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DESCRIPTOR AS A FRAMEWORK FOR DEFINING LANGUAGE SKILL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS PROFICIENCY LEVELS

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Annotation:

Due to globalization processes, the demand for qualified specialists who know foreign languages is rapidly increasing in all professional fields. Language and linguistic education have become tools for international professional communication and an important cultural element for successful social development. As a result, the need, demand, and motivation to learn foreign languages, especially English, continue to grow. The relevance of this research lies in the fact that developing pragmatic competence is connected with a person's readiness and ability to adapt to changes in professional activity. It is considered an integral personality characteristic. To describe the process of developing pragmatic competence in higher education, modeling methods widely used in pedagogy were applied.



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In modern linguistic didactics, the model for developing pragmatic competence is conceptualized as an integrated process involving the interrelated development of learners' communicative, pragmatic, and cognitive abilities. This model emphasizes the role of communicative strategies in facilitating learners' acquisition of sociocultural knowledge and interpretative understanding of the target-language community. Consequently, it underscores the necessity of a clearly defined pragmatic orientation in the teaching of English. Pragmatic competence is the ability of learners to show their knowledge when constructing sentences in a foreign language, combining them into coherent texts (discourse), and using statements for different communicative purposes. It also includes the ability to produce speech in a foreign language according to the characteristics of interaction between speakers.

In this research, taking into account practical, activity-based, and personality-oriented learning in the formation of professional competence, as well as the specific features of foreign language teaching, types of speech activity, and characteristics of student learning, the concepts of **competence**, **competency**, and **speech competence** are distinguished.

- **Competence** is a set of knowledge, skills, and abilities acquired by a person.
- **Competency** is a complex combination of personal qualities and states that reflect knowledge, skills, and experience in a particular field.

Pragmatic competence also includes the ability to overcome misunderstandings and difficult situations during communication in the studied foreign language.



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It is recommended to develop students' pragmatic competence through the following approaches:

- creating organizational and pedagogical conditions that support not only theoretical and professional training but also students' social, cultural, and professional development;
- ensuring comprehensive mastery of a foreign language in both academic and extracurricular activities;
- encouraging active participation of all students in improving their pragmatic competence;
- identifying effective didactic opportunities for developing pragmatic competence.

Within this study, several pedagogical opportunities are highlighted. The first is motivation to improve methods for developing students' pragmatic competence. Motivation can be internal or external.

- **Internal motivation** comes from personal needs and desires.
- **External motivation** comes from outside factors such as rewards, approval, threats, or pressure. External motivation can be positive (reward-based) or negative (punishment-based).

The second opportunity is creating organizational and pedagogical conditions that allow students not only to study theoretical and professional subjects but also to develop socially, culturally, and professionally.



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The third didactic opportunity is developing students' foreign language communicative competence to at least the B1 level.

The introduction of innovative approaches in education can effectively solve these problems. Innovative approaches are considered dynamic systems that introduce new methods and improvements into educational processes.

A descriptor is a description of the skills that language learners are expected to develop at each level and demonstrate through different types of speech activities. Based on the research conducted, the concept of **pragmatic competence** was defined, its main components were described, and a list of descriptors reflecting pragmatic competence was developed. This made it possible to address the task of improving pragmatic competence among undergraduate students learning English in non-linguistic universities and to achieve the main goal of the dissertation — improving pragmatic competence in future bachelor-level specialists who are not language majors.

The second chapter of the dissertation, titled “*Methodology for Developing Students' Pragmatic Competence Based on Interdisciplinary Connections*”, analyzes the content, model, and teaching methodology for developing pragmatic competence through interdisciplinary learning.

Preparing students for communication in a foreign language requires mastering specific knowledge, skills, and abilities, which are usually part of pragmatic competence. In teaching English for specific purposes, communicative competence includes not only language knowledge but also pragmatic competence, which takes into account differences in scientific and professional communication. Language teaching includes vocabulary related to scientific concepts in a specific field, as well as grammar and syntax instruction.

Students must also learn common professional communication activities such as:

- analyzing scientific articles,



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- writing research papers,
 - presenting research results,
 - participating in academic and professional discussions.

To improve pragmatic competence, it is necessary to create complex, professionally oriented communication situations.

Analysis of scientific literature shows that English language teaching should include reflection on students' learning experience and improvement of professional and pragmatic competence through innovative educational systems. These systems were tested in the teaching process and helped identify effective ways of teaching English, including lesson content, teaching strategies, and work formats.

The relevance of this research lies in the fact that developing pragmatic competence is connected with a person's readiness and ability to adapt to changes in professional activity. It is considered an integral personality characteristic. To describe the process of developing pragmatic competence in higher education, modeling methods widely used in pedagogy were applied.

The model also emphasizes that understanding one's actions is closely related to independent thinking and the connection between external (practical) and internal (mental) activity. Through reflection and self-analysis, students can improve their skills. A foreign language is not only a communication and intercultural tool but also a means of developing professional competencies such as teamwork, analytical thinking, creativity, reflection, self-management, and information skills. The content component of the model includes forms, methods, tools, techniques, and technologies aimed at improving pragmatic competence through scientific communication in English learning.

The methodology for developing pragmatic competence through interdisciplinary connections includes:



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- educational quests (brainstorming, word mapping, fishbone analysis),
 - gamification methods,
 - SMART and project-based learning technologies,
 - written speech and semantic exercises,
 - analysis using a transformed Bloom's taxonomy.

The use of role-playing and business games, project work, training sessions, intercultural communication studies, and communicative skills sessions in English classes influences communication goals, communication conditions, and the choice of language forms.

The research also showed that educational quests are effective in solving foreign language learning difficulties. For example, brainstorming is an effective method for starting a new lesson because it helps generate ideas and encourages creative thinking.

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