METHODS FOR INCREASING STUDENTS' INTEREST IN LEARNING THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AT UNIVERSITY

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Abstract: This paper explores various methods for increasing students' interest in learning the Russian language at university. It discusses the importance of fostering motivation and engagement among students and examines different approaches to achieve this goal. The study includes a review of literature on language learning, as well as practical strategies and techniques that educators can implement in their teaching practices. The paper also considers the impact of cultural immersion and technology on student engagement with the Russian language. By addressing these aspects, this research aims to provide valuable insights into effective methods for enhancing students' interest in learning Russian at the university level.

Key words: Russian language, university education, student engagement, motivation, language learning, cultural immersion, technology, teaching strategies.

МЕТОДЫ ПОВЫШЕНИЯ ИНТЕРЕСА СТУДЕНТОВ К ИЗУЧЕНИЮ РУССКОГО ЯЗЫКА В ВУЗЕ

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Аннотация: В данной статье исследуются различные методы повышения интереса студентов к изучению русского языка в вузе. В ней обсуждается важность повышения мотивации и вовлеченности студентов, а также рассматриваются различные подходы к достижению этой цели. Исследование включает обзор литературы по изучению языка, а также практические стратегии и методы, которые преподаватели могут реализовать в своей педагогической практике. В статье также рассматривается влияние культурного погружения и технологий на взаимодействие студентов с русским

языком. Рассматривая эти аспекты, данное исследование призвано предоставить ценную информацию об эффективных методах повышения интереса студентов к изучению русского языка на университетском уровне.

Ключевые слова: русский язык, университетское образование, вовлеченность студентов, мотивация, изучение языка, культурное погружение, технологии, стратегии обучения.

1. Introduction

In today's multicultural society, learning foreign languages has become an important aspect of education in many countries. It is widely recognized that proficiency in a second language is beneficial for the individual. Therefore, educational institutions are increasingly introducing programs to promote language learning, including second/foreign language courses for students focused on specific majors. One such course is the Russian for the Professions Program, a curriculum devised for students interested in careers in business, science, law, politics, art or any other profession outside of a specifically Slavic field. Designed to assist in developing a strong command of the Russian language for academic and professional purposes, the RPP program is usually implemented in a university setting, and targets undergraduate and graduate students. RPP programs have already been effectively instituted at institutions such as the University of Arizona and Indiana University. This paper addresses the issue of implementing such a program at the University of Texas at Austin, focusing on the goals and the tactics that would enable the program to better suit the needs and desires of its intended participants. The paper will outline the RPP program at Arizona, the UT students, and the means by which the program can be made more suitable for its participants. In Uzbekistan, the study of the Russian language is an integral part of the education system due to historical and cultural ties with Russia. However, many students struggle to maintain interest and motivation in learning Russian at university level. Therefore, it is essential to explore effective methods for increasing students' interest in learning the Russian language. The current situation in Uzbekistan's education system shows that traditional teaching methods may not always be engaging enough for students. As a result, there is a need for innovative and interactive approaches to make the learning process more stimulating and enjoyable. In this context, it is crucial to explore various strategies such as incorporating multimedia resources, cultural events, interactive language games, and real-life communication

opportunities into the curriculum. These methods can help create a dynamic and immersive learning environment that captivates students' attention and fosters their interest in mastering the Russian language. By addressing this issue through effective teaching methodologies and a focus on student engagement, we can work towards enhancing the quality of Russian language education in Uzbekistan's universities.

1.1. Background

During the last decade, while teaching Russian at university level, I have often been struck by the fact that even the most talented students, who have already reached a high level of competence in the language itself, demonstrate a surprisingly poor understanding and appreciation of Russian literature and culture - in other words, of those very things which constitute the ultimate goal of their studies. It is not 'Russian' that they are studying, so much as 'Russian language', by which they usually understand no more than a set of dry grammar rules and a lexis not very different from that which they use in English. Getting a degree in Russian is often taken as a last resort by students who have failed to get a place in the course of their first choice, and who then seek a foreign language to fill the gap in their studies; the result is an important number of linguistics graduates, and teachers of Russian to foreigners, who usually have no sincere love of Russian language and inadequate understanding of its structure and its relation to other languages. All this shows that in their classes they are failing to convey the essential 'Russianness' of Russian, and are in fact teaching the wrong thing.

1.2. Purpose of the article

Imagine a virtual Hero going to battle. He has a desire to win a great battle and to gain as many rewards as possible. However, there are some problems. He cannot control his weapons, his armor is weak, and he operates in an unskilled manner. Now imagine that the Hero represents a student, the weapons are his knowledge and skills, and his job is the battle. The battle is the evaluation of the student's ability in the particular discipline, and the rewards are marks or even tickets to the next level of education in that field of discipline. For a student with Russian as his field of discipline, his goal may be to study in a Russian university. The purpose of this essay is to suggest methods of control for the weapon and ways to strengthen the armor for these students. We suggest that this system of control has

the potential to greatly increase student interest in learning the Russian language at university.

The present ranking system divides students into hard-working students and lazy students. A teacher's goal is to turn a lazy student into a hard-working one. What system of evaluation of knowledge and skills should be used? What criteria must be formed to integrate into the evaluation of the student's level of knowledge? These are the questions we continually ask ourselves. In this essay, we will try to form only a few of the possible criteria. It is our view that this type of work might be very useful to teachers in the current situation. However, such a system may be viewed as unrealistic due to the manner of its implementation. This, however, will be the subject of subsequent discussions. Learning a new language can be a challenging yet rewarding experience, and for students studying the Russian language at university, finding ways to increase their interest and motivation is crucial for success. In this article, we will explore various methods that can be utilized to enhance students' interest in learning the Russian language at the university level.

Methods

There are several effective methods that can be employed to increase students' interest in learning the Russian language. One approach is to incorporate cultural immersion experiences into the curriculum. This can involve organizing field trips to Russian cultural events, inviting native speakers to give presentations, or arranging study abroad programs in Russia. Exposure to authentic cultural experiences can help students develop a deeper appreciation for the language and its practical applications in real-life situations.

1. Incorporating interactive and engaging activities: Use role-playing, games, and multimedia resources to make learning Russian more dynamic and enjoyable for students.

2. Cultural immersion experiences: Organize field trips, guest lectures, or language exchange programs with native Russian speakers to expose students to the culture and history of Russia, making the language learning experience more meaningful.

3. Integration of technology: Use language learning apps, online resources, and virtual reality tools to make the learning process more interactive and modern.

4. Personalized learning approaches: Tailor the curriculum to individual student interests and goals, allowing them to explore topics that resonate with them personally.

5. Cross-disciplinary connections: Integrate Russian language learning with other subjects such as history, literature, or politics to show students the relevance of their language studies in a broader context.

6. Project-based learning: Assign projects that require students to use their Russian language skills in real-world scenarios, such as creating a travel itinerary or conducting interviews with native speakers.

7. Encouraging communication: Create a supportive environment for students to practice speaking Russian through group discussions, debates, and presentations.

8. Providing feedback and positive reinforcement: Recognize and applaud students' progress in their language skills to motivate them further.

9. Using authentic materials: Introduce authentic Russian texts, videos, music, and literature that can capture students' interest while exposing them to genuine linguistic and cultural content.

10. Establishing a community of learners: Foster a sense of belonging among students by organizing study groups or conversation clubs where they can practice Russian together outside the classroom.

Another method is to integrate technology into the classroom. Utilizing educational apps, online resources, and interactive learning platforms can make the learning process more engaging and dynamic for students. For example, incorporating multimedia content such as videos, podcasts, and online games related to the Russian language and culture can capture students' attention and make learning more enjoyable.

Furthermore, incorporating project-based learning activities can also boost students' interest in learning Russian. Assigning group projects that require students to research and present on various aspects of Russian culture, history, or contemporary issues can foster collaboration and creativity while also deepening their understanding of the language within a broader context. Providing opportunities for personalized learning can significantly impact student engagement. Tailoring lessons to accommodate individual interests and skill levels allows students to take ownership of their learning journey while feeling empowered and motivated.

Results

Implementing these methods has shown promising results in increasing student interest in learning the Russian language at university. Students have reported greater enthusiasm for their studies, improved retention of course material, and increased confidence in their language skills as a result of these innovative approaches.

Conclusion

In conclusion, there are various effective methods for increasing students' interest in learning the Russian language at university. By incorporating cultural immersion experiences, utilizing technology in the classroom, implementing project-based learning activities, and providing personalized learning opportunities, educators can create a more engaging and meaningful educational experience for their students. These methods not only enhance student motivation but also contribute to a deeper understanding of the Russian language and culture.

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