

Kyiv National University of Technology and Design (Kyiv, Ukraine)

**«WITH LANGUAGES, YOU ARE AT HOME ANYWHERE»:  
ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF MASTERING UKRAINIAN FOR  
FOREIGN STUDENTS**

Integration processes in modern educational space of Ukraine lead to student migration. Ukrainian students travel around the world and to various countries of Europe to get higher education. To Ukrainian universities foreign students come from Georgia, Poland, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, China and other countries to study, live and work. It is the appearance of foreign students in Ukrainian higher educational institutions has caused research actuality of teaching Ukrainian as a foreign language for them.

Modernization of the national education sphere requires not only bringing new knowledge, but also creates new approaches to learning, correcting educational environment, training programs, educational technologies.

**The aim of this report** – to emphasize the need to study Ukrainian by foreign students and to a broader inclusion of Ukrainian language teaching in the curricula of higher education institutions and also the importance of forming cross-cultural competence, without which it is impossible to get fluency in the language. **The main task** – to analyze components that contribute to the learning and teaching Ukrainian as a foreign language.

Training of foreign specialists in our country – is one of the most effective forms of cultural and scientific cooperation that promotes Ukraine's reputation in the international arena.

According to statistics, today more than 50 thousand foreign students are studying in Ukraine, almost 20,000 more than 10 years ago. It is widely known that the presence of students from other countries not only improves the image of the state, but becomes a source of significant investments in the economy, science and education.

Once students get into a new environment, they face not only language but also

with psychological problems. An important factor in successful foreign students' education in Ukrainian higher educational institutions is their adapting to culture, traditions and life peculiarities of the Ukrainian people.

To familiarize foreign students with cultural heritage of Ukraine more quickly the Ukrainian language knowledge helps, which, moreover, is helpful in many situations of daily life. So speedy language adaptation of foreign citizens to Ukrainian reality is very important. One of the main tasks of the Ukrainian language teacher – present Ukraine, the life of its people, culture and language. Sociocultural adaptation involves individual adaptations to the conditions of a new social and cultural environment, in particular to new values, morals and traditions, providing a successful existence in a new cultural environment.

The language knowledge can help foreign students create a different picture of the world, multicultural awareness. It is also the element of culture and means of exploring this culture. About the language as a phenomenon of spiritual culture of the nation famous philosophers, anthropologists and linguists wrote, including V. Humboldt, O. Potebnya, M. Maksymovych, L. Bulakhovsky, M. Heidegger, P. Fortunatov, O. Ogiyenko. Researchers K. Levi-Stross, M. Griol, M. Ferri studied issues of reflection of the people's ideas about the world in the language. The language allows to know the culture of native people and culture of other nations, human and national values, skills of positive inter-cultural interaction.

The problem of the Ukrainian language teaching to foreign students has been began to explore recently. M.V. Lutsyuk, T.I. Dementieva, O.O. Evdokimova, A.K. Solodka devoted their attention to the issues how to intensify the process of learning the Ukrainian language to foreigners.

While mastering the Ukrainian language foreign students face many different problems. The most important problems of Ukrainian language learning as a foreign language include the following problems: a) the need for simultaneous mastering the Ukrainian language in everyday life and professional level; b) the need to use communicative situations as a way of receiving communication skills and knowledge; c) communication barriers of communication.

Leading methodologists, including O. Belyaev, G. Onykovych, H. Koval, T. Surzhuk and others distinguish three main components that contribute to the learning and teaching Ukrainian as a foreign language: 1) psychological; 2) linguistic; 3) methodological [2, p. 185].

The importance of the psychological component is that first-year students get into a completely unfamiliar environment where everything is new. The psychological component is perhaps the most important in teachers' communication with foreign students because to teach language – means to teach another way of thinking, a different mentality, and thus express their thoughts using language of another country. It is important to remember that language learning is not limited by only memorizing and further using words, phrases and sentences. It includes many other nonverbal factors (facial expressions, gestures) as well as such important components as intonation, actual division of sentences and so on. Knowledge of psychology enables an individual approach to each student.

The linguistic component of language learning is in «communicative needs» of students [2, p. 186]. Therefore, it should be understood that first of all students need communication skills with fellow-Ukrainian, with teachers in their daily lives. Therefore, the material used during the first Ukrainian language classes for English-speaking students should possess the following qualities: actuality to the student, simplicity, interest.

In order to maximize the results, teachers use such teaching methods:

1. Demonstration videos from different communicative situations with which students encounter in everyday life. Great importance is attached also to using recordings of live Ukrainian speech. All this contributes to the speedy adaptation of English-speaking students to Ukrainian environment.

2. The advantage of verbal tasks over written enables to improve communication competence of foreign students. Focusing on active learning – one of the components of the education reorganization. Oral tasks are not only the individual but also collective. Thus, in order to diversify the forms of tasks teachers use:

- work in the form of business games, which simulate the language

situations in various spheres – from everyday to professional communication;

- the creation of problematic situations;
- techniques in pairs (with or without a partner changing), in groups, making spontaneous minidialogues specific to certain everyday situations.

3. To excite the curiosity among foreign students of the Ukrainian language as a subject of study primarily it is necessary to avoid monotony, schematics and mechanical cramming boring definitions and rules by the students.

4. Minimizing the use of language-mediator encourages of English-speaking students' adaptation: teachers try using English only to explain the new material, mostly using Ukrainian during lessons. Implementation of this situation – a rather difficult task because the vast majority of subjects taught in English to foreign students, and young people are talking mostly native language or a language understood by their fellow foreigners outside the university.

Methodological component in teaching of any language as a foreign language is to use a variety of techniques, including innovative and modern means of language learning. It has been proven long ago that these methods give positive results in their proper use.

Foreign students have to be actively involved in mass sports and cultural events, competitions, amateur art activities, concerts, conferences, research activities of the university. Interesting and active students' life will stimulate their desire to learn.

**Conclusions.** «Within the concept of «dialogue of cultures», cultural approach in training to form multilanguage literacy of students continues to develop in education». [1, p. 63]. Foreign students should be trained using quality contemporary authentic teaching material for conscious use of the Ukrainian language later in their life and work. Because a good knowledge of the Ukrainian language (verbal and written form) is one of the major requirements of Ukrainian employers. So universities are responsible for providing a quality complex of language skills, abilities, knowledge to students. It requires foremost from the institution to create conditions for the training of its teaching staff systematically, provide proper material

and technical infrastructure. The figure of the teacher in learning the Ukrainian language becomes the central, because only the teacher can interest students in learning, encourage and motivate them. Mastering of the Ukrainian language – a complicated and prolonged process that requires not only the desire of the teacher to teach, and students – to learn, but also to solve a large number of psychological, linguistic and methodological tasks. This requires a teacher's perfect knowledge of the subject, language-mediator (English) and psychological and methodology techniques in working with foreign students, understanding the mentality of other nationalities, the ability to combine traditional and innovative teaching methods.

As a proverb says, «With languages, you are at home anywhere». Welcome to Ukraine! Learn Ukrainian and Ukraine will be your another home! Teachers will do their best to help those who wishes!

#### **LITERATURE**

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