

## ТВОРЧЕСКИЕ СТУДЕНЧЕСКИЕ ПРОЕКТЫ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ: ОПЫТ РЕАЛИЗАЦИИ

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В статье освещается опыт работы студентов и преподавателей кафедры английского языка естественно-научных факультетов Воронежского госуниверситета в рамках студенческих творческих проектов.

**Ключевые слова:** творческие проекты; английский язык для специальных целей.

## CREATIVE STUDENT PROJECTS IN ENGLISH: IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCE

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The article highlights the work experience of students and teachers of the English language department of natural science faculties of Voronezh State University within the framework of student creative projects.

**Keywords:** creative projects, English for Special Purposes (ESP).

One of the forms that has unlimited possibilities, allowing to reveal the educational, linguistic, creative and spiritual potential of the student, is a project activity. Participation in educational and informative socially significant humanitarian-oriented programs allows to implement the educational component of the teaching process.

In 2021, the federal project “Patriotic Education” was launched in Russia within the framework of the national project “Education”, the main goal of which was to educate a harmoniously developed and socially responsible individual based on the spiritual and moral values, historical and national-cultural traditions of the peoples of the Russian Federation.

For the Voronezh Association of English Language Teachers within the National Association, patriotic education was not a completely new area of work, but rather confirmed the awareness and status of the chosen priorities in working with.

Among the numerous ideas and approaches to the implementation of the patriotic educational component, a special place is occupied by the multi-project “My Homeland”, which in different years was represented by different forms of participation of students and schoolchildren in it. The project was started by the Voronezh Association of English Language Teachers at the Department of

English Language of Natural Science Faculties, headed by Professor M.A. Sternina. Essay competitions, poetry translations, video competitions: 2014-2015 – “Welcome to My Homeland”; 2015-2016 – “Cultural Traditions of My Native Town/ Village” – within the framework of the project “Voronezh – the cultural capital of the CIS”; 2016-2017 – “English in My Life”, dedicated to the Russian-British year of education and science and the 25th anniversary of the Association; 2017-2018 – Regional video clip competition in English among students and schoolchildren “Voronezh University: Past, Present and Future”, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Voronezh University. Since 2018, the video clip competition has become an all-Russian one, being recognized as the most multifunctional, effective, informational and emotional unifying, spectacular form: 2018-2019 – “iTravel: Russia”; 2019-2020 – “iTravel: My Region for Victory”; 2020-2021 – “iTravel: Russia. Peculiarities of 2020. My Experience”, dedicated to life during a global pandemic; 2021-2022 – “iTravel. Russia: My Homeland Crafts and Culture”; the theme for 2022-2023 within the framework of the Year of Teacher and Mentor announced in 2023 was “iTravel. Russia: Teachers Make the Difference.” 2023-2024 – within the framework of the Year of Volunteer Movement announced by the CIS, an international (for the first time) video clip competition in English “iTravel. Russia: Volunteers Across Regions and Cultures” is held among students and schoolchildren.

For residents of Russia, communication in English (German, French) is not a vital component, and without proper motivation university students do not use a foreign language as a means of real communication. The teacher’s task is to organize a situation that stimulates the development of the student’s communication skills. Involving students in the process of creating video clips in English is the organization of an integrated learning situation.

Making video, reviewing video and evaluating video appeal to most students of all levels as it provides a welcoming change to traditional teaching methods and approaches, gives an opportunity to gain new experience in ESP (*English for Special Purposes*) learning.

According to the terms of the video clip competition, the group of “creators” of one video should not contain more than 3 people. Participation in the competition begins with the selection of a team (usually from among classmates) taking into account common interests and hobbies. In the process of further work, the micro-team unites. And it happens that the weaker person in a team can count on friends support both in studies and in more difficult life situations.

The next stage is discussing the topic and choosing an “object” of attention. Some issue-related content is conceptualized and implemented in the contestants’ works in different ways.

2022 was declared the Year of Folk Art and Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Peoples of Russia. A blessed topic, familiar and understandable to everyone. And the reaction to the offer to participate in the competition was stunning – almost everyone wanted to try their hand.

Students of the Computer Science Faculty of Voronezh State University chose as objects: the local history museum and the museum of fine arts, the house-museum of A. Durov and the Goto Predestination ship-museum, the exhibition of decorative and applied arts “Breath of Spring” with artists willingly talking about their work (O Smotrova, I. Voroshilina), ceramicists (O. Guryeva), foundry workers (“Voronezh Bells”), textile workers (O. Frolova), puppeteers (V. Avtonomova, I. Vanina), potters (M. Perepelitsyna), folk costume craftsmen (N. Tarasenko).

Students recorded performances and interviewed folk groups – performers of folk songs in the Voronezh region (the ensemble of the Voronezh State University “Terem”, the ensemble of the City House of Culture “Pavetie”). Some students talked about groups of which they and their parents were members (Usman Folk Song Ensemble named after A. Stepanov), while simultaneously talking about the tradition of performing folk songs by the Voronezh Russian Folk Choir named after K.I. Massalitinov.

Among the names of the video heroes were the names of world-famous Voronezh artists: Vasily Krivoruchko and Fyodor Sushkov, who glorified the feat of arms of the Russian people. The competition included videos dedicated to the architects and sculptors of Voronezh, their works that decorate our city (“Kitten from Lizyukov Street”, “White Bim”, monuments to our fellow countrymen-writers Gavriil Troepolsky, Andrei Platonov, Ivan Bunin, Samuil Marshak) – for each name is the history of the country, of the native land, deep love and faith in the people, in their greatness.

The contemporary creativity of Voronezh craftsmen was not left aside – the students talked with the director of the Voronezh animation studio Wizart and introduced the audience to the work of designers of modern business centers, cafes and exhibition halls.

Participation in regional and all-Russian competitions provoked the idea of holding an intra-university (more precisely, intra-faculty) video clip competition in 2023, dedicated to the 105th anniversary of the creation of Voronezh State University. The goal of the competition was to collect and publish information about the past, present and future of the native university. Despite the small scale of the project, students and teachers of the Faculty of Computer Science made important conclusions. It became obvious that students did not know the history of their university very well and were not familiar with the names of the scientists who had worked within its walls.

The need to create a finished product in the form of a targeted video revealed the inability of individual students to structure the available information and separate the important from the unimportant. In addition, it was noted that the university-wide website, designed for detailed navigation through the “territory” of the alma mater, sometimes led to a “dead end”. Information in English (or another foreign language) intended to advertise opportunities for foreign students to study at the university is of a very basic nature.

There is no doubt that the notes made by teachers and students carrying out creative projects in a foreign language can and should be interesting not only to the teachers and students themselves. The situation in our country and in the world as a whole suggests new approaches, new norms, new prospects in the work of those whose workplace today is a university audience.

Today higher education establishments are aimed at forming linguistic, socio-cultural and pragmatic competences. Foreign language teaching is focused on new creative teaching-methods improving the traditional approach and the introduction of some innovations. New vision of creating studying materials can open up fresh innovative perspectives and help evolve both teachers and students aiming at future academic and professional progress.

Video shooting is a very effective tool and resource in building cognitive, motivational and operational competences. Boosting online projects and simulating real-time interaction in order to motivate students for further academic upgrading is up to date. ESP students (students of non-linguistic departments) practice making video projects which can help to acquire true and distinct skills, improve communicative abilities and pursue online interpretational know-how. This kind of team work appeals to students and is very engaging, non-threatening, diverse and fun. Adopting video component to classroom activities in teaching, studying and assessment reveals new prospects. Using video in a classroom can turn students from passive watchers into active performers.

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