

WRITING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: *The article is about ways of foreign language writing skills development. Grammar, spelling, vocabulary and giving information logically are viewed as writing skills. Reading, blogging, recording thoughts in a diary, publishing a newspaper, participation in a conference are considered as ways of writing skills development which are viewed as e*

Key words: *writing, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, ways of writing skills development.*

РАЗВИТИЕ НАВЫКОВ ПИСЬМА

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Аннотация: *Данная статья посвящена способам развития навыков письменной речи на иностранном языке. В качестве навыков рассматриваются знание грамматики, орфографии, лексики и умение последовательно излагать материал. В статье предложены следующие способы развития данных навыков: чтение текстов, ведение блога или дневника, издание газеты, участие в конференции, которые рассматриваются в качестве образовательных технологий.*

Ключевые слова: *письменная речь, грамматика, орфография, лексика, способы развития навыков письменной речи.*

Today it is often said and heard that writing has become a real problem of modern education. They mean that not only schoolchildren or students can't pass through their writing task but people with university degree and sometimes those who are going to become candidates of science.

People are losing their native language writing skills (here we mean Russian) and as a result they can't get foreign language writing skills.

In this article we define writing as "written speech" or "skill of putting your thoughts in words logically in a written form".

The essential point is why it is necessary to get foreign language writing skills. There are three main answers: the first one is to be an intelligent person because these skills are the important part of communication the second one is to pass different language exams such as TOEFL, IELTS, and etc (most of them have a section which is called Writing) and the third one is to be a highly trained professional who is able to communicate with foreign colleagues on the Internet without having their negative reaction because of your making a lot of mistakes.

To start we should determine what to refer to writing. In this article we mean grammar, spelling, vocabulary and giving information logically skills and how to develop or improve them.

Ways to develop writing skills:

1. Reading.

Melissa Donovan in her article concerning writer's skills expresses the following idea: "If the writer doesn't read, the prose will be awkward, and it will sound like someone transcribed natural speech (this doesn't work in writing). The story often feels like it was pulled from a blockbuster film and pushed through a wood chopper. Very basic rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation are not observed. It's just obvious. If you're not well read or if you're not reading regularly, it will show in your work [4]". Reading is a good way to learn basic rules of grammar and spelling, to learn new words and to learn how to give information logically.

2. Diarizing.

Dmitriy Petrov, a well-known language expert, recommends diarizing (recording thoughts in a diary) as one of the good ways to learn a foreign language.

The advantages of a diary: you write without any hurry or pressure to perform, none but you will read this text, nobody will be a strict marker. There are lots of situations in which you are sure to be corrected, for example, at the lesson or during your exam. But in the case of a diary you are completely free. Be kind to yourself and forgive some mistakes. You get the ability to relax and "speak". You don't translate unknown abstract text for educational purposes, and write about somebody's life: about events, plans, thoughts, feelings. You refresh the words and the language structures you have learnt. And if you don't know the right words – this is the case when you should find them in the dictionary. Dmitriy Petrov emphasizes that while keeping a diary it is better to handwrite because in this case the information will be memorized better. He says that everything should be done with pleasure, not by force. Keep a diary when you have a wish to do [2].

3. Blogging.

Blogging differs from diarizing because when you keep a blog you are sure to be read and commented and even corrected. Here we mean grammar spelling vocabulary mistakes. It is a great advantage because you see your mistakes. If your blog is corrected but there are no mistakes it's a good opportunity to refresh your knowledge of a foreign language because you should prove that you are right. If your blog is popular it means that you give information perhaps not always logically but in an interesting way. Of course, be careful and avoid pranking.

4. Publishing a newspaper.

It is a good idea to encourage "...students to read and write in ways that allow them to make sense of real language in real contexts is more likely to help them develop the skills necessary to become fluent readers and writers. Creation of a class newspaper provides such a real context, and thus makes an excellent choice as the basis for a project designed with this goal in mind [5]".

Thanks to publishing a newspaper students will learn:

- factual, narrative writing;

- creative writing (stories and perhaps poetry);
- letter writing;
- cause-and-effect writing;
- writing opinions;
- writing directions;
- conducting and writing interview;
- conducting and writing surveys;
- persuasive writing;
- descriptive writing.

There are some activities that precede writing. They are very vital to any successful writing program. A student must activate his or her thought processes and creativity before making a draft [6]. Pre-writing includes:

- review of films, books;
- searching on the Internet;
- interviewing experts;
- making a glossary.

All these activities are very useful to create an article. Also publishing a newspaper is an excellent way to provide students with good foreign texts. Those who learn English, German, Spanish, French and Italian here in Krasnoyarsk are lucky because they can find practically any desired text or book. But those who learn, for example, Korean, Lithuanian or Estonian experience real lack of literature. So some “uncommon” language teachers of Krasnoyarsk solve this problem by publishing a classroom newspaper.

5. Conference participation.

When we talk about participation in a conference we mean writing reports on given topics. It is a good way to expand vocabulary in your professional sphere and to create presentations. Creating presentations requires special skills. When editing presentation content, you should consider the following and use:

- the language that is appropriate for the audience,
- the language that is presentation friendly,
- use short sentences.
- use dictionaries to avoid spelling or grammar mistakes [7].

To crown it all, we may say that all these ways of developing or improving foreign language writing skills are good and useful. You can choose one or use all of them to get better results.

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