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STRATEGIES OF ENHANCING PROFESSIONALLY ORIENTED FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMPETENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Abstract. *The concept of the professionally oriented foreign language competence and its components in the higher education are analyzed. Common requirements to knowledge and skills of the professionally oriented language competence and strategies of its enhancing in the higher education are defined.*

Key words: *professionally oriented foreign language competence, knowledge, skills, strategies, higher education.*

Nowadays enhancing foreign language competence of professionals in different fields of activity is a component of integrating any country into the worldwide community. Taking into account that in Ukraine 2016 is declared as the year of studying English for realizing an idea to adopt English as the second working language, the problem of defining strategies of enhancing professionally oriented foreign language competence in the higher education has become actual in the context of transforming Ukrainian higher education aimed to improving the quality of training specialists according to worldwide standards. Enhancing foreign language competency is among main priorities in a modern education as to according UNESCO's statement "poor language skills are a serious obstacle to seizing professional opportunities" [5, p. 1].

Several aspects of this problem were considered in the fields of linguistics and pedagogy. W.D. Hawley, D. Hymes, L. Valli examined the issues of forming foreign professional communicative competence [6, 7]. I. V. Sekret analyzed the concept of the foreign language professional competence [3]. Components of the communicative competence were considered in the conception of the common European framework of reference for languages [4]. There are also researches as to peculiarities of the professionally oriented foreign language competence in the context of training specialists in different fields of activities [1, 2]. But there is no a general accepted meaning of the professionally oriented foreign language competence and strategies of its enhancing in the higher education.

The purpose of this article is to define strategies of the professionally oriented foreign language competence in the higher education. It is possible to realize it by study-

ing the concept of the professionally oriented foreign language competence and its components in the higher education.

To define the concept of the professionally oriented foreign language competence it is necessary to analyze its components as the professionally oriented foreign language competence is often named as professional foreign language competence, foreign language professional competence, or professional foreign language communicative competence.

The competence means the sum of knowledge, skills and characteristics that allow a person to perform actions in a wide variety of situations [4]. A professional competence is often connected with a communication competence as a linguistic competence with its sociolinguistic using in various situations in a real life [7]. The professional communicative competence is considered as using a foreign language as a tool for professional, sociolinguistic, and cultural competences in a foreign language community according to individuals' abilities and knowledge for realizing special tasks thanks to behavioural strategies chosen by individuals [6]. In a professional field of activity the foreign language competence consists of components including linguistic, sociolinguistic, and pragmatic competences which are accepted as the basis of the foreign language communicative competence. Linguistic competences include lexical, phonological, syntactical knowledge and skills and other dimensions of language as system, sociolinguistic ones refer to the sociocultural conditions of language use, and pragmatic competences are concerned with the functional use of linguistic resources, drawing on scenarios or scripts of interactional exchanges [4]. There are also other competencies such as discursive, social, strategic and other ones in a foreign language

communicative competence. The professionally oriented foreign language competence is interpreted as a set of competences which allows using a foreign language in a professional field of activity [1]; integration of professional and foreign language activities; integrative personal professional formation which is realized in a personality's psychological and technical and operation readiness of executing an effective professional activity with the help of foreign language' means or in the conditions of foreign language culture, and provides a possibility of an effective interaction with the environment [3].

Taking into account the above-mentioned it is possible to define the professionally oriented foreign language competence as a set of competences including linguistic, professional, and sociocultural, and personally-motivated ones which allow using professional knowledge and skills in a foreign language environment of specialists in definite fields of professional activities. These competencies are. In the higher education teachers and students should have such competencies as their professional knowledge and skills.

Thus, it is possible to state that the professionally oriented foreign language competence provides common and distinguished requirements to students' and teachers' knowledge and skills depending on their functional responsibilities which can be combined into the following units according to linguistic, professional, sociocultural, and personally-motivated competencies:

- a linguistic unit which includes abilities of speaking, listening, reading, and writing according to a standard level of a foreign language stipulated in the curriculum of the higher educational institute. This unit is based on the level of knowing a language code including grammar, phonetics, vocabulary, graphology (spelling and syntax). It only concerns the study of a foreign language (English, German, French, etc.) as a foreign language;
- a professional unit which consists of requirements to knowledge and skills as for having a high qualification in a professional field of activity as to solving problems in a foreign language. It also includes forming qualities of a professional interpersonal communication such as teambuilding, teamwork, leadership, records management, different speech strategies (negotiations, public speaking, discussion, etc.). It provides the necessity of teaching not only a foreign language for specific purposes but also special subjects of students' future professional fields of activities in a foreign language. To realize it teachers should have an appropriate foreign language qualification;
- a sociocultural unit includes understanding values, norms, outlooks, and culture of behaviour in sociocultural environment of the studied foreign language;

having a culture of critical thinking; having abilities of expressing ideas in a logic and argumentative way. It also enables to understand the context in which a foreign language is used by native speakers and choose language forms for achieving an expected communicative effect in a professional field of activity. It can be achieved by means of mastering a foreign language as a second language, a foreign language for specific purposes, and special disciplines in a foreign language;

- a personally-motivated competence which is aimed for awareness of professional significance and demand worldwide thanks to permanent self-organization, self-education, lifelong education for achieving successes in a professional career without a language barrier. This competence integrates into linguistic, professional, and sociocultural competencies for developing professionally oriented foreign language competence.

The above-mentioned requirements provide the necessity of using information and communication technologies efficiently for solving problems and controlling the availability of the feedback in a professional communication.

Thus, it is possible to conclude that strategies of enhancing professionally oriented foreign language competence in the higher education should provide the following:

1. Implementing an obligatory course in a foreign language for specific purposes for students for a BD's degree according to the objectives for B2 level;
2. To increase amount of professional disciplines taught in a foreign language for students for a MD's. It can be disciplines of students' choices;
3. To enhance cooperation among foreign language teachers and teachers specialized in teaching professional disciplines;
4. To provide foreign language training for lectors teaching professional disciplines in a foreign language according to generally accepted standards;
5. To train students and teachers at appropriate facultative courses of studying foreign languages;
6. To integrate higher educational institutions into the world scientific and educational environment with the help of joining international programs of solving scientific problems;
7. To organize educational collaboration providing for exchanging students and teachers for improving their professional foreign language competence.

Thus, the following the above-mentioned strategies of enhancing professionally oriented foreign language competence will promote training highly-qualified specialists according to generally accepted standards in language proficiency for realizing their professional achievements for prospering people's lives in the international community while integrating Ukraine into in the world scientific and educational environment

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