

UDC 37.016:81'243]028.42(043.2=111)

LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE BY READING BOOKS

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Abstract. The article is about foreign language learning. It is an ongoing process, during which you need to practice listening, reading and processing information. Reading is one of the main tools in learning. By analyzing a written word or sentence structure over a long period of time, there is a possibility of better and longer learning of it. Reading in a foreign language will help to broaden your horizons, understand the use of grammatical structures, increase your vocabulary and improve your communicational skills.

The article discusses some tips and recommendations on organizing the reading process. Special attention is paid to the reasons why it is necessary to read books in the process of learning a foreign language.

Key words: learning a foreign language, reading, listening, writing skills, speaking skills.

Introduction

Learning a foreign language is one of the important components in the life of a successful person in today's world. Knowledge of a foreign language provides new opportunities in communication, education and professional development. Mastering a foreign language is a creative and interesting process that develops a worldview, allows you to improve logical thinking and the ability to express your thoughts concisely and clearly. Reading is one of the processes of learning a foreign language.

Main part

Why do you need to read books in a foreign language while studying it? To answer this question, let's consider the reasons indicating that reading itself will help you to learn a foreign language.

Improving your vocabulary

Reading increases your vocabulary. While reading, new words are encountered, finding the meaning of which helps you to understand the content of the text. Repeating these words helps to remember them.

Transforming your passive vocabulary into active vocabulary

Reading is the best method of activating the passive vocabulary, as it helps to refresh forgotten words and structures in memory.

Incidental learning

Reading is the fastest method of increasing your vocabulary. It is not necessary to know the translation of all the words in the text to understand its meaning. You can get the meaning of unknown words from the context even if you have a general idea of what they are.

Grammar study

Reading shows how different grammatical constructions are used in practice, thus improving knowledge of foreign language grammar.

Spelling improvement

Reading helps you to remember not only how sentences are formed and regular expressions are used, but also how these words are written. Thus, you improve your writing skills.

Pronunciation improvement

Reading aloud can help in improving your pronunciation. But it will only work if you know the correct pronunciation of the words in the text. You should also try to read smoothly, observing intonation.

Improving your speaking and communication skills

Reading helps to improve your speaking and communication skills. When you read modern literature you have the opportunity to meet real examples of using a spoken foreign language today. You can improve your ability to maintain a conversation and understand your interlocutors.

Understanding the author's style

Reading original literature gives you an opportunity to feel the author's style. You can appreciate metaphors and word combinations, meet many fixed phrases and interesting synonyms, understand complex grammatical constructions and become closer to the "living" language.

Development of thinking, memory and attention concentration

Reading makes the brain work more actively that helps to develop your memory and thinking. While reading books you train your ability to concentrate on one thing, because your mind cannot see anything else. You don't pay attention to external stimuli. You completely immerse yourself in the literary world.

Broadening of your horizons

Reading will familiarize you with historical facts, interesting events, famous personalities and cultural values of the past and present. Historical novels can teach you how to express your emotions and ideas, or share your thoughts and feelings about the historical events, culture and traditions of the people whose language you are learning. Documentary literature will provide a fresh look at history, culture and politics of the nation. Autobiographical literature will give you an opportunity to better understand the lives of the most influential people in the world.

A pleasant pastime

Reading books in a foreign language will be a great pastime if you love reading at all. You will be able to combine the pleasant with the useful, thereby motivating yourself to study even more.

These reasons indicate that reading books is a fundamental tool in the learning process of a foreign language. Reading will help you to understand grammatical structures, expand your vocabulary, and improve your speaking and writing skills.

But, now, the following question arises: how should you read books in a foreign language when you learn it? Here are some tips and recommendations.

Your desire to read

Reading should be pleasant, interesting and fun. The basis of your decision to read should be the goal you want to realize – to learn a foreign language. You have to set aside a short period of time for reading in the beginning. Later, you will increase this time and develop your endurance to reading.

Your reading style

You should read the same book several times to consolidate new words. The more times you come across new words and expressions, the better chance you have of remembering them. However, it is worth noting that reading a book for the second time is not as exciting as reading it for the first time. Therefore, there is a way out: read the books of one author. Every writer has their own style, familiarizing yourself with which will help you to expand your vocabulary. You will be able to meet the same words often, but in different books. But the most important thing is that when you read, you need to read, and not look at the book. You have a large amount of educational material readily available, but unfortunately you spend a lot of time trying to figure out which book to read instead of reading.

Pace and quality of your reading

Create a schedule that works for you and set your own reading time. Calculate the number of minutes that best suits you. Even if you read at a slow pace several times a day, you will be able to read a lot and you will have the opportunity to stop to look at the dictionary or to remember the meaning of new words yourself. By reading regularly, you will begin to understand a foreign language better through passive learning. You also need to gradually increase the size of the works.

Your level of language proficiency

The literature should match your knowledge and skills. Try to read the first 2-3 pages of the book you have chosen. If you come across more than 10 new words on each page, this text might be too difficult for you. It is worth choosing an easier book or a book for children. The overwhelming majority of children's books are illustrated. You can also take comic books for reading. Pictures will help you to understand the plot and consolidate the associations of the image with words. The process of reading will become easier.

The presence of a dictionary

A dictionary should be had. If you read printed literature, then the process of learning a foreign language consists of reading the text, identifying unknown vocabulary, looking it up in a dictionary, and then writing down the meanings of unfamiliar words in a regular notebook or electronic notebook. Use a monolingual foreign language dictionary, not a bilingual dictionary for the best results. Reading e-books greatly simplifies the translation process. To do this, it is enough just to click on an unclear word and its meaning will appear on the screen. Repeat these words from time to time to help you remember them better. However, you should avoid checking the dictionary frequently: you may lose your interest and motivation in learning the language by reading. You can also not use a dictionary if an unknown word, in your opinion, does not play an important role in understanding the meaning of this text.

Interesting reading

Reading should be interesting because it is the content of the book that grabs and holds your attention and helps you to learn the meaning of words and grammar rules. Read what will interest you, keep you interested, and bring you pleasure. Think about your favorite styles and genres in literature. Reading books in a foreign language improves your language skills.

Reading aloud

Beginning with the first book, read aloud. Such a method will improve your memorization and pronunciation of words. Use the transcription of words to practice correct pronunciation and intonation. You can record yourself on the recorder, listening to the audio after each new reading. This will help you to evaluate your speaking and hear mistakes that you should work on.

Comparative reading

An interesting method of learning a foreign language is to read the original book and the translation simultaneously. You can quickly view the text in your native language if you do not understand the entire text in a foreign language.

Reading while listening to the audiobook

Reading while you listen is one of the best ways to learn a foreign language, although it requires a lot of effort. You have to work with two different forms of media – listening and reading. Listening while you read will help you to improve your pronunciation. You will understand that a word can have several pronunciations and whether you pronounce words correctly. You should start reading with a work that you have already read in your native language or an easy genre: a poem or a song. The variety of media will help you to consolidate knowledge and allow you to get used to the spoken language.

The adapted literature

Find easy-to-read books, namely adapted books. After all, they are designed for those who are learning a foreign language, because they are written for the purpose of learning the language. Such books contain not only a translation of the work, but also a vocabulary and exercises for understanding the text and grammar.

The original books

If you have realized that you are reading adapted literature without the help of a dictionary, you can switch to reading in the original. You will be able to appreciate the author's metaphors and phrases, ambiguous idioms and original grammatical constructions. You can read works in reverse chronological order. Start with modern authors and end with ancient ones, because you need to learn what is relevant first. You can leave the old works for familiarization later.

Screen adaptation of the work

Watching movies will make it easier to read the original literature. Nowadays, many popular books and bestsellers have movie versions. This will give you a basic understanding of the plot before reading the piece itself.

The reward

When you read works in a foreign language, you use the language as a practical tool in such a way that you get one step closer to fluency. Reading becomes your hobby, which brings pleasure and enjoyment in the language learning process.

Conclusions

That is why reading is a great way to learn a foreign language. You have the opportunity to get acquainted with new words, to repeat the learned grammatical structures and to remember thousands of useful phrases and expressions. Foreign literature will help you to get to know and better understand the culture of the people whose language you are learning. The important thing is to find the methods and books that work best for you.

Try learning a foreign language through reading!

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sent 01.02.2023

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