

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ  
СУМСЬКИЙ ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ  
ФАКУЛЬТЕТ ІНОЗЕМНОЇ ФІЛОЛОГІЇ  
ТА СОЦІАЛЬНИХ КОМУНІКАЦІЙ**



**СОЦІАЛЬНО-ГУМАНІТАРНІ  
АСПЕКТИ РОЗВИТКУ СУЧАСНОГО  
СУСПІЛЬСТВА**

**МАТЕРІАЛИ VII ВСЕУКРАЇНСЬКОЇ НАУКОВОЇ КОНФЕРЕНЦІЇ  
СТУДЕНТІВ, АСПІРАНТІВ, ВИКЛАДАЧІВ ТА СПІВРОБІТНИКІВ**

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## TEAM TEACHING

Nowadays, when students have access to any information via the Internet, ‘live’ communication in the classroom, the opportunity to observe the other people’s behavior and emotions, to perform in public are those invaluable resources that attract students with their content and emotional coloring.

We have decided to highlight the issue of team teaching as we have our own teaching experience together with the Peace Corps volunteer who came to Sumy State University to work on the project “Teaching English as a Foreign Language”. The experiment lasted for two years. In the course of our collaboration we were able to observe the progress in students’ knowledge, increase in their linguistic competence, motivation and interest. Many students started attending weekly meetings of the English Club in order to improve their spoken English, broaden their worldview through intercultural communication and enrich vocabulary.

Now, when after a two-year stay at Foreign Languages Department our volunteer has gone home, we want not to forget the acquired experience, to save and share the achievements obtained over that period of time.

We wouldn’t say that team teaching is something new and unknown for us. We traditionally hold team competitions of the “Round Table” with the participation of two groups under the guidance of their instructors. In preparation for the annual conferences of the Faculty, our teachers first conduct class conferences, whose winners are nominated for participation in the above-mentioned conferences. In order to give this event the spirit of a competition and enhance the status of a classroom conference our teachers often combine their efforts and hold joint conferences.

In addition, one of the authors had the experience in team teaching while working abroad at Engineering Academy as an interpreter in pair with an experienced specialist. The second author taught the Ukrainian language to the Peace Corps volunteers, where special attention was given to joint teaching.

Meanwhile, we believe that the experience gained in working with the Peace Corps volunteer is a priority, first of all, due to the fact that it has a scientific and methodological basis. After all, our pair work began with a thorough study of the US Peace Corps Manual in Ukraine, developed by the Peace Corps volunteers and their Ukrainian counterparts. Consequently, our theoretical knowledge multiplied by the practical teamwork skills has provided a new vector not only to our professional activities, but, first and foremost, they have benefited our students.

What do we need to know about team teaching in English lessons? This is a team work of two teachers, one of which is a native speaker, most often a Peace Corps volunteer, and the other is a Ukrainian teacher of English.

Team teaching occurs when two professionals work together in one class at a time. Both teachers plan and conduct their lessons together using one of the methods of team teaching. Two teachers are equal partners who actively collaborate with students and achieve a common goal, namely, trying to make their students speak English better.

Team teaching has its advantages and disadvantages. Of course, there are many benefits to volunteers, but we will focus only on the benefits that our teachers and students can obtain from this technique.

Benefits of team teaching in English classes are as follows:

- When students see how two teachers work together, they learn the principles of teamwork themselves by observing their teachers' work.

- Both teachers are representatives of two different cultures and have their own thoughts on the topic being considered, thereby enriching the students' worldview and giving them the possibility to learn a lot in the process of learning English.

- Both students and teachers have the opportunity to gain valuable experience examining and analyzing all information from different points of view.

- If a team teaching method is used correctly, teachers will be forced to discuss different teaching styles and change their own habits and methods of teaching students.

- Team teaching provides the chance to teach students in small groups and individually.

- When two teachers work in the classroom and each of them has their own ideas, it allows them to find and use the best, most creative ideas during the lesson.

As for the disadvantages of team teaching, they include:

- There are potential difficulties when a Ukrainian teacher is trying to find a common language with a Peace Corps volunteer.

- Both teachers need to find additional time for their joint lesson planning.

- A Ukrainian teacher can fear of his English proficiency compared to a PC volunteer who speaks fluent English and Ukrainian teachers sometimes refuse to cooperate with a volunteer, because they do not want to lose credibility among their students due to this reason.

Here are some conclusions as to the employment of team teaching method:

1. Both teachers should attend the class and be confident in playing their roles in the team. It is important not to overuse this method and so hurt relationships with a teacher-partner and students.

2. To achieve all the learning goals successfully both teachers must be engaged with all the students in class without exception.

3. Both teachers-partners should participate in the assessment of the level of all students in the classroom.

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