THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIO- CULTURAL COMPETENCES IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGAGES

Azimbayeva Ranokhon Yuldashevna
TSUE, Associate Professor of Foreign
Languages Education Department

Abstract:
Language is the most important communication tool of humanity, and it plays an important role not only in the exchange of ideas, but also in bringing cultures closer together. Each language has its own distinct cultural context, which in the process of learning requires not only mastering the rules of the language, vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar, but also a deep understanding of the cultural and social aspects of the language. Therefore, the development of socio-cultural competencies is important in teaching foreign languages. This article will analyze in detail how socio-cultural competencies play a role in teaching foreign languages, their role in teaching methodologies, as well as how they affect the personal and social development of learners.

Keywords: Language, culture, grammar, phrase, meaning, communication, competencies, context.

Introduction

Language and culture are inseparable concepts, and language is the most fundamental expression of culture. Each language has its own historical, social and cultural context, and in order to fully study it, a deep understanding of this context is also necessary. Language learners should understand in what situations, in what sense, they are used, not limited to memorizing words. For example, the meaning and use of a phrase may vary depending on the culture. Therefore, it is important not only to introduce language learners to the rules of the language, but also to teach their cultural and social rules. Sociocultural competence is the ability of a language learner to properly and effectively apply language in a cultural context. This competence allows the learner to show correct behavior in various social situations, intercultural communication, take into account cultural differences and treat them with respect. Language learners must speak culturally adapted, understand the difference between formal and informal language, and respect the values and customs of other cultures. To form socio-cultural competencies in teaching foreign languages, teachers use different methods and approaches. In the process of teaching culture, interactive

methods are used, for example, role-playing games, group discussions, project work on cultural topics. Also, texts written in a cultural context, film and theatrical works, music and other cultural products are introduced to readers. These techniques help language learners not only learn language rules, but also feel culture and put it into practice.[1]

In teaching Culture, Language teachers educate students about various aspects of culture, including social customs, traditions, holidays, ways of life. This information helps students to understand the language more deeply. For example, learning about holidays and Customs serves to make the language learner speak correctly in communication and adapt to culture. Also, teaching culture broadens the worldview of language learners, teaching them to respect the values of other peoples. Technologies are also an important tool in the development of socio-cultural competencies. With the help of the Internet and other digital resources, language learners will be able to communicate directly with representatives of different cultures. Online forums, virtual conversations, cultural exchange programs serve to enhance the intercultural communication skills of language learners. This significantly improves the level of language learners using the language in practice.[2]

Assessment of socio-cultural competencies is also very important in Language Teaching. During the assessment process, students ' level of understanding of culture, ability to apply language in a cultural context, skills to adapt to social situations are tested. The results of this assessment are an important resource for more effective organization of the educational process, identification and elimination of the weaknesses of students. Culture is a constantly changing process, new social phenomena, traditions and values appear. Therefore, Language teachers need to constantly update their cultural knowledge. Monitoring modern intercultural processes, studying new cultural trends, allows students to convey correct and up-to-date information. Socio-cultural competencies also play an important role in the personal development of language learners. These competencies allow students to express themselves freely and confidently in a global society, effectively communicating with different cultures. Thus, language learners have a deep understanding of not only language, but also cultures, expanding their worldview. The process of developing socio-cultural competencies in teaching foreign languages ensures that students master the language more deeply and more efficiently. These competencies help language learners not only learn a language, but also put it into practice. They also form the necessary skills for the development of intercultural dialogue, overcoming cultural differences and successfully functioning in a global society.[3]

Socio-cultural competencies are a complex of important skills for each person in modern society. They include not only effective communication with others, but also understanding and respecting the differences between different cultures and social groups. The development of these competencies is necessary in order to achieve success in the personal and professional life of a person. There are a number of methods and approaches for the formation and strengthening of socio-cultural competencies, which can be applied both within the framework of the language or culture under study and in broader social relationships. A deep understanding of and adaptation to the cultural context is a key part of competence. Each culture has its own customs, values, traditions and social rules, the knowledge and respect of which prevents misunderstandings that can arise in communication. The language learning process plays an important role in this regard. Not only does language consist of words and grammatical rules, it is also seen as an expression of culture. Through language, the specifics of Culture, ways of expressing the thinking and feelings of people are taught. Therefore, special attention should be paid to cultural elements when teaching language. The use of interactive techniques in Language Teaching is effective in the development of socio-cultural competencies. Role-playing games, group discussions, project work on cultural topics allow students to apply language in various social situations. For example, by organizing conversations about various cultural holidays, traditions, discussing cultural differences, students increase mutual understanding. In this process, the teacher must actively participate as a guide and incentive, not just an informant. Interactive methods increase the activity of students, teach them to think independently and appreciate the point of view of others. The study of cultural products is also an important tool in the development of socio-cultural competencies. Art forms such as cinema, theater, music, literature reflect different facets of culture. Through these products, readers not only learn historical and contemporary aspects of culture, but also understand how people react in different social situations, what values they value. For example, through the cinema films of a particular country, information can be obtained about the way of life, Customs, social problems of its people. Also, the analysis of cultural products develops critical thinking skills in students. Encouraging intercultural communication is another important aspect of increasing sociocultural competencies. Thanks to modern technologies and globalization, communication between representatives of different cultures is becoming more and more widespread. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage language learners to communicate with representatives of other cultures. Online forums, virtual conversations, cultural exchange programs create such opportunities. Through this, students not only improve their language skills, but also gain a deeper

understanding of their own culture by getting to know others ' culture more closely. Skills for solving difficulties and misunderstandings that arise in the process of intercultural communication are also formed. The constant updating of cultural knowledge of teachers is of great importance in the development of socio-cultural competencies. In the modern world, intercultural processes change rapidly. Having regular knowledge of new cultural trends, changes in social values can help teachers communicate current and correct information to students. It is also necessary for teachers to adapt their pedagogical approach to the requirements of intercultural communication. This allows students to increase their cultural sensitivity and prepare them for effective communication in different cultural contexts. Through the process of assessment and analysis, it is possible to increase the effectiveness of the development of socio-cultural competencies. Regular assessments of students ' cultural knowledge and skills can help identify their weaknesses. On this basis, special training and additional materials can be prepared. In the assessment process, not only test and written work is taken into account, but also the level of activity shown in practical situations, participation in group work, understanding of cultural differences. This approach increases students ' motivation for self-development and encourages them to actively participate in intercultural dialogue.[4]

The introduction of comprehensive cultural education programs is also important in the development of socio-cultural competencies. Teaching subjects such as intercultural communication, Cultural Studies, Anthropology in schools and universities helps students to understand intercultural differences more deeply. Such programs not only increase students ' theoretical knowledge, but also provide them with practical skills. By organizing intercultural trainings, seminars, cultural events, students will have the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge. The development of empathy and cultural sensitivity is one of the key elements of socio-cultural competencies. Understanding the points of view of others, with respect for their cultural values, reduces the conflicts that arise in communication. An individual with developed empathy builds more productive and warm relationships with others. Cultural sensitivity, on the other hand, trains a person to accept, adapt to the differences between different cultures. To form these skills, it is necessary to teach students to analyze various cultural situations, talk to others, appreciate cultural differences. The process of developing socio-cultural competencies should be constant and consistent. These skills are not formed at once, but deepen over time, through different types of activities. Therefore, everyone should strive to expand their cultural knowledge, effectively communicate with others. Society also contributes to the development of socio-cultural competencies by supporting intercultural dialogue,

promoting respect for different cultures. Today, human cultural ties are further enhanced by globalization processes. Since representatives of different nationalities and cultures are able to live, work, study in one place, the development of socio-cultural competencies has become a more pressing issue. These skills allow people not only to preserve their culture, but also to respect the culture of others, to increase mutual understanding. Thus, socio-cultural competencies play an important role in ensuring stability and harmony in society.[5]

Personal experience is also of great importance in the development of socio-cultural competencies. Trips, participation in cultural events, making friends with people of different nationalities expand the cultural scope of a person. In this process, a person is taught to be open and open-minded in a relationship with others, further strengthening his cultural identity. Also, the acceptance and study of cultural differences makes a person a richer and more broad-minded person. The role of family and society in the formation of socio-cultural competencies is also incomparable. The family instills in the child the initial cultural values, determines their behavior in social communication. Society, on the other hand, serves the development of competencies by supporting intercultural communication, creating an atmosphere of appreciation for cultural differences. Therefore, programs and policies aimed at the development of socio-cultural competencies should be implemented at all levels of society. The development of socio-cultural competencies is a multifaceted and complex process that includes many elements such as language learning, culture awareness, communication skills enhancement, empathy, and cultural sensitivity development. It is necessary that this process is constantly enriched with new experience and knowledge. As a result, a person not only understands his culture more deeply, but also builds more productive and respectful relationships with others. Socio-cultural competencies are an important key to a successful and happy life in the modern world.[6]

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the importance of socio-cultural competencies in teaching foreign languages is very great, and their development is an important factor in the complete and effective assimilation of the language by language learners. The ability to understand and respect culture increases the communication skills of language learners, making them successful in intercultural communication. Therefore, when teaching foreign languages, it is necessary to pay special attention to socio-cultural competencies, through which language learners deeply understand not only a new

language, but also a new culture, expand their worldview and actively participate in global society.

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