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Large class teaching: Adapting individualization techniques

Викладачі стикаються з багатьма проблемами у великому класі: дисциплінарні проблеми; некомфортне становище викладача; труднощі при оцінюванні усної та письмової роботи; нестача індивідуальної уваги до студентів. Важливо розглянути ефективні методи з урахуванням індивідуального підходу у великому класі при вивченні іноземної мови для студентів різноманітних спеціальностей.

Ключові слова: великий клас, індивідуальний підхід, завдання, проектна робота, ТВ новини

The research deals with the incorporating individualization techniques and activities for EFL teachers and finding out their effectiveness in the large foreign language classroom for students who major in different core subjects. Project work and listening to TV news are not new but they can be regarded as the progressive teaching methods which meet requirements of modern educational system.

Key words: large class, individualization, tasks, group project, TV news

Teachers face some problems in the large classroom. Firstly, large classes can pose disciplinary and class-management problems. Secondly, teachers can feel nervous and uncomfortable very often when there are many students in the foreign language classroom. Thirdly, it is difficult to evaluate the oral and written work of so many learners. And lastly, less of individual attention can be given, thus learning suffers from the lack of productivity. *The purpose* of the research is to observe techniques and activities that would be effective in the large foreign language classroom for students who major in different core subjects.

Individualization can be regarded as the use of different learning styles and a variety of sources, the function of a teacher as a facilitator, integrated learning skills, different learning goals. Moreover, individualizing learning tasks are aimed at improving students' language output as encouraging them to become independent learners. As an example of individualizing learning tasks we can take group projects and listening to TV news.

Such activity as group projects is familiar to language teachers and is used extensively in large EFL classes for students who major in different core subjects.

There are a lot of strong points of project-based teaching in the large foreign language classroom such as the integration of different subjects, increasing students' motivation, the development of group activity skills, the development of creative skills and self-assessment, the creation of comfortable learning because each student has the chance to prove himself/herself and many other merits.

Listening to TV news helps students improve their general knowledge. Moreover, students can work at a time convenient to them and at their own pace, without peer and classroom pressure. Beginning to listen 'better' will improve students' self-confidence. Finally, this individualization technique is suitable for students who major in different core subjects.

There are some problems encountered by listeners such as lack of control over the speaker's speed of delivery, inability to concentrate, the listener's limited vocabulary, not being able to get things repeated and many others. However there are less problematic points: limited range of topics which can be predicted by the students, clear articulation and correct pronunciation. By doing this activity regularly students will have the chance to learn the wide range of vocabulary, to pronounce unfamiliar words correctly, to improve the students' listening ability, to learn the correct English pronunciation. It is worth mentioning that news provides a particularly illuminating view of the stereotypical categories and preoccupations of a particular culture.

It is of vital importance that action research involving large classes be given high priority. More foreign language classroom-based research in large classes involving practicing teachers should be encouraged by institutions, organizations, and developers of syllabi and materials.