

Methods of Learning a Foreign Language

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ABSTRACT

the article discusses promising methods of learning foreign languages.

There is a great variety of ways to learn a language: classes with a tutor have moved to a new level online lessons in Skype– save time and allow you to learn a language at home or in the workplace; language schools – offer various programs for learning

a foreign language for any level of training;

general education program at the university;

trip abroad;

study by books/films;

training programs;

All this is a billion-dollar market for learning a second language. And whatever the method, there is always a question of replenishing the vocabulary of foreign words, because vocabulary is the basis of the language.

Problem. No vocabulary – no knowledge of the language, whatever the methodology. But there are a number of difficulties when learning new words:

- ✓ Low efficiency
- ✓ Lack of motivation

Low efficiency.

Scientists have been seriously engaged in the problems of long-term memory since the XIX century. German scientist-psychologist Herman In 1885, Ebbinghaus experimentally established the exponential nature of the forgetting process. It was found out that most students forget up to 60% of all information after the 1st hour, and after 3-6 days (depending on the complexity of the material) retain only 10% -20 in memory% previously studied information.

However, despite all the pessimistic data given above, scientists have found that there is a completely effective solution to the problem of forgetting information. In psychology, there are concepts of the spacing effect, which is as follows: a person trying to memorize some tabular information (a list of data) copes much better with this if he conducts several lessons for a long time, rather than if he tries to regularly learn the same information for a short period time. The thing is that memory optimizes the information that it uses, and if the information is not used for a long time, it is forgotten (use it or lose it).

The WordSteps program focuses exclusively on memorizing foreign words and phrases, and there are its own peculiarities.

Linguists claim that in order to memorize a word qualitatively, it is necessary to meet it at least five times in various contexts: read it, pronounce it, perceive it by ear, write it, meet it in the context of other words. Moreover, there are also their own algorithms for optimal memorization. And it is precisely this kind of work with a word or phrase that WordSteps suggests.

Lack of motivation. By itself, the study of words, especially those disconnected from the real life context, is a routine and therefore boring activity.

It is supposed to give this process a playful character, or to link the studied words to specific life situations modeled inside the product itself. There is always much more interest in those activities that are related to entertainment, or are tied to reality. A more or less elaborated question of motivation was not noticed in any of the competing solutions.

Learning foreign languages is a task that is not given to everyone easily and simply. There are several ways to learn foreign languages, but not everyone knows about them. In this article, I will present the methods and results of their effectiveness to determine the most effective method for learning foreign languages. For convenience, we will take the 5 most popular methods of learning foreign languages.

Traditional (lexico-grammatical)

Immersion in the environment.

The communicative method.

The method of physical response.

Audiolingualistic method.

Now let's analyze each method a little bit. So, the first method is the traditional method, it is also called lexico-grammatical. This is a method that everyone knows from school and other educational institutions. The main meaning is based on the constant repetition of what has been studied and constant practice. Most likely, this method is not very effective at school and other educational institutions, due to the fact that educational institutions have vacations, especially summer ones, which last 2-3 months, and this is a decent time if a person teaches because a foreign language is in the school curriculum. If a person purposefully learns a foreign language, then this method takes place. let's consider in detail the pros and cons:

Positive:

- Quick learning of new words. Constant exercise in reading and translating is one of the fastest ways to memorize words.
- Quick mastering of grammar. For a high-quality translation, you need to accurately understand all the nuances of what is written. Students constantly compare constructions in the studied language and their native language.
- Develops logical thinking.
- Simplifies the work for the teacher

Minuses:

- Unnatural method.
- Conversational skills are not formed due to the lack of conversational practice.
- The student will never start thinking in the language being studied. That is, he will always think about the phrase first in his native language and then translate it. This significantly slows down communication and makes it unnatural.
- Accurate translation is not always possible, including due to the difference in cultures. Not all idioms can be translated.
- Rules are primary, usage is secondary.
- Words are learned separately, out of context
- It's boring.

The second method is immersion in the environment, that is, being directly among people who speak the language being studied. For example: a person is learning French and the point is for a person to move to France for a while in order to deal with native speakers in everyday life. The disadvantage is that not everyone can afford such an expensive method. After all, this method will include at least: teachers abroad, flights and accommodation in a foreign country. And this requires a lot of money. So we can assume that this method is for a limited number of people. As for effectiveness, it is very effective, because you immediately apply new skills and knowledge in order to live an elementary life.

Positive:

- ✓ Overcoming the language barrier
- ✓ The material is absorbed and remembered better
- ✓ Classes will be fun and interest in the language will not fade
- ✓ Minuses:
- ✓ It is not suitable for all people

The third method is the communicative method. It is very similar to the method of immersion in the environment as it concludes on interaction with other people in the language being studied. It has a couple of limitations in terms of effectiveness: 1- it is most useful when learning English because it is international and in any country it is one of the mandatory foreign languages for general study. 2- inferior in practice as other people may also not speak your foreign language very well or not speak it at all. Despite this, it can be called one of the most popular methods due to the fact that English is studied by quite a lot of people in the world and even in Russia. As a consequence of the fact that for some positions without a foreign language they are not accepted at all. And with this method, both practice and theory are at once.

Positive:

- ✓ Quickly overcoming the language barrier
- ✓ There is no need to translate in my head everything I want to say
- ✓ There is a development of listening, the study of grammar and vocabulary
- ✓ Acting out life situations
- ✓ When studying with native speakers, motivation and self-esteem increase

Minuses:

- ✓ Lack of development of writing skills

- ✓ Difficult for language learners from scratch

The fourth method is the method of physical reaction. This method is quite interesting due to the fact that its essence is that a foreign language is remembered reflexively and in a way of repetition. What does reflex mean? And the fact that a foreign word is accepted as a certain action, for example: the word "Sit down" also translates as sit down, sit down and with the word sit down, the student must sit down and at the same time he remembers that with sit down it is necessary to sit down. It seems to me that this is an extremely inconvenient method, since it is good to study only verbs with it, this becomes the main disadvantage of this method.

Positive:

- ✓ Children remember best what is fun and interesting
- ✓ They can play the role of physical education, do not let children get bored and are always interesting.

Minuses:

- ✓ The main disadvantage of this method is the rigidity of adult thinking, the rejection of something new and at first glance, strange.
- ✓ A significant disadvantage of this method is that it is practically impossible to use it when studying grammar.
- ✓ It is quite difficult for adults

And finally, the fifth method is the audiolinguistic method. It consists in the fact that the student crams information on the principle of "heard — repeated". It is believed that it is not suitable for everyone, since the perception by ear is well developed in a few. Despite this, it can be called one of the effective methods. And so I think it should be considered in more detail. The author of this method is the Doctor of Applied Linguistics Paul Pimsler. The principle of building lessons according to the Pimsler method. Each lesson lasts no more than half an hour, because it is believed that a long duration tires the student and reduces his level of motivation. In addition, scientists believe that this is the very period during which the brain assimilates new information most effectively. The training involves one lesson per day, so the entire course is designed for about 3 months. Lessons according to the method of Dr. Pimsler involve constant repetition of information obtained during past lessons, later there are also tasks involving the translation of previously memorized phrases. Thus, memory training takes place and the formation of persistent patterns for certain situations.

Advantages: Like any audiolinguistic approach, Dr. Pimsler's method immediately forms the correct pronunciation and teaches you to understand foreign speech by ear. The disadvantages are that a person's phrases are formulaic in nature and the lexicon is limited to elementary phrases.

But personally, I think that, of course, it is not worth taking this method as the main one, but it can be combined with the first traditional one and then we will get: grammar + memorization of words. But when memorizing, you can use alternately reading words as they are written in a foreign language + writing words (you can even take audio dictation.) + repetition of words by ear. You can also resort to tactics: I look at the text, hear the text, repeat the text.

Positive:

- ✓ Emphasis is placed on listening and oral speech
- ✓ The method is easily applicable for working with large groups
- ✓ Emphasis is placed on the correct pronunciation

Minuses:

- ✓ Little attention is paid directly to communication

✓ Reading and writing are practically not developing

In conclusion, I can say that there is no unambiguous method of learning, but all methods of learning a foreign language can be effective if you really focus on learning the language.

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