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The role of proverbs in the improvement students' communicative skills

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Abstract

The work discusses the importance of learning proverbs in English language. The publication describes different types of proverbs. The authors give definition and description of proverbs using modern linguistic provisions. The article focuses on the role of proverbs as the source of folk wisdom and peculiarities of their use at foreign language classes. The article stresses the importance of learning proverbs for proper improving and mastering the English language. Proverbs can be used for learning different aspects of the foreign language. Proverbs can be used for improving students' phonetic skills. The students are offered proverbs and sayings for practicing difficult English sounds that are absent in the native language of students. The vocabulary of a language is enriched not only by words but also by phraseological units. Phraseological units are word-groups that cannot be made in the process of speech, they exist in the language as ready-made units. The semantic sphere of proverbs is very wide and cannot limit them. The proverbs describe all branches of people's life. Proverbs have much in common with set expressions because their lexical components are also constant, their meaning is traditional and mostly figurative, and they are introduced into speech ready-made. In the dictionaries proverbs are arranged into different semantic groups. Phraseological units can be classified according to the ways they are formed, according to the degree of the motivation of their meaning, according to their structure and according to their part-of-speech meaning.

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Keywords

Proverb, saying, content, hidden meaning, hidden value, expressiveness, enhancement.

Introduction

Relevance: this study reveals the usual problem of the lack of proverbs in learning English by our students. Most of proverbs are difficult to understand and can be hard to learn.

Purpose: to make a classification of popular proverbs for easy learning in the class. Prove the importance of English proverbs for productive language study.

Tasks:

1. To analyze dictionaries and literature
2. To group useful proverbs according the topic
3. To find Russians equivalents and give examples
4. To compare English and Russian proverbs
5. To define the importance of English proverbs for productive language study

Object of research – proverbs of the English language.

Subject of research – meaning of proverbs, their use in speech.

Hypothesis – we hope that this work will allow me to determine the importance of proverbs in language learning and vocabulary enlargement.

Methods – literature analysis, descriptive analysis, comparative analysis.

Main part

A proverb is a way of expressing folk wisdom and spirit. There is no any universal proverb definition. Proverbs refer to brief forms of folklore. Usually proverbs have forms of short, generally known, sentences. True proverbs are phrases that pass from generation to generation. The saying is a small form of folk art and carries a larger emotional load than a proverb. The saying never tries to convey the idea that would express the absolute truth. Proverbs and sayings are short but deep in the meaning. They express the view of the amount of people by their social functions. A proverb is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views in a metaphorical, fixed and memorable form and which is handed down from generation to generation. Proverbs, sayings and phraseological units are a turn of speech, a special form, shown in a short saying, giving a generalized thought, conclusion, allegory with a didactic bias, childlike repetitive syntax.

Difficulties in translating proverbs, sayings and phraseological units will always exist, since their translation is not unambiguous. One of the important problems in translation is the recognition of stable expressions in the original text. Most proverbs are based on a metaphor.

Typical stylistic features of proverbs are: alliteration (Forgive and forget), parallelism (Nothing ventured, nothing gained), rhyme (When the cat is away, the mice will play), ellipsis (Once bitten, twice shy). Internal features that can be found quite frequently include: hyperbole (All is fair in love and war), paradox (The longest way around is the shortest way home), personification (Hunger is the best cook). Other typical features of the proverb are its shortness and the fact that its author is generally unknown.

Proverbs can be used for learning different aspects of the foreign language. Proverbs can be used for improving students' phonetic skills.

The students are offered proverbs and sayings for practicing difficult English sounds that are absent in the native language of students.

Teaching grammar is going on the functional and interactive basis. Proverbs are used for practice

and enhancement of a variety of grammatical forms and structures. Possible tasks are:

Complete the proverbs with the verbs from the box. Think over the situations where these proverbs can be used.

Match the parts of the proverbs. Put the underlined verbs in the correct form. Find the proverbs with similar ideas. Explain them.

Give a piece of advice using a proverb. Illustrate the use of proverbs in any life situation.

Proverbs can be used for a practice and improvement of a variety of lexical forms. Teaching speaking skills is much easier using proverbs as memorable phrases. Possible tasks are:

- Find the proverbs having no similar equivalents in Russian language.
- Make groups of proverbs according their theme. Translate them.
- There is a word from a proverb. Reconstruct a proverb.

We provide a table for successful learning of proverbs in the classroom. The table shows some popular English proverbs, having Russian equivalents, according their theme. It is a pleasant and easygoing material for study which gives great help in the English classroom. Proverbs are used to: strengthen arguments, express generalization, influence people, rationalize our own shortcomings, question behavioral patterns, satirize social evils and make fun of ridiculous situations.

Table 1 - Types of proverbs

TOPIC	PROVERBS	TRANSLATION
Work and school	A good beginning is half the work. A good beginning makes a good ending. Speak less but do more. Man proposes but God disposes.	Хорошее начало полдела откачало. Хорошее начало приводит к хорошему концу. Говори меньше, делай больше. Человек предполагает, а бог располагает.
Money	A fool and his money are soon parted. Money does not grow on trees. Money can't buy happiness. Money makes the world go round.	Дурак и его деньги скоро расстанутся. Деньги не растут на деревьях. Деньги не могут купить счастье. Деньги заставляют мир вращаться.
Animals	An old dog barks not in vain. When the cat is away, the mice will play. Every dog has its day.	Старый ворон даром не каркает. Кот из дома, мыши в пляс. Будет и на вашей улице праздник.
Food	Eat to live but do not live to eat. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Half a loaf is better than none.	Ешьте, чтобы жить, но не живите, чтобы есть. Не кладите все яйца в одну корзину! Полбуханки лучше, чем ничего.
Love	Fear is stronger than love. Love and hate are blood relations. Love conquers all.	Страх сильнее чем любовь. Любовь и ненависть — близкие родственники. Любовь все побеждает.
Sport	Health is better than wealth. A sound mind in a sound body. Diligence is the mother of success.	Здоровье лучше богатство. В здоровом теле здоровый дух. Терпение и труд все перетрут.
Colours	From the black earth there grows the finest grain. Red sky at night, sailor's delight. White dog does not bite another white dog.	Из черной земли растет самое прекрасное зерно. Если небо красно поутру, моряку не поутру. Ворон ворону глаз не выклюет.
Happiness	Happiness opens the arms and closes the eyes. No one is happier than he who believes in his happiness. Happiness rarely keeps company with an empty stomach.	Счастье раскрывает объятия и закрывает глаза. Никто не счастливее того, кто верит в свое счастье. Счастье редко составляет компанию пустому желудку.

TOPIC	PROVERBS	TRANSLATION
Sadness	A smiling face dispels unhappiness. It's better to lie a little than to be unhappy. One must be perfectly stupid to be perfectly unhappy.	Улыбающееся лицо рассеивает несчастье. Лучше немного соврать, чем быть несчастным Нужно быть совершенно глупым, чтобы быть совершенно несчастным.
Knowledge	To know everything is to know nothing. Soon learnt soon forgotten. Live and learn. It is never too late to learn.	Знать все значит ничего не знать. Выученное наспех быстро забывается. Живи и учись. Учиться никогда не поздно.
Medicine	When the head aches, all the body is the worse An apple a day keeps the doctor away.	Когда болит голова, все тело болит сильнее. Яблоко в день спасает от врачей!
Business	Schnapps is schnapps and business is business. Business before pleasure.	Шнапс есть шнапс, а бизнес есть бизнес. Дело превыше всего.
Daily Activities	Beat Someone to the Punch. Cooking Up a Storm	Опередить кого-то Приготовление пищи на скорую руку
Transport/Travel	The crow went traveling abroad and came back just as black as night. The heaviest baggage for a traveler is an empty wallet.	Ворон отправился путешествовать за границу и вернулся таким же черным как ночь. За морем – также как здесь. Самый тяжелый багаж для путешественника - это пустой кошелек.
Birds	God gives all birds food, but does not throw it into their nests. Even an eagle will not fly higher than the sun.	Бог дает всем птицам пищу, но не бросает ее в их гнезда. Как потопал, так и полопал. Даже орел выше солнца не взлетит.
Parts of Body	Where the body wants to rest it should be carried by the legs. The body is killed by mouth.	Если тело хочет отдохнуть, то его должны нести ноги. Тело убивают ртом (едой).
Fruit	The children eat fruit, and the father sleeps on the peel. Looking at a tree, you see its fruits; looking at a man, you see his deeds.	Дети едят фрукты, а отец спит на кожуре. Глядя на дерево, видишь его плоды; глядя на человека, видишь его дела.
Water	A woman's word is like a small feather on the water You can't wash with dirty water.	Слово женщины, как маленькое перышко на воде Грязной водой нельзя умыться.
Time	Time and tide wait for no man. Time cures all things. Time is money.	Время никого не ждет. Время все лечит. Время - деньги.
Health	A sound mind in a sound body. Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise. Good health is above wealth. Health is not valued till sickness comes.	В здоровом теле здоровый дух. Кто рано ложится и рано встает, здоровье, богатство и ум наживет. Доброе здоровье дороже богатства. Здоровье не ценится, пока не приходит болезнь.
Beauty	All that glitters are not gold. Appearances are deceptive Handsome is as handsome does. There is no rose without the thorn.	Не все то золото, что блестит. Внешность обманчива Красив тот, кто красиво поступает. Нет розы без шипов.
Motherland	East or West home is best. Every bird likes its own nest. There is no place like home. Don't cut the bough you are standing on.	Восток ли, запад ли, а дома лучше всего. Всякая птица свое гнездо любит. Свой дом - самое лучшее место. .Не руби сук, на котором стоишь

Proverbs and sayings increase interest to languages, help to develop linguistic sense, lay the ability to think in linguistic terms. Many proverbs and sayings are international. Proverbs used in the classroom should not only have an educational value, but also be simple in language, common, and giving a reason to speak.

Results: we have grouped the popular proverbs according their themes. We have made a thorough revision and a useful classification table of common everyday proverbs that can be drilled in English classes.

Conclusion

We have reached the purpose: we have proved the importance of English proverbs for productive language learning. It can be stated that the great number of proverbs and their high frequency in communication make them an important, amusing and entertaining part of vocabulary acquisition and language learning in general.

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Роль пословиц в улучшении коммуникативных навыков студентов

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Аннотация

Статья рассматривает важность изучения пословиц в английском языке для улучшения коммуникативных навыков студентов. В публикации описываются различные типы пословиц и поговорок. Авторы представляют определение и описание пословиц, используя современные лингвистические положения. Статья указывает на роль пословиц как на источник народной мудрости и отмечает особенности их применения на занятиях английским языком. Статья подчеркивает важность изучения пословиц для качественного улучшения и овладения английским языком. Пословицы могут быть применены для изучения различных аспектов иностранного языка. Пословицы могут быть использованы для улучшения фонетических навыков студентов. Кроме того, студентам могут быть предложены пословицы и поговорки с целью тренировки трудных английских звуков, которые отсутствуют в родном языке. Словарь языка обогащается не только словами, но и фразеологическими единицами. Семантическая сфера пословиц очень широка и не может ограничивать их. Пословицы затрагивают все стороны жизни людей. Пословица – это короткая эпиграмма, образно выражающая народную мудрость, правду или нравоучение. Пословицы имеют много общего с устойчивыми выражениями, их лексические компоненты являются постоянными, их значение является традиционным, они вводятся в речь в готовом виде. В словарях пословицы объединены в разные семантические группы. Пословицы можно классифицировать по способу их образования, согласно степени мотивации их значения, согласно их структуре и согласно значению их частей речи.

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Ключевые слова

Пословица, поговорка, содержание, скрытый смысл, скрытое значение, выразительность, улучшение.

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