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COMMUNICATIVE METHOD IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Modern system of foreign language teaching in higher educational institutes offers a wide range of teaching concepts, methods and technologies both traditional and modern ones. The developers of educative programmes are in favour of certain methods depending on teaching goals, contingent of students, duration and intensity of the course and other conditions. Each of the methods has its own advantages and disadvantages and a great deal of its success depends on specific goals and conditions of teaching. Over the recent years the role of a foreign language as a means of communication has increased considerably and that should be taken into account while teaching foreign languages.

To a large extent the specificity of foreign language teaching lies in the fact we don't train undergraduates but average students and we shouldn't teach them foundations of languages but to use language skills that in turn requires sufficient verbal practice. The goal of teaching a language is not only in acquainting students with the system of a foreign language which is the main task of a grammar-translation method, but first thing to teach them how to use a language as a means of communication. This is what a communicative method exists for.

The major principle of a communicative approach is full immersion into the language environment of the language learnt. A challenge to use only a second language helps students eliminate a language barrier and develop their language skills. Such an approach is aimed into teaching students building up the sentences directly in the language learnt using appropriate grammatical structures. That is communicative approach suggests first memorizing words and expressions and only after that analyzing them from grammatical point of view. The teacher then explains the meaning of new words using words, expressions and grammatical structures that are already familiar to the students. Another principle of the method is creation of real communicative situations. When creating a dialogue a student has an opportunity to put into practice all the knowledge acquired. An important advantage is that the method offers a large variety of activities: role plays, dialogues, simulation of real-life communication. Lessons are held in a fun and educational way. Learning is supposed to be interesting and is based on the areas that encourage students to learn new information. Topics are selected according to learners' preferences, their age and aims.

At first a communicative approach was rejected, but at present it also takes a leading position along with a grammar-translation method. Most teachers in higher educational institutions prefer these very methods whereby they are often used together. This approach is used by teachers at all stages of a modern system of education as it enables them to use and control students' knowledge both by means of exercises but also through communication with a teacher.

So, communicative method is closest to reality among other teaching methods. It focuses on the activation of everyday, not a bookish way of speaking increasing students' greater motivation in learning a foreign language.