

## Foreign language teaching in higher maritime educational establishments of Ukraine: status, problems and prospects

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**Annotation.** In the conditions of Ukraine's accession to the Bologna process and perspective of Ukraine's European integration, including the introduction, since mid-2016 visa-free regime with the European Union, the study of foreign languages is of particular importance and relevance. In this regard, in the process of teaching foreign languages at higher educational institutions should radically change approaches to teaching foreign languages, shifting the emphasis from studying the actual language on its development as a communicative tool. This problem is extremely relevant for higher Maritime educational institutions of Ukraine, considering that their graduates being at the forefront of the use of foreign languages have to master (especially during speech) at least one foreign language, preferably English as most common.

**Keywords:** higher Maritime educational establishments, foreign preparation for future professional activity.

**Introduction.** The reality of today is the expansion of international relations of Ukraine and its integration into European and world community. Under these conditions, more attention is paid to studying foreign languages, and this applies to all areas of life, where foreign languages are as a key to the development of international relations. For realization of this task higher educational institutions of Ukraine should be provided with adequate foreign-training of students that in future will facilitate their active integration into the international, primarily European, community. A special role in this all-important task should be given to higher Maritime educational institutions where the teaching of foreign languages requires a great deal of attention, as the current students, and future professionals of the Maritime merchant fleet, require appropriate knowledge of a foreign language not only for everyday communication, but for the sake of professional skill, lack of which may cause emergency when at sea.

**A brief review of publications on the topic.** L. Amosova, O. Gavrilova, V. Kudryavtseva, O. Kovnir, I. Lopushynskyi, I. Chemeris, etc. recently addressed the issue of improving teaching of foreign languages in higher educational institutions of Ukraine, their works address the question about the role of higher educational training of foreign languages in general, however, not enough attention is paid to training on a foreign language in higher Maritime education institutions, that causes the difficulty in the organization of the educational process in such higher educational institutions.

**Purpose.** Based on the above, the aim of our article was the discussion of practical steps of leading foreign language teachers of higher Maritime educational institutions of Ukraine, including many-year experience techniques of mastering a foreign language by cadets of higher marine educational establishments and their preparation for active professional work.

**Materials and methods.** Recently official vision emerged in Ukraine, that the ability to communicate with foreigners in their native language is necessary not only for individuals, but also represents the economic and cultural benefit for the country: providing opportunities in trade, international relations, and other industries.

In this regard, the knowledge of foreign languages comes first, that gives the opportunity to every citizen to

contribute either to world culture or to everyday practice. That is why among the priority directions of reforming of education of the State national program "Education" ("Ukraine XXI century") is the achievement of a qualitatively new level in learning foreign languages [1, p. 7]. National doctrine of development of education consolidates position, that "the state creates a system of continuous language education that provides obligatory mastery by the citizens of Ukraine ... of at least one foreign language" [2].

In recent years, in Ukraine a number of measures on realization of the ideas and provisions of the National doctrine of education development was implemented [2], reforming education, improving its quality, availability and competitiveness. Thus, in particular, a system of language education that provides obligatory mastery of the state language, the opportunity to acquire native and foreign languages was updated. The study of foreign languages became compulsory from the first form.

At the same time, the current level of education in Ukraine does not allow it to function fully as a key resource for socio-economic development of the state and improve the welfare of citizens. It remains of low prestige of education and science in society [4].

The development strategy of national system of education in Ukraine for the period up to 2021, as stated in the presidential Decree of Ukraine from June 25, 2013 № 344/2013 should be formed adequately to modern integration processes and globalization, requirements of transition to post-industrial civilization, which will ensure steady movement and development of Ukraine in the first quarter of the XXI century, the integration of the national system of education into European and world educational space [4]. The efforts of education authorities, scientific and methodological services in support of the whole society and the state should be focused on the implementation of the strategic directions of education development, overcoming the existing problems, the implementation of advanced tasks, including: ensuring the development and functioning of Ukrainian language as the state language, meeting the cultural and educational needs of national minorities, creation of conditions for learning foreign languages [4].

Taking into account the role of English as the language of international communication, to promote its study for

improving access of citizens to world economic, social, educational and cultural opportunities offered by the knowledge and use of the English language, ensure the integration of Ukraine into European political, economic, scientific and educational space, to support the GoGlobal program that defines learning English as one of the priorities of the development strategy, The President of Ukraine by his decree of November 16, 2015 "On declaring 2016 the Year of the English language in Ukraine [5] instructed the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine:

1) to develop and approve a complex of measures for 2016 and subsequent years aimed at enhancing citizens studying English with the aim of creating opportunities for its use in the fields of education, science, culture, economy and other spheres, including the implementation of official measures, in particular concerning:

- organization on the basis of higher educational institutions courses on studying of the English language by students, postgraduates, doctoral candidates, pedagogical and scientific-pedagogical workers, other citizens;

- promotion in the prescribed manner of teaching to the seekers of higher education academic disciplines in English;

- introduction learning English as a second language in secondary schools, in which it is studied;

- expanding the network of clubs for the study of English in non-school educational institutions and practices in the work with pupils, students and trainees in various areas of adult education;

- carrying out of professional competitions, Olympiads and other competitions on English language among pedagogical, scientific-pedagogical workers, pupils and students;

- development of mutual exchange of students between educational institutions of Ukraine and the States in which English is the main language of communication;

- increase the participation of educational institutions of Ukraine in the European Union "E-Twinning Plus";

- expanding the network of summer language camps for the purpose of learning foreign languages in Ukraine;

- the beginning of the project improving the professional skills of pedagogical and scientific-pedagogical workers in the English language;

- development of international cooperation on attraction to teaching English to the foreign specialists who are native speakers, including volunteers, the simplification of the procedure of entry to Ukraine and stay in Ukraine;

- the improvement of Ukrainian legislation in the sphere of education and science, by definition, the list of positions of pedagogical, scientific and scientific-pedagogical staff in higher educational institutions and scientific institutions, requirement for employment is English, and the introduction of requirements for English language competence for awarding academic degrees and awarding academic titles;

- the phased introduction of certification of teachers of foreign languages at secondary schools for the purpose of determining in accordance with Europe-wide recommendations of language education proficiency in the relevant language and differentiation of labour

remuneration depending on professional level of language proficiency;

- the introduction of educational TV and radio programmes on studying English language for different categories of the population, conducting outreach about the importance of learning English, familiarity with the possibilities of its use;

- expanding the practice of screening films in English with subtitling in the national language;

- assessment of the level of knowledge of the English language by civil servants and the organization of language courses for its study, introduction in accordance with the established procedure of qualification requirements on language proficiency for the relevant civil service positions;

- inclusion of English language programs of professional development of civil servants and officials of local self-government;

- the revitalization of doing English versions of official websites of public authorities [5].

The President of Ukraine was also requested to consider the question concerning the attraction of international financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the above activities.

In addition, the regional, Kyiv city state administrations are entrusted to ensure the development and implementation of relevant regional plans and activities aimed at promoting the study of the English language, providing in particular: carrying out relevant advocacy, including in the local media; the issue of accessibility of services for learning the English language; the introduction of regional television educational programs on learning English; conduct with the involvement of educational institutions, cultural institutions, agencies and organizations which provide services for learning English, contests, festivals, competitions and other activities designed to encourage different age groups to the study of the English language, increase the level of possession[5].

In view of the above, in recent time, the Ukrainian government has done a lot to create appropriate conditions for learning foreign languages. So, in higher educational institutions foreign language is a compulsory educational subject; a significant number of higher educational institutions has faculties of foreign languages; for admission to graduate studies is a compulsory examination in a foreign language; the programs of international exchange of students and teachers have place; in higher educational institutions of Ukraine foreign specialists work for the various grant programs; in connection with the development of information technologies there is an opportunity to learn English through the Internet, using educational CDS, DVDs, video and audio; a large quantity of manuals are sold, developed and published both in Ukraine and in the countries of studied languages (e.g. popular books published in Oxford (UK), as well as books in foreign languages; there are foreign language publications (magazines, Newspapers) that are issued by universities, training centers, private enterprises of Ukraine; if desired and if funds are available have the opportunity to learn foreign languages in the countries whose language is studied, etc.

At the same time, the main content of foreign language teaching in the higher Maritime educational establishments of Ukraine is now focused on a balanced the following requirements: 1) the priority of communicative goals in teaching; 2) compliance of the activity nature of the training; 3) focus the educational process on the personality of the student; 4) balanced teaching oral (speaking, listening) and written (reading and writing) forms of communication; 5) differentiated approach to mastering the language material in accordance with the communicative needs; 6) based on the experience of students in mastering their native language and develop their cognitive abilities; 7) the widespread use of effective educational technology, including software, if they are related to the requirements of the program, age of the students, their interests; 8) the use of authentic materials (texts, photos) to study all forms of communication; 9) socio-cultural orientation of the learning process [3, p. 56].

At the same time, modern international processes, primarily the promising Ukraine's integration into the European community and the introduction, since mid-2016 visa-free regime with the European Union, require the preparation of a new type of specialist in merchant marine, capable, in particular, to negotiate, to use European resources and a good command of one of the major European languages (English), multilinguistic competence. Language education should be an important element of the overall modernization of the training, including the future officers of merchant fleet. Thus it is necessary to achieve this level of proficiency in their foreign language, allowing them the freedom to use them in their future careers.

For effective organization of learning the knowledge possessed by the cadets of higher marine educational institutions must be taking in consideration. One of the things that should be considered in educational process, is that those who are taught, indeed is already an adult audience, and this, in turn, requires certain approaches to organization of educational process, use of progressive methods and technologies of teaching adults.

Obtained skills will help students to become competitive ones in the labour market, will provide an opportunity to conduct correspondence and business negotiations with foreign partners, to use the world experience, to read foreign language news articles, get acquainted with the analytical reviews and work in foreign naval campaigns, etc.

That is why to significant improvements in the status of teaching foreign languages, achievement of the ultimate objective of higher Maritime educational

establishments of modern Ukraine must be:

- ensure consistency in the teaching of foreign languages in the transition from middle to high school, that is, to define a coherent policy of teaching foreign languages in the country at these levels of education;

- allow for the possibility of selection by cadets of higher marine educational establishments of a foreign language, different from the one that was studied in school, and the development of appropriate training courses; to expand the range of foreign languages offered for study at the high school level;

- enter level foreign language training in higher education, which would introduce an in-depth General and professional language courses with possible receipt of certificates of proficiency in a foreign language and providing opportunities to improve achieved level;

- strengthen the orientation in teaching foreign languages to the formation of shared communicative skills, positive psychological preparation for life in a multilingual society.

**Results and discussion.** These and other measures, in our opinion, will contribute to the improvement, strengthening the effectiveness of the implementation of foreign language education in Ukraine as a means of communication and as a means of openness to the world with its linguistic, cultural, ideological, political, economic, social diversity, would help establish the importance of mastering a foreign language and needs to use it as a means of communication for mutual understanding, personal mobility, access to information in a multilingual world. The strengthening of foreign language training of future specialists of the merchant marine fleet determines urgent need to bridge the traditional barriers between Ukraine and the world through deep-seated ignorance of foreign languages and strengthening its integration into the world community.

**Conclusion.** We believe that the proposed methods for strengthening of foreign language training of cadets of higher marine educational establishments of Ukraine will contribute to the effective improvement of foreign language education in such category of institutions, will contribute to building awareness of the importance of the mastery of a foreign language and needs to use it as a means not only of active communication with foreigners, but in their daily professional activities. Further studies of raised in the article problem seen within the light of the practice of use of foreign languages by graduates of higher Maritime educational institutions of Ukraine after graduating in their daily professional activities, and in analyzing of problems, which may occur, and making corrections in the methodology of foreign language teaching.

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**Преподавание иностранного языка в высших морских учебных заведениях Украины: состояние, проблемы и перспективы**

**КОВНИР Е.И.**

**Аннотация.** В условиях присоединения Украины к Болонскому процессу и перспективной евроинтеграции Украины изучение иностранных языков приобретает особое значение и актуальность. В этой связи в процессе изучения иностранных языков в ВУЗах следует в корне изменить подходы к изучению иностранных языков, сместив при этом акценты с изучения собственно языка на овладение им как коммуникативным средством. Эта проблема является чрезвычайно актуальной для высших морских учебных заведений Украины ввиду того, что именно их выпускники, находясь на переднем плане использования иностранных языков, должны в совершенстве владеть (в первую очередь во время устного общения) хотя бы одним иностранным языком, желательнее английским как наиболее распространенным.

**Ключевые слова:** высшие морские учебные заведения, иноязычная подготовка к будущей профессиональной деятельности.