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LWRS method of language acquisition

The article is aimed at revealing some advantages of alternative methods of teaching a language compared to traditional ones. The potential of the LWRS teaching method is introduced. The author highlights the benefits of using the basic principles of the LWRS method like reading books in original, watching films without subtitles and live communication with native speakers to get the goal to communicate in English.

Key words: methodology; learning; language acquisition; English; education.

Knowledge of English is a must for a modern specialist. Indeed, in our time, one can hardly be considered a real professional engineer or scientist if they are not capable of communicating in English or understanding foreign English speech. Knowledge of foreign languages allows you to receive many times more unique information in the field of personal interests. Consequently, knowledge of a foreign language increases a person's competitiveness, increasing his chances of getting a prestigious job. And the main goal of learning a language for such people is to be able not only to understand all the information that is given to them, but also to be able to communicate on equal terms with foreigners.

So, the issue is to find a way of studying that takes little time and at the same time fully fulfills your goal. To begin with, it should be said that any method of teaching English includes teaching four skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening. Besides that, the great attention should be paid to lexical and grammatical knowledge. As the most common example of learning English, you can consider the method that is often used at schools. The appropriate word for this method would be «cramming». This is a well-known old-

fashioned method. Many English learners try to constantly repeat words, trying to memorize them mechanically. Especially beginners. Without this method, it is difficult to get a good grade in English within schools. You can add a variety of tasks to this method by introducing, for example, cards on which there will be names or pictures of objects [1, c. 120]. Many people choose this effective method of learning English, but when you really look into it, it's just an improved method of cramming. Many have probably already tried to learn using this way, but often this approach is providing little help in a real situation, when you need to react quickly for the replies of foreigners while speaking. The main thing after such situations is not to consider yourself incapable of learning languages and continue studying, perhaps it is worth changing the methodology. In general, with sufficient willingness and repetition, any method can be efficient. But, in fact, we do not memorize words in our native language that way, and that is not how bilinguals (bilingual people) memorize words in other languages.

On the Internet, you will find a huge number of methods of teaching English and online recourses with paid courses. As an example of an alternative technique, I would like to offer the LWRS technique, which stands for Listen, Watch, Read and Speak. These are the basic principles of the method, in fact, it is pretty self-explanatory. To learn using this method, you just need to watch English-language films and TV shows, read English-language books in the original, and also talk with native speakers. Learning a language from movies and TV shows is a tempting idea, at least it is free or almost free. But it's worth saying right away: you won't be able to speak a foreign language from scratch if your only teachers are foreign actors. For those who do not know English at all, it is essential to start with traditional lessons, you need an initial level of knowledge.

Let us discuss each aspect of the LWRS method separately. Firstly, let us talk about «Listen and Watch». According to observations, many of those who perfectly speak a foreign language, not being native speakers, watch TV shows in the original. The best foreigners in the world speak English in Scandinavia and the Netherlands – almost at the level of native speakers from the UK, USA, Australia and other English-speaking countries. Ask them why their English is so good, and they will tell you: the reason is not in the intensive study of English. The fact is that in these countries do not dub TV series – they are in original dubbing with subtitles in the local language. Therefore, residents of countries such as Sweden and Denmark, from about the age of five, watch almost all TV programs in the original and thus learn English from TV series and films [2, c. 1144]. So, if you already know the basics, then watching movies in the original dubbing is a great idea. There are many benefits to learn English from movies and TV shows:

You hear live, unfiltered speech from native speakers. These are not educational audio recordings, where actors with well-trained voices and diction say every word with precision and use grammatically flawless sentences.

Modern films and broadcasts can be used to learn everyday common vocabulary. You will definitely come across words from the «golden list» (words, that are used in everyday speech), phrasal verbs or slang.

If you are interested in regional English and different accents, movies are a useful source of local vocabulary and pronunciation. British English, American English and the more exotic Kiwi English can be learned through TV shows.

After all, learning English from TV shows is fun.

Here are some tips on how to watch TV shows in the original for both fun and educational benefits:

Repeat phrases after actors – this is useful for developing speaking skills. Try to catch and correctly convey the logical stress and intonation.

If you watch TV shows to learn English, try not to overload your brain: one episode a day is enough.

Do not enable subtitles in your native language. Never. Let us just pretend that this option does not exist.

It is helpful to start with those films and TV series that you have already seen in translation. You roughly remember the plot and essence of the dialogues, which means that it will not be painfully insulting not to understand what happened in the key moment of the film.

Start your day with news on BBC to learn perfect English.

Thereby, the more you practice watching movies in English, the better you will know the language, so that you can gradually switch to watching completely without subtitles [3, c. 2].

Reading is an integral part of LWRS language learning. After all, if you want to gain knowledge of English language that may be useful to you in your future workplace, you must definitely know the vocabulary that is used in your area of interest. It is still worth starting with reading modern books in the original. The main thing to remember that the book must be written by a native speaker. The choice of the book in this case is completely up to you, the main thing is that the process of learning the language does not become a routine for you. Once you realize that you can understand English texts without any difficulties, start reading scientific articles that can be useful for your profession. This way you will not only be able to acquire professional vocabulary for yourself, but also improve knowledge in your field.

One of the main points of LWRS methodology is speaking. Without speaking, all the previous points may be useless, because it is in a live conversation with foreigners that we can practice all of the aspects of language we

have learned. A conversation with a native speaker is an excellent control over the material studied, especially if you ask your partner in advance to correct your speech mistakes. Nowadays, you can easily find someone to talk to. Some native speakers offer paid services, but I believe that you can find an interlocutor with similar interests and communicate for free, because communication will not be a burden for you and your new friend either. To better understand accents, it is worth making some friends from different English-speaking countries, such as Canada, Australia, USA, Britain or Scotland.

The research shows that full immersion into the language environment leads to the best results in language acquisition. It is helpful to listen, read books and watch, but the question is «What is the easiest way to memorize new words?» Actually, there are a lot ways how to make it real. One of the methods that could be suggested for this purpose is to stumble upon new vocabulary several times in a row in similar situations, as in the case with young children learning their native language. When you first have to work as a detective: you understand that you've already heard a similar word somewhere, but you don't know what it means. Then you begin to understand: there is something in common in situations where it is used. And a little bit later comes the understanding of the meaning of this word. In this way, not just individual names of objects and phenomena are remembered, but also whole series of namesake words denoting concepts that are close in meaning. You should try to speak, think and communicate in English as often as possible. And this must be done constantly, otherwise you will start to forget the language.

If we turn to the research, then all the principles of LWRS methodology are the best possible ways to encapsulate all of principles that are described in pieces of research. We may really immerse ourselves in the language environment, constantly training our language skills by watching films, reading books and communicating with native speakers.

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