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## EDUCATIONAL EVENT AS A COMPONENT OF THE SYSTEM OF LANGUAGE TRAINING OF FOREIGN STUDENTS

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### **Summary**

The article discusses one of the aspects of the educational process organized by the Department of Language Training at Zaporizhzhia State Medical and Pharmaceutical University, which faces certain challenges due to psychophysiological and linguistic factors. The former are related to overcoming differences in the sphere of education, requirements and control systems, as well as mastering new social-cultural, educational spaces, and moral-ethical norms of behavior; the latter are due to the complete absence or insufficiency of language training. All these and other problematic issues are in the focus of the tutor during the educational process. These two types of activities are interconnected, as the educational process is aimed at acquiring knowledge, professional skills and abilities, while the upbringing process contributes to the personal improvement of the student. Extracurricular educational activities allow students to improve their knowledge of the Ukrainian language, develop communicative abilities, reveal their inner potential and feel the team spirit. This, in turn, improves the quality of two-way communication between teacher → student and student → teacher.

**Key words:** educational process, extracurricular work, psychophysiological factor, speech factor, Ukrainization.

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## **1. Introduction**

The global Ukrainization of society and the adoption of the Law of Ukraine on the Ukrainian language facilitated the rapid transition of higher education from Russian to Ukrainian. This process has created certain difficulties specifically for foreign students who chose Ukraine for their studies. Mastering the state language is extremely challenging for foreign students, although some of them show interest and demonstrate significant success. To facilitate faster language acquisition, language teachers not only improve traditional teaching methods

but also constantly create new ones: presentations, electronic textbooks with audio recordings for specific topics, multimedia presentations, various tables, illustrations, online courses, etc. are being developed. All these forms help to improve the process of two-way communication between teacher and student, student and teacher. Additionally, involving this process in educational work has a positive impact not only on the development of speaking skills but also on understanding what is heard.

The importance of educational work cannot be underestimated – it is the most challenging direction in educational practice with both domestic and international students in institutions of various levels. The educational process with representatives of the first category proceeds in more comfortable conditions since the unifying factors are mentality, nationality, and language. International students are a special contingent that requires a special approach. As D. Katsapov notes, educational work among international students has a more individual character. It is determined by the fact that these students have different levels and customs of upbringing, represent various countries of the world, cultures, and significantly differ from each other in religious and national traditions (*Katsapov, 2012: 75*).

The aim of the article is to analyze and theoretically justify the impact of educational activities on the speech competencies of foreign students at a medical education institution.

## 2. Literature Review

In achieving the stated goal, not only the educational process but also extracurricular work with foreign students plays a significant role. This aspect of the problem has attracted the attention of many scholars-methodologists, whose research can be conditionally divided into two directions: works on linguo-cultural topics (*Z. Vasylylko, I. Vasylytsova, O. Hrynychshyn, I. Dorozhko, L. Zasekina, O. Krovyytska, O. Kuznetsova, L. Onufriyeva, O. Palka, V. Spivak, O. Chepil, N. Yadlovska, etc.*) and studies aimed at investigating the educational aspect and its impact on the development of language competence of foreign students in medical universities (*O. Denha, I. Zaharkiv, I. Zolotarova, O. Ponomarov, etc.*). A significant number of works testify to the keen interest of researchers in the problem of the impact of educational activities on the development and improvement of the linguistic abilities of foreign students. Some of the issues related to the problem remain debatable today, which determines the relevance of the chosen topic.

## 3. Presentation of the Main Research Material and Obtained Results

The principles of foreign students' stay in a new country, as mentioned earlier, are primarily associated with two main factors: psychophysiological and linguistic.

The psychophysiological factor manifests in educational and cognitive difficulties overcoming differences in education systems; new requirements and knowledge control systems; difficulties in adapting to a new social, cultural and educational environment of higher education institutions; moral and ethical norms of behavior and coexistence and everyday life challenges.

The linguistic factor mainly manifests in insufficient language preparation (or its absence). Foreign languages should be learned in an inseparable unity with the world and culture of the peoples who speak this language, as a means of communication between representatives of different nations and cultures (*2017: 39*). The main task of the teacher is to take into

account the specifics of the linguistic environment and, hence, to show the beauty of the language, gradually and unobtrusively engage students in communication, and acquaint them with the culture and traditions of Ukrainians. Such tasks can be successfully accomplished not only through educational but also through extracurricular educational work, which is carried out in two forms: 1) educational and upbringing work conducted during the lesson, and 2) purely upbringing (extracurricular/out-of-class) work.

This process in higher education institutions is purposeful and depends on many factors: the professionalism of the teaching staff, their spiritual, moral, ethical, and business qualities, the level of interaction with foreign students, and the influence on their consciousness with the aim of forming a balanced life stance in them, the ability to perceive, use, disseminate, and acquire the necessary experience, the ability to be carriers of leading ideas, etc. Z. Kurlyand et al. (2007) notes that the process of education is a regular, sequential, continuous change of development moments of interacting subjects. The main system-forming element of this process is pedagogical interaction.

Educational work is multidirectional and covers various areas, starting from extracurricular communication (involvement of etiquette forms, conversational vocabulary, etc.) and ending with understanding the sociocultural features of a particular region. The implementation of the sociocultural component ensures intercultural communication, in which the foreign student is a full-fledged bearer of cultural information and becomes a participant in the «dialogue of cultures» (Kovalik, Sitkar, 2018).

All educational activities have an appropriate thematic direction and are presented in the form of Table 1.

Table 1

### Characteristics of thematic educational activities

No.	Direction	Topic of the event	Type of event
1.	Professional training	«Etiquette and Manners of Behavior of a Health-Care Professional» «The Educational events of communication between the doctor and the patient»	discussion-reports
2.	Ukrainological orientation	Meet St. Nicholas	talk
		Greetings on New Year's Eve	flash mob
		The concert-fantasy «Magic Night» based on the work of N. Gogol «Night Before Christmas»; «Christmas Star»	theater visit
		The World of Ukrainian Shchedrivok: songs «Good Evening to You, Mister Master», «Shchedrik» by composer M. Leontovych	concert
		Educational events and Traditions of Ukrainians and Indians	video tour
		«Man. Culture. History», «Spirit of the Cossacks – Zaporizhia spirit», «Khortitsa – the cradle of the Cossacks»	talks
		singing the songs «Galya Carries Water», «Red Ruta», «Mother Ukraine», «Manifesto»	Concert on the Day of Ukrainian Literature

Table 1 (continuance)

3.	Local history aspect	A thematic lecture by Zaporizhia writer and journalist Valentin Terletsky in the bookstore «E» on the Day of the Ukrainian Cossacks	lecture-meeting with the writer
		«How the Cossacks played soccer», «How the Cossacks were celebrating their wedding».	watching animation films
		Cossacks in Zaporizhia.	quiz
		Historical and Cultural Complex Zaporizhian Sich	guided tour
		In the study of the theme «The city where I live and study» we visited the museum of experiments»	guided tour
4.	Linguistic orientation	«Ukrainian language from «A» to «Z»	talk
		Linguistic tournament «Language unites all», «Higher and higher degree of comparison»	quizzes
		Mini-competitions «Who can repeat», formation of new words «Who is bigger?», «Linguistic Playland», «Riddles»	mini-competitions
5.	Literary orientation	Exhibition to the works of writers T. Shevchenko, L. Ukrainka, I. Franko, «The word to the word is the language»; to the 205 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Taras Shevchenko	exhibitions are organized with the assistance of students from different courses
		«Poetry microphone» (on examples of Ukrainian children's poetry)	video tour
		«Where does a student get his money», «Laughter and Tears», «Our Guys»	fiction reading of humoresques by Pavel Glazov
		«Spring 2019»; «Poetry – Freedom of the Heart»	poetry and recitation contest
		Birthday celebration for writer and poet Lina Kostenko	poetry recitation
		Creative interactive and poetry from Tatiana Kondik	interactive meeting
6.	Artistic direction	Regional drawing contest «Picturesque Zaporizhia Region», dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Zaporizhia Region	contest
		«Happy Teacher's Day»	concert

Educational measures aimed at the professional training of students are conducted both during class (consolidation of material) and extracurricularly (ability to outline a range of problems and the ability to solve them, expression of one's own opinion, debates). G. Shelest notes: «The task of the teacher is to seek ways to engage the pupil/student in communicative interaction, to find such ways and techniques to make them engage in conversation.

One of the means of solving such a task is the creation of educational speech and problem situations in classes, in which the pupil/student becomes confident in their ability to independently express their thoughts, desires, aspirations, and freely communicate with the teacher and with each other. The pupil/student must on their own (without the support of

the teacher or exercise samples) exchange thoughts, greetings, and talk about their successes» (*Shelest, 2018: 54*).

Educational events of Ukrainian studies orientation have exceptional cognitive value, which are organically complemented by materials and information about the history and culture of the Zaporizhzhia region. They are accompanied by musical material: students are offered to listen to excerpts of songs and express their thoughts, share what feelings the song evoked. V. Bader notes that one of the effective means of forming linguistic and country studies, and accordingly communicative competencies, is authentic song material. Indeed, the Ukrainian song is one of the main, quite effective means of teaching all types of speech activity in a foreign language, mastering the language and cultural background of the country, and developing aesthetic tastes (T. Arendarenko, I. Korshunova, N. Koroleva, O. Kulikova, I. Marenkova, T. Potapenko and others) (*Bader, 2008*).

The regional studies aspect allows for a better understanding of the history and culture of our native region.

Educational events of a linguistic orientation (language contests, discussions, etc.) gain special significance for the linguistic integration of foreign students. Language contests belong to special types of educational events because they foster a spirit of victory, support, leadership and collectivism.

Educational events of a literary orientation offer significant opportunities for improving the language preparation of foreign students. A. Tsaruk notes: «Adequately selected poetic material that matches the students' level of knowledge, skills, and abilities at a given stage of education enhances motivation and allows not only to reveal the communicative and cognitive but also the expressive function of the material. ... Creating a friendly atmosphere in the classroom serves as a catalyst for students' confidence in their abilities, increases their success, and opportunities for creative self-realization» (*Tsaruk, 2010*).

The artistic direction of educational work can also become an effective tool in mastering the Ukrainian language by foreign students, revealing their hidden talents and ultimately allowing them to feel more confident in society.

During musical performances, students have the opportunity for self-expression, leading to a cultural and informational exchange among all communication groups. Typically, they choose 50% of the musical and song accompaniment in the Ukrainian language, during which they demonstrate an understanding of the selected material, a sense of rhythm and emotional richness. Students exhibit various musical preferences. According to L. Shcherba, the selection of song material depends on the age, gender, national, and ethno-psychological characteristics of the learners (*cited by Kharitonova, 2007: 168*). It is worth noting that there is experience in studying grammatical constructions, lexical units, and phrases through songs by the contemporary Ukrainian band «Okean Elzy», which is liked by most foreign students for its Slavic melodiousness [*ibid*].

Conducted events help to reveal the inner world of a student, his potential, allow to feel the team spirit, to get to know each other better, which, in turn, contributes to the integration of cultural components into the process of teaching foreign students, the development and improvement of language use skills in real-life situations.

Promising, in our view, is the direction of creating modern support for the educational process, which fosters motivation and interest in learning the Ukrainian language by foreign students.

Such a comprehensive combination of education and upbringing yields significant positive results, which are reflected both at the communicative and cultural levels. Unlike

the educational system that focuses narrowly on information acquisition, the socio-cultural (educational) approach allows for forming an understanding of history, culture, traditions as a unified whole, in which all elements are closely interconnected, forming a certain chronological chain.

In the educational and upbringing process, a crucial role belongs to the curator. It is the curator who, through various types of educational activities, organizes a system of relationships in the academic group, creating conditions for the creative self-expression of each student, preserving his uniqueness and revealing potential abilities, and carries out individual correction of the process of mastering language competencies. The curator is the first among the faculty members to join the adaptation process of foreign students. It is he who acts as the organizer of various events and involves students in active participation in them.

An author's program of extracurricular activities has been created at the Department of Language Training of ZSMFU, the implementation of which should result in the deepening of foreign students' speech competence. The content of the program for foreign students facilitates the acquisition of language skills and abilities that ensure the possibility of practical use of the Ukrainian language as a means of communication and education.

#### 4. Conclusions

As practice has shown, educational events with a learning component are an effective means of developing the language competence of foreign students, but at the same time, they require a constant search for new forms and methods of implementation.

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