develop both language proficiency and legal knowledge simultaneously, making learning more relevant and engaging.

2. Emphasis on Communication Skills which is of great importance as communication is the most

important skill for English-language learners. It can include the following approaches:

1) Task-Based Learning (TBLT): This approach centers around real-world tasks like drafting legal documents, negotiating contracts, or presenting arguments in court. Students practice using the language in practical scenarios, developing their fluency, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. This approach definitely has its benefits:

- **Developing practical skills:** TBLT focuses on real-world legal tasks like drafting contracts, negotiating agreements, or conducting client interviews. Students actively use legal language in simulated scenarios, mimicking the demands of their future careers. This practical application fosters fluency and confidence in using the language effectively.

- **Enhancing critical thinking and problem-solving skills:** completing tasks often involves analyzing complex situations, identifying legal issues, and formulating solutions. This process refines critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills, crucial for legal professionals.

- **Improving collaboration and communication:** many tasks involve teamwork, such as preparing for a mock trial or collaborating on a legal opinion. This fosters effective communication skills, teamwork, and the ability to collaborate constructively with diverse colleagues and clients.

- **Promoting self-directed learning:** TBLT often encourages student autonomy. They may research legal aspects, gather relevant information, and propose solutions independently or in collaboration. This fosters self-directed learning skills, vital for independent practice and continuous professional development in the legal field.

- **Building cultural awareness:** legal frameworks and practices vary across cultures. TBLT can incorporate tasks that involve international clients or legal scenarios from different jurisdictions. This exposes students to diverse legal cultures and helps them develop cultural awareness, an essential skill for navigating the globalized legal landscape [2, p.78].

Among the examples of implementing TBLT for Law students can be the following:

- **Drafting legal documents:** students might draft contracts, legal letters, or briefs based on specific scenarios, practicing legal writing skills and applying relevant language.

- **Conducting mock trials:** students can role-play lawyers, witnesses, and judges, simulating courtroom procedures and practicing persuasive communication and critical thinking skills.

- **Negotiating agreements:** students can act as opposing parties in a business negotiation, practicing negotiation tactics, argumentation skills, and the ability to find common ground and reach mutually beneficial agreements.

- Providing legal advice: students can act as lawyers consulting with clients on specific legal issues, researching relevant laws and precedents, and providing informed advice [2, p. 80-81].

2) Role-Playing and Simulations: these activities recreate legal scenarios like mock trials, client meetings, or international negotiations. They allow students to practice communication skills in a safe and controlled environment while applying their legal knowledge. The advantages of using role-playing and simulations in teaching English are:

- Developing practical skills: these activities recreate realistic legal scenarios like mock trials, client meetings, or legal negotiations. By stepping into various roles, future lawyers get to hone their communication, advocacy, and critical thinking skills in a safe and controlled environment.

- Applying legal knowledge: simulations allow students to put their theoretical knowledge into practice. They can analyze legal issues, apply relevant legal principles, and formulate solutions within a simulated scenario, solidifying their understanding of legal concepts.

- Sharpening professional behavior: through role-playing, future lawyers learn appropriate professional conduct, including ethical behavior, client communication skills, and courtroom etiquette. This allows them to build confidence and professionalism crucial for interacting with clients, colleagues, and judicial systems.

- Building resilience and adaptability: simulations often present unexpected challenges or conflicts. By navigating these situations, future lawyers learn to adapt, think on their feet, and make sound decisions under pressure, fostering resilience and adaptability – key attributes for navigating the dynamic legal landscape.

- Enhancing teamwork and collaboration: many simulations involve teamwork, requiring students to collaborate effectively with peers, exchange information, and work towards a common goal. This fosters teamwork and collaboration skills, essential for working with colleagues and legal teams in real-world practice [1, p. 47].

The examples of role-playing and simulations used in law education can be:

- Mock Trials: students assume roles of lawyers, witnesses, and judges, simulating courtroom procedures and experiencing trial dynamics firsthand.

- Client Interviews and Counseling: students play the role of lawyers interviewing clients, gathering information, and providing legal advice, practicing active listening, communication, and client counseling skills.

- Negotiation Simulations: students act as opposing parties in various negotiation scenarios, practicing negotiation tactics, argumentation, and compromise skills in a controlled environment.

- Mediation Simulations: students role-play as mediators facilitating negotiations between parties in a dispute, honing mediation skills, conflict resolution strategies, and neutral facilitation techniques.

3. Blended Learning. Blended learning offers a promising approach for legal education, empowering future lawyers with flexibility, a wider range of resources, and the development of essential skills for the modern legal landscape. By addressing potential challenges and implementing effective strategies, blended learning can pave the way for a more personalized, engaging, and future-proof legal education experience.

The benefits of blended learning for future lawyers are: 1) flexibility and personalized learning: blended learning caters to diverse learning styles and schedules. Online components allow students to access materials and complete activities at their own pace, while in-person sessions provide opportunities for personalized feedback, interactive learning, and discussion; 2) enhanced engagement and active learning: online modules can incorporate interactive elements like simulations, quizzes, and collaborative activities, fostering active learning and engagement with the material. This complements traditional lectures by providing diverse learning experiences; 3) development of technology skills: blended learning environments often involve utilizing online platforms, research tools, and communication technologies. This equips future lawyers with the digital literacy and technological skills necessary for success in the technology-driven legal landscape; 4) improved access to resources and experts: online platforms can offer access to a vast array of legal resources like case studies, legal databases, and recorded lectures from renowned legal experts. This broadens the learning experience and provides exposure to diverse perspectives; 5) cost-effectiveness: blended learning can be more cost-effective than traditional methods by reducing in-person class time and minimizing the need for physical resources. This can be particularly beneficial for students facing financial constraints.

The examples of blended learning in legal education are:

- Flipped classroom: students study core concepts through pre-recorded lectures or online modules before coming to class. In-person sessions then focus on applying the knowledge through interactive activities, discussions, and case studies.

- Online modules with in-person workshops: online modules provide foundational knowledge, while in-person workshops offer opportunities for further exploration, peer collaboration, and personalized guidance from instructors.

- Online simulations and case studies: students can engage with online simulations and case studies, applying legal principles and honing critical thinking skills independently, followed by in-person

discussions and analysis with peers and instructors [3, p.238].

Still, this approach faces some challenges and considerations:

1) Technology access and digital literacy: ensuring all students have access to reliable technology and possess the necessary digital literacy skills is crucial for the success of blended learning.

2) Effective online course design: developing engaging and interactive online modules requires careful planning and expertise to maintain student focus and motivation.

3) Balancing online and in-person components: striking the right balance between online and in-person activities is essential to ensure a well-rounded learning experience and maximize the benefits of both approaches.

Conclusions and future researches. The modern approach to teaching foreign languages for law students emphasizes: 1) practicality: focus on legal language and communication skills relevant to the legal profession; 2) communication: develop fluency, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills through interactive activities; 3) technology: utilize online

resources and tools to enhance learning and provide flexibility; 4) individualization: cater to diverse learning styles and allow for self-paced learning.

These trends aim to equip law students with the necessary language skills to navigate the increasingly globalized legal landscape and succeed in their chosen careers.

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