

**PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH FOR IT-STUDENTS:
RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE**

The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.

Ludwig Wittgenstein

The integration of the Republic of Belarus into the world of scientific community has led to the reconsideration of linguistic education approaches at universities. Nowadays, a foreign language is not regarded to be a separate course of education programs but an instrument for communication among colleagues from countries. Introducing new language courses for special purposes is one of the main intentions for the Belarusian universities and faculties, which train future IT-specialists, engineers and mathematicians. Modern specialists in the field of programming and other technical sciences should possess completely new qualities and competences. They comprise analytical skills in research at the level of international cooperation. That is why prospective IT-specialists should have advanced level of at least one foreign language. English has undoubtedly the highest priority among other languages, as it is the language of the international cooperation.

Without doubt, familiarization a professionally oriented English communicative competence has recently become a significant part of the IT-education at the Faculty of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science in Belarusian State University. And it is not surprising because our country is involved in plenty of prestigious international scientific activities and events. For further collaboration, Belarus needs competent IT-specialists, engineers and mathematicians with a strong knowledge of foreign languages. Furthermore, present-day IT-students are not only taught to master the English

language: they also study how to apply acquired attainments in their professional activity practicing their language skills.

The competent and practice-oriented approach to the study of the English language for special purposes is considered to facilitate the development of English skills of students at technical faculties. Nowadays, the knowledge of professional English is one of the main skills for the future discourse competence IT-specialties and engineers. High level English provides them a competitive advantage in contrast with linguistic students as one IT- specialist can perform duties of two employees: linguist-translator and software engineer.

Today language training at technical universities and faculties should include the following components: language and organizational ones. Let us consider language components in detail. Firstly, IT-students should be taught a number of language systems and methods of interaction between them including communication strategies, knowledge of social and cultural peculiarities of not only their native culture but also the one of English-speaking countries such as the UK and the USA. Secondly, students of IT-specialties should learn not only English of everyday communication but the greatest attention should be paid to English for specific purposes. Future programmers and mathematicians should acquire the language of scientific, academic, professional and even business communication spheres. Without doubt, one of the most significant conditions of successful mastering English at IT-universities and faculties is an artificial bilingualism. It refers to parallel teaching different technical subjects both in the native and foreign languages. Consequently, the foreign language won't be the main purpose for students; it will become an instrument for implementing their future professional activity on the whole.

Now it is necessary to analyze the organizational component of teaching foreign languages. To start with, it is not enough to organize only everyday English. Various extracurricular events such as educational projects on the significant topics with reference to the students' future professional activity

should be involved in the educational program of the discipline “English language for special purposes”. The other part of linguistic education is to invite native speakers to participate in the educational process, for instance cooperative practical classes with IT-students from foreign technical universities or faculties. We should attach importance to Students’ exchange programs as well. Students from Belarus should be immersed into the English-speaking scientific environment. And, contrarily, English students can share their language experience with their Belarusian ones and vice versa.

In conclusion, it is necessary to state that the knowledge of professional English is absolutely irreplaceable nowadays. Being confident English speakers guarantees prospective programmers to have an opportunity to participate in a world-class events and become competitive and demanded specialists all over the world.

References

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