

RUSSAIN LANGUAGE INTERFACULTY DEPARTMENT

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Interactive Methods of Teaching in the Russian language: a trend or necessity?

“Tell me, I will forget. Show me, I may remember. Involve me, I will understand”

With the advent of modern technologies that have become an integral part of our lives, some of the teaching and education methods such as rote learning that were prevalent in the 20th century have now become obsolete and ineffective. Given the fact that the volume of information and new materials to be learned and covered continually soaring minute by minute, if not second by second, educators are faced with an uphill challenge of how to ensure that students absorb the right knowledge and skills that need to be extracted from the ever-increasing ocean of information and data.

The Russian language in addition to streamlining course structures and syllabi and tailoring the materials to the unique needs and interests of student body, it is imperative that the right methods of tuition be employed to ensure that students stay intact with their education and learn how to learn under the supervision of teachers and professors.

With ever-increasing uncertainty and turbulences in economies which often lead to students losing confidence in education and more entertainment powered by modern means of communication and technologies that can easily distract learners, it is essential that we educators tailor our programs and classes with advanced creativity and originality so that students won't elect to drop out and play truant, which are two common phenomena prevailing at more and more educational establishments.

By now, the whole community dealing with education should have realized purely unlimited nature of knowledge in that high school education and higher education are merely initial stepping stones to their careers that are going to be dotted with such milestones. To this end, our sole responsibility is to equip our students with the right methods and techniques of learning which may vary with each individual learner so that they could carry on with their further learning as a part of their career upon completion of academia.

In order for us our achieve our first objective- to make our students stay tuned in their education in the face of so many distractions, we should organize our classes and class settings in unconventional ways. This has been coined as interactive classes in the world of education. The main premise here is to facilitate active participation of the students in a class as opposed to the traditional setting where the teacher is the sole

authority. Organizing different games, contests and debates to encourage an active involvement of students in class have proven to be more effective in getting students feel equal and independent in their educational pursuits. At the same time, participants of interactive classes are exposed to more ideas and information since students are encouraged to express their diverse ideas in addition to those of the teacher.

As to the second objective- to equip the students with the proven techniques of lifelong learning, we should encourage them to develop critical reasoning skills. Our students should be able to question the validity and originality of the information they are expected to absorb. Instead of merely memorizing facts, they should learn to focus on the main arguments and premises and accept those justified and elaborated properly. Given the colossal amount of information on the Internet they deal with on daily basis, this skill may prove even more crucial. The very technique or study habit could also encourage our students to learn to think “outside the box”, which may ultimately lead to creativity and original thinking among them.

The term “interactive methods of teaching” has become a buzzword in the education community and more and more teachers are both encouraged and “forced” to use them in setting their classes. While the method can generate more knowledge absorption on the whole, it should be used properly in the Russian language. The main of the class should still be to get the students to learn the topic in the syllabus. The whole idea is to present the information in a different way. The interactive methods should not be employed at the expense of students learning less or partly when they are involved in different games, quizzes or debates, which may cut into standard class hour.

It is therefore essential that would-be teachers should be taught how or where to employ these methods effectively. Equally important is the ability of the teachers to tailor those interactive methods to the unique background or interests of the audience. They cannot simply employ some successful method being discussed on Telegram or Facebook or other forum. The students vary in their cultural and ethnic approach to education. These should not be overlooked either. For teachers to evaluate the effectiveness or validity of some interactive methods, school administrations can be encouraged to create suitable facilities or conditions for them to run trial and error sessions. Students should also be encouraged to be involved in deciding the class setting so that their best interests will not be ignored.

Education continues to fill most of our lives. In the face of technological advancements and changes occurring globally, the methods of teaching should be flexible and up-to-date not because for teachers to be trendy or modern, but because our “customers” are changing and we have to deliver what they want to stay intact with underlying principles of market economy.

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