

## **CLIL APPROACH IN TEACHING BA STUDENTS AT HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

**Svitlana Nikiforchuk<sup>1</sup>**

**Yulia Sivak<sup>2</sup>**

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-126-8-49>

Content and language integrated learning (CLIL) approach is widely used in teaching practice at higher educational institutions and is much supported by the European Commission. This approach is focused on studying the main subjects in a foreign language learnt by the students. Consequently, learning a foreign language in a nonlinguistic higher educational institution implies a real-life setting which includes the situations closely connected with the students' professional interests [3]. State educational standards of higher education points out that BA graduates must have a number of generic and professional competences and sufficient skills to communicate in a professional domain in a foreign language [6].

Professional communication as a process of interpersonal relations is exercised as the following communicative needs of a specialist: realization of a collective professional activity; exchange of data, information, and research views; development of common strategy of interaction in the professional field etc.

All issues mentioned above are essential both for an individual and for a group of specialists united on the basis of their profession. Professional communication is realized in professional setting due to the communicative function of the language.

Educators and researchers emphasize that the goal of a foreign language teaching in linguistic faculties and universities is to develop communicative

---

<sup>1</sup> V.O. Sukhomlynsky National University, Ukraine

<sup>2</sup> V.O. Sukhomlynsky National University, Ukraine

skills that will assist graduates to realize professional contacts in a foreign language in different situations both in Ukrainian and in English.

Professional duties and responsibilities of our students can include examination and public speaking both in Ukrainian and in a foreign language. A teacher deals with different age of children, taking into consideration different forms and approaches. Moreover, graduates of a higher educational institution in the domain of secondary education should always work in accordance with methodology; be aware of teaching methods, lesson design, control and assess his/her professional activity and its outcomes, realize the importance of regular professional self-development; be ready to get new information; respect moral and cultural values as well as opinions of other people; be hardworking and responsible; reserved and decisive [2].

The experience of Foreign Languages Department of V.O Sukhomlynsky National University shows that BA students succeed in participating in international conferences and moots, submitting research papers in English, interpreting traineeships etc. To reach the goal of each activity mentioned above students should take into account the adequate vocabulary items and grammar structures. Speaking about special component of the activity the emphasis is made on the transfer of theoretical special knowledge into the area of the practical solution of a task, and afterwards the transfer of the skills developed from one situation into another; and afterward further transfer of data from the particular situation into a general pattern. Here the correlation of the special subject from the core curriculum of the learners and their personal experience occurs.

Analyzing the close connection of language and special vocational training in the frames of CLIL in a non-linguistic higher educational institution we agree with the statement that the quality of language education depends on the quality of vocational education [5]. The opposite contention can also be considered as valid and essential, inter alia the quality of vocational education depends on the quality of language education. Consequently, to enhance special competences of teachers-to-be language skills and communicative competences of the students should be constantly cultivated. For this purpose definite tasks and assignments developing both foreign language skills and special vocational skills should be designed and realized in teaching practice.

The issue of CLIL and foreign language teaching integration is immense; it can be examined from various points of view in teaching listening, speaking, reading, writing etc. This paper shows some aspects of BA students' teaching speaking skills. Discussing some issues of different teaching methods and approaches in a foreign language teachers-to-be improve their knowledge, skills and know-how of their profession. They also develop their foreign language speaking skills.

CLIL approach can be integrated into teaching practice from the very beginning of vocational training at University. We suppose that this integration can be successful if the students' language acquisition level is B-1 or higher according to the Common European References. At this level learners «can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans» [4, p. 24].

Though the first year students do not have sufficient vocational knowledge and skills but we can suppose that their interest in their profession will help to cope with this problem. Communicative and problem solving tasks, project making activity will enhance learners' foreign language speaking skills and their lawyer-to-be enthusiasm. The theoretical background of the communicative task application into teaching practice and the examples of such assignments are provided by A. Atabekova and N. Belenkova [1].

The second and the third year students have deeper knowledge in the domain of law it gives greater opportunity to realize the CLIL approach into practice and develop the pertinent speaking skills of the students.

Foreign educators and researchers in teaching English as a foreign language pay much attention to the ways of how to improve students' speaking skills. First of all learners should know an appropriate number of vocabulary items, grammar patterns and some expressive means (e.g. speed of the utterance) to support the debate and participate in a discussion. It is especially crucial for lawyers-to-be to know and to use certain phrases to clarify something, to highlight the key point of their discourse, to show the structure of their thoughts. They should be able to reformulate and to restructure their wording in order to be understood better. For this purpose, such expressions might be used: the important thing to grasp is that...; to begin with/and finally...; what I am trying to say is that...; what I mean is...; the point I am trying to make is that...; to put it another way [7]. Students should know these expressions and must be taught how to use them in professional setting.

Success in speakers' productivity also depends on their foreign language processing skills, speakers must transform the information in their heads and put it in a comprehensible form from the point of view of the language and the meaning. Language processing involves word and phrase extraction from the speaker's memory and then the word and phrase assembly into the correct sequences. Foreign language processing skills development is a matter of foreign language teaching and the corresponding speaking activities should be included into the practice of foreign language teaching. Rapid language

processing also depends on the fact whether the students are aware of the information they are speaking about.

Effective speaking implies effective listening and interacting with other participants. Skillful speakers should be conscious and take into account other opponents' feelings, their linguistic skills and professional awareness of the subject. They should realize how to take turns, allow others to do so and convey the meaning of the utterance even if some misunderstanding occurs. Communication can be considered as effective if the information sent is processed at the moment of its reception. Information processing depends mostly on the speakers' special knowledge of the topic discussed. Consequently, language and special content teaching and learning are integrated in practice [7].

The main conclusion to be drawn is the CLIL approach is very effective in teaching foreign languages and developing professional skills of the students at nonlinguistic higher educational institutions. This approach diversifies teaching tools and forms of classroom teaching and learning and consequently increases learners' motivation. The integration of foreign language teaching and professional skills development should be further investigated and widely used in teaching practice.

### References:

1. Atabekova A.A., Belenkova N.M. (2013) *Adaptatsiya studentov k multikulturnoy obrazovatel'noysrede VUZa*. Saarbrücken, Deutschland, Lambert Academic Publishing.
2. Belenkova N. (2012) E-learning and Teaching English as a Foreign Language at University // *Journal of International Scientific Publications: Educational Alternatives*, vol. 10, part 2 pp. 42–49. URL: <http://www.scientific-publications.net/download/educational-alternatives-2012-2.pdf>
3. Commission of The European Communities *Promoting Language Learning and Linguistic Diversity: An Action Plan 2004–2006*. – Brussel, 2003.
4. *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment*. – Cambridge, 2004.
5. Druzhinina M. V. *Ponyatiye i printsipy formirovaniya yazykovoy obrazovatel'noy politiki universiteta // Izvestiya RGPU im. A.I. Gertsena*. – 2008. – No 52. – P. 60–70.
6. *Federal'nyy gosudarstvennyy obrazovatel'nyy standart vysshego professional'nogo obrazovaniya po napravleniyu podgotovki 030900 yurisprudentsiya (kvalifikatsiya (stepen') «bakalavr»)*. (v red. Prikaza Minobrnauki RF ot 31.05.2011 № 1975). URL: [http://www.edu.ru/db-mon/mo/Data/d\\_10/prm464-1.pdf](http://www.edu.ru/db-mon/mo/Data/d_10/prm464-1.pdf)
7. Harmer J. *The Practice of English Language*. 3rd Edition. – London, 2001.
8. Shmatko N.Yu. (2017) *Metodika obucheniya govoreniyu v usloviyakh kreditno-modul'noy sistemy (angliyskiy yazyk, nachal'nyy etap): avtoref. diss. ... kand. pedagog. nauk*.