
Recuperări CZU : 811.111



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*What is lingual country study?*¹

Lingual country study of late has become an aspect in teaching a foreign language. Actually, it is based on the cultural function of the language. The language acts as a means of acquiring cultural information of that or another foreign language. A student of a foreign language gets cultural information of the language comparing it with his native culture.

Two national cultures never coincide totally. So, elements of country study must be included in teaching the foreign language. We should deal with a combination of the language in the process of teaching with information on national culture. This kind of teaching can be called as lingual country study teaching. Robert Lado pointed out that „we cannot completely understand the language of the other people until we learn to see it by the eyes of those whom they consider their heroes, for what they struggled and they consider their virtue, courage cause of honour which is worth of praise.” (Lado 1964)

Thus, Declaration of Independence is something much more for Americans than a mere historical document. During some hours of classes a teacher will not be able to teach what a man acquires during all his life as a member of a definite ethnic community, but thoroughly chosen situations can considerably guarantee mutual understanding.

It is true that participants of communication acts should have a definite experience-both linguistic (knowledge of the language) and non-linguistic (knowledge of the background). So, for communication act people should have unity of the language, common social history and a definite speech situation. The knowledge which is in mind of the members of the communicative act got the name as background knowledge. According to Akhmanova „background knowledge is mutual knowledge of realias of a listener an hearer an is the basis of the language communication.” (Ахманова 1969: 536).

¹Text reprodus după: *Strategii actuale în lingvistică, glotodidactică și știința literară*. Conferința Științifică Internațională consacrată aniversării a 50-a de la fundarea Facultății de Limbi și Literaturi Străine, 15-16 octombrie 2004, vol. III, Bălți, Presa universitară bălțeană, 2004, p. 57-59.

Cultural knowledge is very essential in teaching a foreign language. Tomakhin contributed a lot to the studies of background knowledge is a decisive factor in choice of language means and use of realias in speech.

The role of this knowledge is very important and the absence of this knowledge serves an obstacle in adequate comprehension of speech. Background knowledge common to the members of the language community and which is absent with foreigners got the name country study knowledge. This country study knowledge makes the basis of lingual country study. Here simultaneously with teaching of elements of culture goes teaching of the language. The language appears not only as selection of formal means but as a part of culture when the plane of content is given not less time than the plane of expression.

This knowledge includes the system of the world outlook views which exist in this society, esthetic tastes, norms of verbal and non-verbal behavior and the most important is bigger part of knowledge which have all members of the society. Lingual background knowledge is made as a rule in the process of studies. The role of literature is great. The Russian critic Belinsky called „Eugene Onegin” the encyclopedia of Russian life.

There exist a certain number of works of fiction, folklore which is obligatory for any person of the native culture. Heroes of such obligatory books appear in communication as material for comparisons, analogies and quotations. Besides obligatory books there is a collection of famous songs (particular for each generation), knowledge of which is obligatory for any citizen of the community. For example, the role of the national anthem of Australia is performed by the famous folksong about a knapsack of an Australian vagabond „Waltzing Matilda”. Canada is symbolized by a merry French – Canadian song about a swallow „Alouette”. The famous American song „Yankee Doodle” is connected with war for independence. What an Englishman does not know the song „It’s a Long Way to Tipperary” popular in the years of the World War I. The main problem is the problem of selection of the country study background knowledge. This knowledge should be obtained sooner than it happens in natural condition. Then acculturation of a foreigner will be success.

References

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