

IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE INTO ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Tayanch soʻzlar: madaniyatlararo oʻzaro taʼsir, bagʻrikenglikning namoyon boʻlishi, irqiy, milliy, diniy bagʻrikenglik, til stereotiplari, madaniy tushunmovchiliklar.

Ключевые слова: межкультурное взаимодействие, проявление толерантности, расовая, национальная, религиозная толерантность, языковые стереотипы, межкультурные непонимания.

Key words: intercultural interaction, the manifestation of tolerance, racial, national, religious tolerance, language stereotypes, cultural misunderstandings.

In the modern world, where international ties are an integral part of our lives, the ability to interact intercultural becomes increasingly important. Intercultural interaction is characterized by a respectful attitude towards representatives of other cultures, the manifestation of tolerance, racial, national, and religious tolerance, and a willingness to work in a foreign language environment. These features form the basis of intercultural competence, which is characterized by state standards of higher education as one of the main competencies of future specialists.

Language itself is defined by a culture. We cannot be competent in the language if we do not also understand the culture that has shaped and informed it. We cannot learn a second language if we do not have an awareness of that culture, and how that culture relates to our own first language/first culture [1:2]. When students encounter various cultural contexts, they gain a deeper appreciation for the dynamic nature of language and its importance in intercultural communication. Teachers should actively choose materials that showcase cultural diversity [7:94]. By using diverse content, teachers ensure that learners encounter real language use and cultural practices from different English-speaking communities. It's not just about what's taught; it's also about how the language is experienced across various global cultures. Digital technology allows us to enhance course materials with cultural content from around the world [4:62]. The internet and online tools are like magic portals to different cultures! They let students experience these cultures in a deep way, going far beyond what they can learn in a regular classroom. Teachers can use these tools, like listening and reading apps, to bring the richness of global cultures right into their everyday lessons. By adding more cultural content, teachers can create classrooms that help students truly understand and appreciate different cultures [5:77]. Learning a language isn't just about grammar and words. It's also about understanding different cultures. Schools want students to challenge stereotypes and see cultures for all their richness and complexity. By including things about culture in their lessons, teachers can make learning a language more interesting and engaging for students. Learning a language is more fun and interesting when it connects to real-life cultures! It's not just about memorizing words. Exploring different cultures through language helps you understand things like politeness, greetings, and body language. Knowing this stuff helps you talk to people from different places in a way that makes sense to them [4:61]. To communicate effectively across different situations, it's essential not only to know the right words but also how to use them in a culturally respectful manner. The lack of cultural representation in English language materials needs attention. By integrating cultural elements into educational resources, we can help students understand the language better while promoting cultural awareness. Using technology for immersive cultural experiences creates inclusive and efficient language learning environments, empowering students to communicate confidently across cultures.

Language stereotypes

Language learning materials may inadvertently perpetuate stereotypes and cultural biases [6:193]. These stereotypes can be misleading, hindering learners' ability to understand the true diversity of English-speaking communities. Language learning materials often perpetuate stereo-

types related to accents and dialects. Some accents are unfairly portrayed as superior or inferior, reinforcing biases and hindering appreciation of linguistic diversity. Recognizing the impact of these portrayals, educators must guide learners in critically analyzing these stereotypes, encouraging them to question preconceived notions and fostering a more inclusive view of language varieties. Additionally, gender-related language stereotypes are prevalent. Language learning materials sometimes link specific language forms or communication styles to particular genders, reinforcing biased views. These stereotypes can also affect how native and non-native English speakers are perceived. Unfortunately, non-native speakers may be unfairly portrayed as less proficient or less authoritative, which can undermine their confidence and sense of identity [3:244]. In addressing these issues, Teachers take on the role of linguistic advocates, fostering an environment where learners view language as a communication tool free from unnecessary biases. Educators play a vital part in challenging and rectifying language stereotypes within the classroom [7:61]. Teachers play a crucial role in creating an inclusive language learning environment. They should actively review and choose materials that accurately represent language and culture, avoiding biases. Educators are not just information providers; they are guardians of fairness and equality. By incorporating diverse language examples, they can challenge stereotypes and help learners appreciate the richness of language diversity. It's a call for educators to be architects of inclusivity, deliberately crafting learning experiences that broaden learners' perspectives on language and culture.

Cultural misunderstandings

Cultural misunderstandings can indeed create barriers in language learning and communication. When learners from different cultural backgrounds interact, they may encounter subtle nuances, unintended offense, or misinterpretations due to varying cultural norms, values, and communication styles.

Language learning materials should introduce learners to diverse cultural perspectives, helping them navigate potential misinterpretations. Teachers play a crucial role in guiding students through both the linguistic and cultural aspects of language.

Stereotypes in learning resources can contribute to cultural misunderstandings [3:30]. Teachers should clarify and provide context for language elements, aiding learners in accurately interpreting their intended meanings. Going beyond mere translation, educators unveil the cultural layers embedded in expressions, enriching learners' understanding.

Nonverbal cues like body language can cause confusion if cultural differences aren't understood. Teachers can help students avoid misunderstandings by discussing these differences and how they affect how people use language. Educators serve as both cultural interpreters and language instructors, helping students navigate the intricacies of implicit communication.

Misunderstandings related to humor and sarcasm can result from cultural differences. Educators can foster discussions about humor across cultures, emphasizing the significance of sensitivity and context in language use. Educators play a crucial role as cultural guides, helping learners navigate the intricate landscape of cultural nuances in humor.

Cultural misunderstandings may occur due to different attitudes towards time and punctuality. Educators can facilitate discussions on cultural perceptions of time and its impact on communication [7:30]. In a culturally diverse classroom, misunderstandings can arise from diverse perspectives on authority and hierarchy. Educators can encourage open dialogue about these cultural differences to promote mutual understanding. Teachers need to be more than just instructors; they should be facilitators of discussions about culture. They play a crucial role in helping students understand how language and culture connect.

Misunderstandings can occur when learners assume based on their own cultural norms. Educators can encourage learners to approach intercultural interactions with an open mind and a willingness to learn [3:88]. Teachers take on the role of mentors, assisting students not only in language acquisition but also in developing a positive and respectful perspective toward cultural differences.

Reflective activities and cross-cultural discussions encourage learners to critically examine cultural misunderstandings. Educators can facilitate these activities to promote self-awareness and cultural sensitivity. Teachers take on the role of mentors, guiding learners through processes that foster deeper self-understanding and cultural awareness.

Cultural awareness fosters effective communication and minimizes misunderstandings. Educators can incorporate activities that promote cultural understanding and curiosity [6:275]. Teachers go beyond teaching language skills; they nurture individuals who grasp and value the cultural aspects of effective communication.

Learning a language isn't just about words. Different cultures have different ways of talking and acting, which can lead to confusion. Teachers can help by using materials that show these differences, teaching how to communicate effectively across cultures, and creating a classroom that's respectful of everyone. By thinking about these things and talking openly, learners can avoid misunderstandings and become more confident communicators in the new language.

Promoting interaction between cultures helps learners build their ability to understand and communicate across different cultures. Training in intercultural competence gives students the tools to navigate cultural differences and communicate well in diverse environments. In this context, teachers play a key role in fostering discussions and creating an environment where students can have meaningful interactions with people from various cultural backgrounds.

Opportunities for educators

In language classrooms, addressing cultural diversity is paramount, necessitating educators to undergo intercultural competence training. This foundational training equips learners with the abilities to handle cross-cultural interactions

and establish inclusive learning environments

Training in culturally inclusive language policies emphasizes the importance of recognizing and validating learners' language backgrounds, advocating for policies that support diverse linguistic identities. Additionally, intercultural competence training through virtual exchanges connects educators with diverse cultural backgrounds, enhancing their intercultural communication skills. Byram emphasizes integrating intercultural competence into language education. Teachers become advocates for language diversity, ensuring that educational policies and practices recognize and celebrate students' individual language identities [2:74].

Teachers practicing culturally responsive teaching provide opportunities for students to connect their cultural backgrounds to the learning content, emphasizing the relevance of cultural knowledge in their academic journey.

Incorporating multicultural literature and diverse cultural resources helps students gain a deeper appreciation of cultural diversity. Celebrating cultural events within the classroom creates a positive and joyful learning atmosphere.

Encouraging students to take pride in their cultural heritage and language, culturally responsive teaching supports students' overall wellbeing and academic success. Paris stresses the significance of acknowledging the potential disparities between students' native culture and language and the culture and language used in instruction, indicating a requirement for adapting teaching methods. In this context, educators assume the role of champions for student welfare, guaranteeing that students take pride in their identities.

Anderson expands the notion of culturally aware teaching to cover not only the ambiance of the classroom but also instructional methods, underlining the significance of creating a respectful and varied milieu. This involves tailoring teaching methods, resources, and assessments to accommodate students with diverse abilities and backgrounds, nurturing an environment conducive to inclusivity and effectiveness in learning. In this role, educators act as creators of an adaptable and all-encompassing learning space.

The integration of intercultural elements into language teaching offers numerous possibilities for enhancing language learning experiences and promoting intercultural communication. Fostering and enhancing intercultural competence among university students during foreign language classes is a complex process that involves multiple elements. The development of intercultural competence for university students in foreign language classes should encompass a deep understanding of their own and other cultures, the cultivation of tolerant attitudes toward representatives of different cultures, language proficiency, and knowledge of ethical norms within those cultures.

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РЕЗЮМЕ. Мақоллада лингвистик ва маданий yondashuvni amalga oshirish asosida ingliz tilini o'qitishga madaniyatlararo kompetentsiyani integratsiyalash haqida so'z boradi. Ushbu maqola madaniyatni o'z til darslariga muammosiz integratsiya qilishni istagan o'qituvchilar uchun amaliy maslahatlarga texnologiyadan foydalanib, inklyuziv madaniy tajribalar uchun inklyuziv va samarali til o'rganish muhitini yaratadi va talabalarga madaniyatlar o'rtasida ishonchli muloqot qilish imkoniyatini berishga asoslangan.

РЕЗЮМЕ. В статье речь идет об интеграции межкультурной компетентности в преподавание английского языка на основе реализации лингвокультурологического подхода. Эта статья может быть основана на практических советах для учителей, которые хотят плавно интегрировать культуру в свои уроки языка, используя технологии для захватывающего культурного опыта, создавая инклюзивную и эффективную среду изучения языка, давая учащимся возможность уверенно общаться между представителями разных культур.

SUMMARY. The article deals with the integrating intercultural competence into English language teaching based on the implementation of the linguistic and cultural approach. This article can be based on practical tips for teachers who want to integrate culture seamlessly into their language lessons by using technology for immersive cultural experiences creates inclusive and efficient language learning environments, empowering students to communicate confidently across cultures.