Foreign Language Teaching in the Context of Anthropological Paradigm in Modern Linguistics

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Abstract

In the beginning of the XXI-th century a new paradigm of human sciences has arised, which has put the Person and all Human issues in the center of the scientific research. Within the framework of a new anthropological cognitive paradigm language forms are considered to be a display of structures of human consciousness. The interaction among reality, thinking (consciousness) and language results into the appearance of the so-called “national language world model”, which could be defined as a reflection of the objective reality by certain type of mentality embodied in language forms. It means that every “world vision” gets its own verbal sign system of presentation, where its content is kept within this or that language culture.

According to W. Humboldt, any language creates a certain model of the world for those, who use it, as though leading round them a magic circle of determined representations and images.

To exceed the bounds of this circle one might only by study of another language, “by entering into other circle”, i.e. through penetration into the system of world outlook embodied by other language.

In the framework of our approach the main attention in teaching the advanced students of foreign language should be focused on the following items:

1) pointing out culturally specific language forms belonging to different language levels (lexical, morphological, syntactic) and revealing their relation to ethnic character, temperament and mentality;

2) showing universal and peculiar features of two national language models (native for a student and acquired);

3) representing of the “cultural map” reflected by lexical language level through the following: 1) nomens for denoting of specific, authentic for the acquired culture notions; 2) nomens for denoting of closely connected notions though having different prototypes; 3) culturally determined verbalized concepts which bear information about spiritual constants of ethnic mentality; 4) words with evaluative and axiological connotations; 5) words for nomination of mythological objects; 6) proverbs and sayings which verbalize some ethnically determined ideas and views.