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Students' interpersonal communication experiences

Currently, the Russian higher education is one of the well-developed and advanced educational systems in the world.

Cooperation with foreign scientists, student mobility, innovative teaching methods, employment opportunities for university graduate are developing in Russia.

Modern higher education at Technical and Economics universities points out:

- students' understanding that a foreign language can be a means for an external source of information and communication in a foreign language;
- teaching students the perception of a foreign language as a means of intercultural communication.

With current trends of globalization, economic development and technological information, as well as methods of its delivery and updating, are quickly becoming obsolete.

Thus, the training of modern engineers requires the use of new information and communication technologies (ICT). The main task of teachers is to meet the needs of society by shaping the students of technical universities of the relevant skills and abilities to use the innovative opportunities necessary to promote their competitive positions on a global scale [1, 2, 3].

In response to the modern society and future demands, Tomsk Polytechnic University and Crimean Business Institute have wisely proposed initiatives to promote the integration of ICT in education, as one of the priorities and increase the competitiveness of graduates by emphasizing inquiry-based learning, higher level of thinking and problem solving.

It is well known that acquiring writing skills is very challenging. In this paper we are going to give some practical advice concerning writing skills using an e-mail message, as a device to promote Interpersonal level of communication. Because of its speed and broadcasting ability, electronic communication can be quick, more conversational and widely-used among students in their communication with foreign peers.

Undoubtedly, it is absolutely indispensable to make a message clear and unambiguous because your peer may not have a chance to ask for explanation. Beginning a letter one should remember about it.

E-mail also does not convey emotions nearly as well as face-to-face or even any telephone conversations. Hereby, emotions help to solve this problem.

The reason why the majority of students like email messages is obvious – they are much less formal, usually short and concise. So lecturers should encourage and promote students communication with their international peers because it helps to develop writing skills, feel more comfortable using a foreign language and support interest to foreign language mastering in all aspects especially in Academic Writing.

All in all, Tomsk Polytechnic University and Crimean Business Institute practice of teaching English as a foreign language shows that the aforementioned format of informal E-mail communication is exceedingly popular with students. They use this kind of communication in their correspondence with international students that helps develop writing skills and participate in academic exchange programs with such countries as China, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Spain, Norway, Turkey etc.

For instance, correspondence Tomsk Polytechnic University and Crimean Business Institute students with Italian and Turkish peers proved to be very successful as in their informal letters they discussed various issues like letter of application, CV, letter of recommendation, thank you letter that led to students' improvement in formal writing.

In this research, the authors carried out the analysis of written tasks which were done by 2-year students within the module “The role of ecology in economic development”. The results showed that 84% of the students who had corresponded with Italian and Turkish peers scored maximum points, while only 44% of the students who had not had the practice of correspondence received the highest rating.

In such a way, modern information technologies as e-mail can be an effective means of intercultural and interpersonal engineering students' communication.

References

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