

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Forming the Second Language Business Communication Competence

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Abstract

The second language (mostly English) business communication competence is important for every person who works in the modern world. The model of business language teaching should be based on the interdisciplinary approach. It requires the integration of specifically language, professional, scientific and cultural skills and knowledge. When teaching business English in Russian universities the great attention is paid to creating the practically useful range of knowledge and skills that can be implemented in business communication. The following tasks are used when teaching the academic and business writing: preparing a set of documents for job searching (CV, application letter, cover letter), creating self-presentation materials, professional portfolios, grant application letters, writing scientific articles, etc. When teaching communication English the role playing is regularly used. Such role games help to model the real situations of business communication, for example job interviews, business negotiations, visiting business partners abroad, taking part in scientific and business conferences and forums. Students are also offered such a task as discussing the real situations of business communication failures, especially in the intercultural environment. It helps students to understand the reasons of communication problems and avoid them in the future life and work. The great attention is also paid to teaching the e-communication in English. Business communication through Internet, Skype, e-mail, social networks, etc. requires not only IT skills, but also the knowledge of business communication etiquette. The same is true for the telephone communication as the telephone conversation rules differ from culture to culture. Therefore when teaching business English it is necessary to use such tasks that model the real situations of telephone conversations and ecommunication. Such an interdisciplinary approach helps to create the second language business communication competence more efficiently.