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ПРОБЛЕМЫ ОБУЧЕНИЯ ИНОСТРАННЫХ СТУДЕНТОВ В БЕЛАРУСИ

CHALLENGES OF TEACHING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN BELARUS

В работе рассматриваются современные тенденции обучения иностранных студентов в белорусских университетах. Исследуются проблемы преподавания в мультикультурном образовательном пространстве. Предлагаются подходы преодоления трудностей преподавания в мультикультурной среде.

Ключевые слова: глобализация в образовании; интеграция; мультикультурное образовательное пространство; иностранные студенты; стратегии обучения.

The article deals with the current trends in education of international students in Belarussian universities. The challenges of teaching in multicultural educational environment are discussed. Teaching methods approaches and technics to overcome difficulties of teaching in multicultural students gropes are proposed.

Keywords: educational globalization; integration; multicultural educational environment; international students; teaching strategies.

Reforms of Belarusian educational system reflect the processes of educational globalization. The term «international education» has appeared lately. It includes all the issues of educational international programs, foreign languages learning and academic mobility of the students. Global trends of increasing internationalization in higher education have speeded up over the past few years. According to the data approximately two from one hundred students studying at univercities in the world are international ones. The majority of them come from developing countries [7, P. 2]. The internalization of educational environment presents a variety of challenges for higher education institutions all over the world.

In the post-Soviet countries the internationalization processes of educational environment got a new impulse through the Bologna Process. Now the Belarusian educational standards are unified with the European ones. Russia joined the Bologna process in 2003. This made convertibility of Russian degrees and strengthened the position of Russia on the international educational market. But the problem to increase the number of foreign students in Russia still remains. The majority of educational programs proposed for international student in Russiain as in Belarus assume them to study in Russian. The statistical research carried out of Russian universities demonstrated that the percentage of international students who had been studying Russian language before entering the university was only 11%, whereas English 83% [5. P.200]. The English language is the mother tongue or a second language for nearly 600 million people. About 1.5 billion people are learning English as a foreign language [5, P.18]. There are only about 260 million Russian speaking people in the world [5, P. 19]. Today almost 30 non-English speaking countries, propose educational programs in English [5, P.18].

Belarus has a reach background in teaching international students in the Soviet past. In this period students coming from the Soviet Block counties and partner countries studied Russian at a deep level before entering a university. Now students coming in Belarus for educational purposes have different linguistic and academic background. Many of them study in the groups of native Russian speakers students. Those who have poor linguistic background fail their exams

often and are expelled from university (for example about 30% in Russian Universities [8, P. 115]). Sometimes authorities of some universities make a decision to be more loyal to international students during exams. This is not a good problem solution. Such ways lead to a significant reduction in the quality of education. These shortcomings reduce the competitiveness of the Belarusian education in the world educational environment.

Some Belarusian Universities propose programs in English. Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR) can be considered a leader in this field. From 2009 the University proposes six first degree programs, four Master degree programs and about thirty PhD programs [2]. «BSUIR degrees and qualifications are internationally recognized in as many as 80 countries of the world, including the USA & Canada, countries of Europe & the Commonwealth of Independent States, Middle East & Asia, etc... Today every third international student at BSUIR study in English» [3]. Belarusian State Economic University (BSEU) offers four Master's programs in English. One of them is Business Administration (MBA) [4]. Since 2014 The School of Business and Management of Technology of Belarusian State University (BSU) began the course of Business Administration (MBA) in English. Today seventeen students from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Nigeria and Lebanon are enrolled in this program [1]. Since 2016 Belorussian State University of Culture and Art (BSUCA) has begun training of Master students on specialty "Art criticism" entirely in English.

Thus, integration of Belarusian educational environment into globalization processes proves the need both to train teaching staff in foreign languages and to elaborate the teaching methods and techniques to teach in multicultural educational environment providing high quality of education. It is well known that cultural differences influence the educational processes. Lecturing in multicultural educational environment «...means not only proper choice of academic material ways of its structuring and presentation but also meeting other personalities, who may definitely have other traditions, behavior, national mentality, and cognitive environment. Such situations inevitably bring us into contact with other ways of speaking and other ways of life» and «...presupposes studying other cultures because communication with international students can be affected by participant's interpretations, assumptions and expectations which largely derive from their own cultural background» [6, P.8,9].

The first steps in the area of training academic staff to teach in English and to teach in multicultural educational environment are made at the National Institute for Higher Education, which since 2015 has been providing the training program «Education activity in English». During the course the issues of teaching in multicultural environment are discussed and teaching methods and techniques are proposed. This program provides a good start for the lecturers to elaborate their own strategies for teaching in multicultural educational environment, taking into account all the particularities of the profession area.

From the author's point of view the collaborative and project oriented learning are the most promising strategies today to teach in the multicultural educational environment. These strategies help to overcome language and cultural differences as well as different background of the students. One of the efficient means of teaching in multicultural educational environment is the work in small groups on some question or problem proposed by the lecturer. In this way more skilled students can share their experience with the partners. The techniques «small group discussion and peer instruction» method, «questions and answers pairs» approach, «corners» and «shair brainstorming methods» and some others [6, P. 102-106] also can be successfully used.

Today we live in the world where technology changes with a very high speed where the volume of information concerning any science is growing every day. To be professional in any sphere one needs to learn using different technological tools. Professionals are forced to upgrade their knowledge every year. Thus it is very important for students not only to gain appropriate skills and practical knowledge but to be able to improve them as science and technology develops. To achieve this purpose a great part of teaching techniques should be oriented on teaching students to solve the problems both as individually as in the project groups gaining knowledge without help of the teacher. This leads to the necessity of development the flexible

educational programs allowing students to train their own abilities and skills in the best way to reach high results in the profession they have chosen.

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ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ ТОЛЕРАНТНОСТИ ИНОСТРАННЫХ СЛУШАТЕЛЕЙ ПОДГОТОВИТЕЛЬНОГО ОТДЕЛЕНИЯ

FORMATION OF TOLERANCE OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN THE PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT

В статье рассматривается проблема формирования толерантности иностранных слушателей в поликультурной среде подготовительного отделения путем создания педагогических условий и подбора средств их осуществления.

Ключевые слова: толерантность; подготовительное отделение; иностранные слушатели.