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## Journalistic Texts in Training Russian as Foreign Language: Genre-Orientation Approach

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### Abstract

This paper explains the use of journalistic texts on foreign language lessons. The contribution of journalistic texts to realization of the purposes of training is characterized. Need of continuous updating of methodical materials in journalistic texts is approved in the paper. For the first time authors suggest using in work with foreign students' genres of modern Russian Language internet mass-media 'travel sketch' and 'politic comment'. In this paper the role of genres in formation of foreign-language skills is described; the genre-orientation system of work with the journalistic text is presented.

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*Keywords:* Genre-orientation; publicistic style; internet mass-media; Russian as foreign; speech genres; training method.

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### 1. Introduction

Success of such difficult and many-sided process as foreign language training depends on a set of factors: adequate goal-setting, competent definition of the content of training, correct combination of pedagogical methods, etc. The problem of material selection for training of Russian Language as foreign, and also development of a work method with the material are the main theory and teaching methods problems. The starting point for a choice of text material for the lessons is the representation that work with these texts has to promote students' achievement of such

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level of communicative competence that would allow them to read the texts of different levels of complexity relating to various spheres of communication. The appeal in this context to journalistic texts is obviously necessary as development of skills of understanding and interpretation of this text material is the integral component of acquisition of any foreign language.

Journalistic texts are often materials on foreign language lessons, including Russian Language as foreign. It is caused, first of all, by two main functions of journalistic style: message and influence. Journalistic texts contain a large amount of actual information (that facilitates the informative purpose of training), and also have impact on a valuable picture of the world of students (the educational purpose of training is realized) as the journalism considers topical issues of political life and moral problems of modern society. Besides, texts of mass media reflect the current state of a language, and working with them on the lesson directly promotes realization of the communicative purpose of foreign language training.

Influence of journalism on the modern person is indisputable: we daily face the journalistic texts giving us new information in different forms: through audiovisual mass media, newspapers and magazines, the Internet, etc. Journalism creates the picture of the world and forms a certain notion of the world in the consciousness of the broad addressee. The journalistic picture of the world is supplemented, changes daily and is montage by its nature. In this regard the journalistic text is irreplaceable material for foreign language lessons.

Researchers note that use of modern journalistic texts on foreign language lessons promotes creation of the differentiated educational and communicative situations which reflect a condition of modern Russian Language and feature of its functioning in modern Russia (Stern, 2001).

The journalistic text is irreplaceable material for expansion of a vocabulary and for development of skills of oral informal conversation of the foreign students who are especially learning language not in the country of the studied language (Sladkevich, 2013).

Work with journalistic texts allows to teach students to understand the texts devoted to various socially important subjects (policy, culture etc.), and adequately to communicate on these subjects. Respectively, the journalistic text is good stuff for the interconnected training in all types of speech activity.

Now the method of foreign language training is provided with a large number of the text books on the mass media language directed on acquaintance of foreign students with linguistic features of the mass media language, on studying of various newspaper genres, on development of skills and abilities of possession of lexical and grammatical means of journalistic style and also on development of abilities of students to create own statements on political subjects. However the journalism constantly changes, reflecting changes in society in this connection scientific and methodical development of various aspects of the mass media language doesn't lose the relevance; continue to fill up a methodical arsenal of the foreign language teacher (Sladkevich, 2013; To Guo Liza, 2001).

Work with journalistic texts has the specifics. First, it is necessary to direct students' attention to specific grammar and vocabulary elements of journalistic style. Features of a book or, on the contrary, colloquial language options are reflected in the newspaper text. The teacher needs to fix differences of the newspaper speech from neutral, common option of language. Continuous comparison of neutral, colloquial and book options of language on material of journalistic texts will allow creating students stylistic competence (Technique of training in Russian as foreign: Course of lectures, 2000).

In the case where the journalistic text is the training purpose, tasks of the teacher include students' formation of the idea of genre specifics of newspaper texts and types of editions. Such work is based on the differentiated approach to newspaper to the text. In a foreign language method, recommendations for teachers are developed on the basis of which printing editions of the modern Russian press can be used at different grade levels (Technique of training in Russian as foreign: Course of lectures, 2000). In our paper the journalistic text is considered not as the purpose, but as a tutorial to different types of speech activity.

## 2. Methods

Our research is directed to development of the training system of journalistic Internet texts on Russian Language as foreign for students of older years (high level of proficiency in language). In research we proceed from genre-orientation approach to foreign language training. The idea of this approach is that when teaching a foreign

language, it is necessary to teach students to work with a speech genre (Abbaszadeh, 2013; Flowerdew, 2000; Hyland, 2003) to learn to understand the text of a certain genre and to create it.

For more effective training in a foreign language it is necessary to have competence and methodical arsenal of exercise for training (creation, understanding of certain genre texts, the description of features of this genre, including lists of standard elements of the text, lists of characteristic words and designs). Respectively, the genre-orientation exercises on work with publicist texts are the first development stage of system detection of their genre features. Under speech genres, after M. M. Bakhtin, we understand thematic, stylistic and composite types of statements (texts) (Bakhtin, 1953).

For detection of genre specifics of texts we use the most popular in the modern theory of speech genres a technique of the component analysis of a genre with a support on the questionnaire of a speech genre developed by T.V. Shmelyova (Shmelyova, 1990), and also taking into account experience of the analysis of publicist genres which is carried out both linguists, and theorists and practitioners of journalism (Dobrosklonskaya, 2008; Kostikova, 2008; Solganik, 2006; Tertychny, 2000; Fowler, 1991; Hay, 1990; Reath, 1997, etc.).

At system development the genre-orientation tasks we proceed from traditional three-stage system of work with the text: the pretext work directed on removal of difficulties of the text; the pretext work connected with understanding of the text; the post text work assuming use of the text in other types of speech activity (Azimov & Schukin, 2009).

### 3. Research Material

In modern reality more and more popular are various internet mass-media (blogs, web reviews, author's projects, actually Internet newspapers) are very popular, they differ from traditional journalism efficiency, profitability, interactivity. It is represented that such mass media open verity of opportunities for teaching a foreign language. Training with internet mass-media materials can be success carried out as in classes, and also at home; both in the country of the studied language, and beyond its limits. Internet mass-media materials when training in a foreign language out of the language country are as relevant as ever.

As material for research 50 texts of the political comments and 50 traveling sketches published on pages by one of the Internet newspapers, most popular in Russia, – Gazeta.ru ((Electronic version). URL: <http://www.gazeta.ru/> are chosen/ Data check: 13/08/2015).

### 4. Genre specifics of the political comment and traveling sketch

At the first investigation phase the analysis of speech genres 'political comment' and 'traveling sketch' was carried out: the communicative purpose, an image of the author and an image of the addressee, contents of texts, the formal organization of texts (structure, lexical, grammatical and stylistic features) are described. The political comment represents a genre of analytical journalism (Tertychny, 2000) in which authors (political journalists, and also experts in any area) express the opinion on political events in Russia and abroad, give the estimates and forecasts.

The purpose of the author's comment is the convincing report to readers of the opinion on any event of political life, critical estimation of these events. The author of the text of the political comment on pages of the Internet newspaper is most often not the professional journalist, but the expert in the field of policy, economy, culture, art, etc. The addressee of the comment is any reader who is interested in a modern political situation. A basis of the dictum contents of the comment sizes up the author the analyzed event. Texts of comments are characterized by a large number of the various means of expressiveness used by authors for belief of readers in the correctness. A rod dominant of the comment is the reasoning in this or that occasion, any actual fact of life of society becomes a subject of the comment. For a genre of the comment analyticity and estimation are characteristic, the comment is constructed on reasoning, the central place is taken by the statement the author of the opinion (relative subjectivity), and the text contains a predictive assessment by the author of events.

The genre 'traveling sketch' belongs to art and publicist genres of journalism (Tertychny, 2000). The publicist component is shown in openness, freedom of the author's word, emotionality, and topical character. Art features are

presented in the analyzed texts to a lesser extent and are shown first of all at the level of language – in use of the description, means of expressiveness, book lexicon, and difficult syntactic designs. Artistic images, classification in modern traveling sketches on pages of the Internet newspaper aren't created.

The purpose of the analyzed traveling sketches is the detailed story about travel to the different countries; quite often such sketches unite in a series of publications. In a traveling sketch the following communicative tasks of the author are realized: to transfer the impressions of travel, to give advice to potential travelers, to entertain readers. Esthetic, educational, social tasks, characteristic for traveling sketches of the XIX-XX centuries (Pantserev, 2004), in the analyzed texts are practically not realized. The author of a traveling sketch on pages of the Internet newspaper is the traveler. The text is focused on a wide range of readers; however first of all is that who is interested in travel and plans to go somewhere. The author has an opportunity, thanks to function of commenting on the newspaper site, to learn interests of readers and to be guided by them in the following texts. The maintenance of a traveling sketch is under construction round travel, the text is based on linear expansion of events, with the description of the nature, sights, locals, etc. Author's reasoning is practically absent. Narration of a statement is created at the expense of a large number the action verbs. Use of descriptions and the direct speech in the text creates effect of presence for the reader. From the point of view of lexicon a distinctive feature of a traveling sketch is prevalence of the words connected with geography: nature, settlements, structures, etc. Language of a modern traveling sketch on pages of the Internet newspaper is bright, expressional, and emotional. Texts are based on an organic combination of elements colloquial and bookish way of speaking, elements of artistic speech are presented to a lesser extent.

## 5. System of genre-orientation exercises on work with publicist genres

The second type of exercises is exercises on understanding of important genre criteria. For example, in the political comment the communicative purpose of the author is to express the opinion on any event of political life, to give the assessment to these events, and also to offer the recommendations is of special meaning. Working with this parameter, students learn to understand, discuss opinion on political events and to express the opinion.

The third type of exercises is exercises allowing to teach students to create own texts of this genre. For example, important feature of a genre of a traveling sketch is its contents. The basis of the maintenance of a traveling sketch is made by the story about travel including the following subjects: process of travel, price and service, locals, nature and fauna. Thus texts are based on direct chronology. Working with this genre parameter, students learn to create independently traveling sketches, traveling notes, stories about travel.

Concrete exercises, tasks, types of works within the offered system are defined by features of genre criteria and their methodical potential. The example of drawing up exercises depending on genre features is presented in the table.

Table 1. Genre-orientation work with a genre "Travelling sketch".

Genre criterion	Feature of a genre	Competences, abilities	Exercises, types of work
The communicative purpose	to tell about events, to transfer impressions, to give advice. to Realize the regulating and estimated intensions	to realize the regulating and estimated intensions	to find in the text the relation, emotions of the author What advice is given by the author?
The dictum contents	event, place, people, the prices, services, the nature	to communicate in oral and written forms within the subject "Travel"	dictionary making of the traveler
The structure of the text	Stages of travel	to take the actual information to submit the scheme of expansion of the text to create own texts	answer questions on the maintenance of a fragment retell a fragment make the scheme of travel
Formal organization	speech types: a narration and the description	to carry out written communication with description elements	find the description of the nature in the text retell actions of the hero

to tell about events

retell a fragment

make the scheme of travel

The offered three-stage system of genre-orientation work is applicable to many journalese genres.

## 5. Conclusion

As a result of this work the methodical potential of genres ‘the political comment’ and ‘a travel sketch’ is revealed.

Work with a genre of the political comment allows entering political lexicon into an active lexical stock of students. Pupils will learn to understand the difficult texts containing reasoning and an assessment when reading; adequately to interpret texts of the official sphere of communication; to analyze contents of the text, to allocate in it the necessary information and critically to comprehend it; to perceive information of sociocultural character. Thanks to active work with the political comment at students such competences of area of productive speech activity as ability to create written texts of problem character, readiness to defend the position in the conditions of free conversation, ability to express the opinion on sociocultural and political events develop.

Texts of traveling sketches are good stuff to teach students to understand the texts devoted to travel and to tell about the travel and to discuss them. Thanks to such texts lexical units and grammatical designs for expression of an assessment, impressions, and also a circle of the verbal lexicon necessary for the story about travel are put into active practice. Traveling sketches allow to realize the principle of the interconnected training in types of speech activity in work on a foreign language: abilities when reading are formed – to take the actual information from the text, to submit the scheme of expansion of the text; in the oral monolog – to create oral texts which contain the description of the nature, the person, sights; in the oral dialogical speech – to give and understand council, to express and find out opinion; in productive written language – to carry out written communication with elements of the characteristic, an assessment. Besides, such texts are interesting to work in student's audience: they broaden horizons of pupils and increase motivation to training.

Thus, genre-orientation work with journalese texts on foreign language lessons with students of the advanced stage assumes training in ability both to understand the text of a certain genre, and to create it most as in modern system of internet mass-media each participant of communication can be the equal author of the publication having opportunity to express the opinion on this or that question.

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