

# ADVANTAGES OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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**Annotation.** This article explores the advantages of teaching foreign languages in higher education institutions. It highlights how learning foreign languages enhances students' cognitive skills, intercultural competence, and professional opportunities. The study also examines the role of foreign language education in fostering critical thinking, global awareness, and communication abilities among students. Special attention is given to practical methods and strategies for effective language teaching, as well as the benefits for students' personal and academic development.

**Keywords:** Foreign languages, higher education, language teaching, intercultural competence, professional development, cognitive skills, communication skills.

## INTRODUCTION.

Foreign languages are becoming increasingly important in higher education institutions as global integration processes intensify. Modern society imposes high demands on future specialists, and knowledge of a foreign language has become an essential part of their professional training.

First and foremost, proficiency in foreign languages expands students' access to global scientific knowledge. Scientific literature, articles, and educational materials are most often published in English, which has become the international standard in the academic community. This opens new opportunities for research and innovation development. Another important aspect is the possibility of participating in international exchange programs and internships. Thanks to foreign languages, students can study and work abroad, gaining unique experience and knowledge that may not be available in their home country.

Knowledge of foreign languages enhances graduates' competitiveness in the labor market. Employers increasingly prefer candidates who can communicate fluently in a foreign language, especially in fields such as international business, tourism, IT, and science. Moreover, language learning develops critical thinking, memory, and communication skills, which are essential components of professional and personal growth. Despite the obvious advantages, teaching foreign languages faces several challenges. One of the key issues is the shortage of qualified instructors and the insufficient language preparation of students entering higher education institutions. The technical provision of language laboratories and access to modern educational materials also plays a significant role in the effectiveness of language teaching [2].

## LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY.

One of the most important aspects of foreign language learning is the use of modern technologies. Interactive platforms, mobile applications, and online courses significantly expand opportunities for independent language study. These tools allow students to improve their skills at any convenient time, creating conditions for a more flexible and personalized

approach to learning. An additional advantage of using technology is access to authentic materials such as articles, videos, and podcasts in foreign languages. This helps students better understand the cultural context and communication nuances of native speakers. Virtual language communities and online tandem programs also provide opportunities to practice the language with native speakers, which is especially valuable for students who do not have the chance to interact with them in real life.

Equally important is the integration of foreign languages into interdisciplinary educational programs. For example, learning technical or professional terminology in a foreign language helps students deepen their knowledge in a chosen field and prepare for work in international companies. Such programs contribute to the development of both linguistic and professional competencies [2].

In the context of globalization, knowledge of multiple languages has become an additional advantage for students. In addition to English, which remains the most in-demand, increasing attention is being paid to languages such as Chinese, Spanish, German, and French, reflecting the growing economic and cultural influence of the corresponding regions. To enhance the effectiveness of foreign language teaching in universities, it is important to implement new pedagogical approaches, such as project-based learning and game-based methods. These approaches stimulate students' interest, increase their engagement, and contribute to better material retention [3].

Another promising direction is the organization of language internships and partnerships with foreign universities. Participation in international exchange programs and summer language schools allows students to immerse themselves in the language environment and gain valuable practical experience. Thus, modern trends in foreign language education require the integration of innovative solutions and an interdisciplinary approach. Only in this way can higher education institutions prepare specialists capable of effectively working in a global economy and a culturally diverse environment.

Due to rapid and significant changes in our society, the importance of foreign language learning within the education system has opened wide opportunities for this subject. From being a simple academic discipline, it has become one of the main components of the modern education system and a means of achieving professional self-realization [4].

## **DISCUSSION AND RESULTS.**

The modern system of foreign language education is characterized by the fact that practical knowledge of a foreign language has become an essential requirement for almost all representatives of various professions. A university represents the highest level in the state education system, and it is precisely at this stage that specialists are trained to enter real life with all its demands and requirements.

Numerous game-based elements in teaching bring liveliness to lessons, maintain a positive emotional atmosphere for students, and enhance their motivation. Working in pairs or groups of three, participating in discussions on topics of interest to students—all of this allows the teacher to take into account the individual characteristics of students, make lessons creative and engaging, while at the same time giving the instructor the opportunity to discreetly maintain full control over the learning process.

The goal of any higher education institution is to prepare professionals capable of handling complex tasks and meeting the challenges that may arise for young specialists [5].

The audio-lingual method is successfully used in leading language centers around the world. Oxford University is considered the originator of this method. Most modern foreign

language teaching programs are based on principles that are effective only within the framework of long-term learning. For example, in higher education, foreign language instruction takes place over 3–5 years, while in secondary schools it lasts from 6 to 10 years. Programs of this type are not effective for medium-term training, as students need to acquire language skills in a relatively short period. These skills enable students to actively use a foreign language [1].

Here, the audiovisual method of language learning comes to the rescue, which is one of the most effective methods. This method helps students master a foreign language through speaking and listening. Speaking involves correctly expressing one's own thoughts in a foreign language.

Listening refers to understanding both the teacher's speech and natural spoken language at a normal pace. The advantage of the audio-lingual method is that it facilitates the process of learning a foreign language. This method ensures logical, clear, and coherent acquisition of practical language skills. The scheme of this method can be described as: **listen → understand → speak → read → write** [3].

Introduction to new language material begins with listening without relying on a written text. It should be noted that in most other methods, introduction to unfamiliar material starts with a written text.

Language is a system of skills. This statement is fundamental in the theory of this method. So, how is language skill developed when using the audiovisual method?

First, students acquire knowledge of grammar, phonetics, and vocabulary. However, it is important to remember that simply understanding the language material does not ensure its independent use in speech. Next, language skill is formed through active practice and processing of the material in spoken communication [5].

## CONCLUSION.

The teaching of foreign languages in higher education plays a crucial role in preparing students for the demands of a globalized world. Proficiency in foreign languages not only provides access to international scientific knowledge and research but also enhances students' professional, cognitive, and intercultural competencies. Modern language education, supported by innovative technologies, interactive and game-based methods, and audiovisual approaches, allows students to develop practical communication skills and adapt effectively to real-life professional contexts.

Moreover, integrating foreign languages into interdisciplinary programs and encouraging participation in international exchanges and internships broadens students' horizons and equips them with valuable practical experience. Despite challenges such as limited resources or varying student preparedness, the systematic and strategic teaching of foreign languages ensures that graduates are competitive, culturally aware, and capable of meeting the complex demands of their chosen professions.

Ultimately, foreign language education is no longer merely an academic subject; it has become an essential component of professional and personal development, providing students with the tools to succeed in a multicultural and interconnected world.

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