**Methodological Guidelines for the Course "Foreign Language"**

**Introduction**

The goal of this course is to develop students' language skills in the context of both daily and academic communication, with a focus on the lexical and communicative approaches. Over the span of 15 weeks, students will work on expanding their vocabulary, developing grammatical structures, and improving their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The course objectives are the following: 1) to expand students' vocabulary in day-to-day and professional topics; 2) to develop communicative skills for engaging in dialogues and discussions; 3) to teach students to effectively use grammatical constructions in various contexts; 4) to build confidence in spoken and written communication in English

**Approaches and Methods in Learning English**

This course employs the lexical and communicative approaches to language learning. These approaches represent comprehensive methodological strategies aimed at effectively acquiring the language through systematic development of linguistic skills and their application in real communicative situations.

The *lexical approach* focuses on the study of language units such as collocations, set phrases, and idiomatic expressions, which foster more natural and intuitive language use. Emphasis is placed on mastering ready-made lexical blocks that play a crucial role in both every day and professional communication. The *communicative approach* focuses on the practical use of language, providing students with opportunities to participate in interactive tasks that simulate real-life communicative situations. This approach fosters the development of both spoken and written language skills, creating conditions for active engagement and the resolution of communicative tasks, thus building confident language use in a variety of contexts.

**Lexical Approach**

The lexical approach, proposed by Michael Lewis in the 1990s, is based on the idea that the key elements of language are not individual words but entire blocks—lexical units (collocations, set phrases, expressions). Lewis argued that language learning is more effective when it focuses on these lexical phrases rather than purely on grammar.

Key principles of the lexical approach include: 1) learning fixed lexical blocks, where students not only learn individual words but also entire phrases, expressions, and collocations (e.g., "make a decision," "heavy rain"); 2) focus on language use, where understanding how words and phrases are used in practice is prioritized over knowing grammatical rules; 3) emphasis on everyday situations, where the approach aims to teach students the language they will frequently use in life, from casual conversations to more formal settings; 4) real-life contexts, where students learn language through authentic texts (news, articles, videos, dialogues) and see how words and phrases are used in real situations.

**Practical methods used in the lexical approach include:** 1) role-plays and simulations, where students use ready-made lexical phrases to communicate in simulated real-life situations; 2) reading and listening with a focus on vocabulary, where texts and audio materials are analyzed to identify key phrases and collocations;3) repetition and reinforcement of vocabulary, through which students gradually integrate lexical units into their speech.

**Communicative Approach**

The communicative approach focuses on the students’ ability to use the language in real-life situations, making it especially relevant in a practical learning environment. At its core is the belief that language is best learned through its practical use.

Key principles of the communicative approach include: 1) focus on communication, where the primary goal is to teach students to effectively communicate in English in a variety of life situations—be it in the classroom, at work, during travel, or in informal contexts; 2) task-based learning, where communicative tasks involve real-life challenges and problems that require communication and cooperation (examples include debates, project work, or discussing social issues); 3) interactive tasks, where students actively engage with each other through role-plays, group discussions, and pair work, developing their ability to work as a team and apply the language in real-time; 4) use of authentic materials; 5) flexibility in grammar, where grammar is learned through practice rather than through explicit instruction.

**Practical methods used in the communicative approach include:** 1) group discussions, where topics range from everyday issues to professional or academic ones, allowing students to use the language in diverse contexts;2) pair work, where students collaborate in pairs, exchanging information and developing dialogue skills;3) project-based assignments, where long-term projects culminating in presentations help improve both written and spoken language skills.

*Integration of the Lexical and Communicative Approaches*

Both approaches complement each other effectively: the lexical approach helps students learn commonly used phrases and expressions, while the communicative approach allows them to immediately apply this knowledge in real-life situations. In this integrated approach, students not only acquire new words and expressions but also begin to use them in communicative contexts, accelerating language acquisition and making it more practical.

**Class Structure**

Each lesson consists of three components:

1. Introduction of new vocabulary (30 minutes): introducing new vocabulary using real-life examples, contextual exercises, and pronunciation practice.
2. Grammar practice and language skills development (60 minutes): Exercises on grammar and the application of new lexical units in speaking, writing, and listening.
3. Communicative tasks (90 minutes): Role-plays, discussions, presentations, and creating dialogues to allow students to practice language in real-life situations.

**Conclusion**

This course provides comprehensive language development for students, equipping them with not only a deep understanding of vocabulary and grammar but also the skills necessary for effective communication in various situations. The lexical and communicative approaches employed in the teaching process allow students to integrate learned phrases and structures into their speech, fostering precision and confidence in expressing their thoughts. By the end of the course, students will possess an expanded vocabulary, an understanding of grammatical structures, and the ability to use them effectively. They will also be able to analyze and comprehend authentic texts, enhancing their language competence in an academic context. Furthermore, the communicative tasks will help build confidence in interpersonal communication, preparing students to use English in professional environments, at international events, or in future studies. Thus, the course is designed to establish solid language skills that will benefit students in both their academic pursuits and future professional and social endeavors.

**Reference list**

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