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Development of foreign language written communication skills among legal students

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Abstract

Teaching foreign language writing to law students poses inherent difficulties and obstacles. The given paper delves into the matter of enhancing the foreign language writing proficiency of legal students. This research topic holds significance as proficiency in writing in a foreign language is imperative for the professional advancement of aspiring legal professionals in today's globalized world. Through an examination of pertinent literary sources, the author of this article advocates for a methodical approach to enhancing foreign language writing skills in students. In-depth exploration within the article encompasses various facets of foreign language writing, encompassing the development of grammatical aptitude, the expansion of lexical knowledge, the ability to craft coherent texts, adept usage of stylistic devices, and the correct formatting of documents. A significant emphasis is placed on the pivotal role that foreign language educators play in cultivating writing skills. Educators must effectively communicate to their students, as well as elucidate the opportunities that proficiency in writing skills affords.

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Keywords

Foreign language writing, writing proficiency, foreign language competency, law students, written speech, special terminology, legal sphere, higher educational institutions.

Introduction

The emergence of written language serves as a repository of human knowledge and accumulated experience, reflecting the culture and traditions of each nation [1]. It plays a crucial role in foreign language learning and teaching. Various domestic and foreign scholars such as L.S. Vygotsky, N.I. Gez, M.V. Lyakhovitsky, J. Piaget, and others explored the teaching of written language in foreign language education, highlighting its complex and multifaceted nature [2].

Developing writing skills is a fundamental aspect of foreign language education for law students. The ability to communicate effectively in writing is essential in the legal field. Enhancing writing skills enables law students to be proficient communicators, articulating their arguments clearly and persuasively. Mastery of writing allows students to produce legal documents with precision and coherence. Furthermore, writing skills in a foreign language foster analytical and critical thinking among law students.

Writing requires thorough analysis and reflection on evidence and legal principles. Students learn to analyze legal precedents, research and apply case law, and effectively utilize laws and regulations to support their arguments.

Moreover, improving writing skills in a foreign language enhances overall language proficiency. Engaging in various writing tasks, from essays to scientific articles, enables students to delve deeper into language study, including grammar, spelling, and vocabulary. It exposes them to diverse ways of expressing ideas and teaches them to adapt language to suit the style, requirements, and objectives of the written text.

While composing formal letters in a foreign language may pose challenges for law students, adhering to basic stylistic conventions can facilitate the creation of professional and grammatically correct writing. Law students engage in rigorous written exercises on legal topics in a foreign language. These tasks play a crucial role in the students' educational journey by enhancing their writing abilities and deepening their comprehension of legal terminology.

Main part

Throughout these assignments, students progress through a series of stages. Initially, they acquire an array of legal concepts and fundamental principles pertinent to the foreign legal topic under study. This training enables them to grasp legal jargon and concepts in a foreign language, thereby bolstering their confidence to utilize these skills in their forthcoming professional endeavors.

Subsequently, students engage in active writing exercises. These tasks are designed to help them solidify their knowledge and learn how to apply it practically. Students scrutinize legal cases and evidence, analyze precedents and court verdicts, and construct their own articles and essays in a foreign language to showcase their understanding and capability to apply acquired knowledge.

Throughout these written tasks, students actively engage in discussions concerning various facets of law and its real-world application. They share their viewpoints, substantiate their positions with theoretical knowledge and practical experience, fostering skills in analysis, logical reasoning, and argumentation - all of which are vital for success in legal and international relations fields.

Active practical exercises, such as composing letters or essays on specific topics, facilitate a deeper assimilation of the material and aid in surmounting language barriers. These assignments proffer students the chance to employ their knowledge in practical, real-life situations. Regular review and evaluation of work motivate students to enhance their writing skills. The educational framework is

structured to provide each student with personalized feedback and the opportunity to rectify errors.

Law students actively hone their foreign language writing skills under the guidance of seasoned instructors. These classes form an essential component of the educational curriculum and play a pivotal role in shaping the professional proficiency of future legal practitioners.

Knowledge about university students' difficulties with writing is not sufficiently descriptive to effectively identify the right features of students' problems with writing. There is a critical need to know more about the difficulties experienced by Law students, when they compose essays, in order to assess the overall quality of the Law students' writing essays [Maleerat, 2017]. Thus, the foreign language teacher's role in teaching writing skills is undoubtedly crucial. This skill is pivotal in various aspects of life, from academic studies to professional endeavors. It is imperative for teachers to possess specific skills and qualities to effectively cultivate students' writing abilities. Serving as a mentor and guide, the teacher equips students with the essential tools needed to enhance and refine their writing skills. Initially, the teacher formulates lessons that consider the nuances of legal terminology and writing styles, offering students a plethora of examples and illustrations to grasp the fundamental principles and regulations of writing within the legal sphere.

The teacher diligently monitors the progress of students, extending personalized support and guidance to each individual. Through interactive lessons students have the opportunity to apply their newfound knowledge in practice, receive constructive feedback from both their peers and instructor, and hone their written communication skills, rectifying errors and elevating the overall standard of their written work.

Teachers should encourage students to exchange and evaluate their peers' texts during the proofreading and peer editing stage. So that they can improve their editing skills and focus on important information, students must first edit their own or peers' work. Thus, students improve their writing. Finally, students will produce personal papers, either collaboratively or individually. Students work hard to write a piece of writing. So the teacher must respond correctly [Rashid, Hui, 2022].

Moreover, the teacher may assume a coaching role in preparing students for professional circumstances that necessitate written communication in a foreign language. By imparting various writing strategies and techniques that enhance the effectiveness and persuasiveness of conveying thoughts and ideas, students are equipped with the tools needed to excel in professional settings. Furthermore, the teacher aids in fostering self-discipline and the ability to organize information, essential skills for those pursuing a career in law.

Finally, the teacher motivates students to autonomously enhance and refine their writing skills, suggesting a wide range of resources, such as books, articles, online courses, and other materials to facilitate skill development and vocabulary expansion. The teacher engages in discussions with each student regarding their individual goals and needs in order to personalize and enhance the effectiveness of the lessons. Educators with significant experience in the legal field and proficiency in multiple foreign languages are capable of delivering a high standard of instruction and assisting students in accomplishing their educational and professional objectives.

Courses aimed at enhancing foreign language writing skills not only enable law students to broaden their language proficiencies but also empower them with the necessary self-assurance and the ability to actively engage in international academic and professional endeavors.

Teaching a foreign language to law students can pose a considerable challenge for instructors, especially when it comes to teaching writing skills in a foreign language.

One of the primary obstacles that teachers encounter is understanding the disparities between writing rules in a student's native language versus a foreign language, including variations in

punctuation, sentence structures, and the usage of conjunctions.

A second challenge involves instructing students on specific vocabulary and terminology related to the legal field, which may include specialized terminology and expressions that are unfamiliar to foreign language learners.

In addition, teachers must educate students on formal and informal writing styles, as legal documents such as court decisions, client correspondence, and legislation require adherence to specific formats and styles to maintain authenticity and professionalism.

Another challenge that arises in teaching law students to write in a foreign language is engaging students in active writing practice, necessitating teachers to dedicate ample time and effort in providing individualized feedback and support to enhance students' writing skills.

The development of writing skills in a foreign language for law students presents a unique challenge that requires additional effort from students due to various factors they encounter in the process of mastering written communication in a foreign language, such as:

1. Understanding and correctly using complex legal terminology in the process of composing legal documents, which involves applying basic legal concepts and adhering to language-specific characteristics.

2. Navigating the grammatical complexities of a foreign language, particularly within a legal context, necessitates a solid grasp of grammar, syntax, and style to effectively communicate thoughts accurately and clearly.

3. Precise spelling and punctuation are highly valued in the legal sector. It is imperative for students to cultivate a writing style that is devoid of errors in order to prevent any potential miscommunications or misinterpretations arising from their written work.

4. Context comprehension: legal documentation necessitates meticulous attention to detail and a clear understanding of expression. Students are required to be meticulous and mindful of all nuances and guidelines to ensure that their written communication is suitable for the specific legal processes and requirements.

5. Various writing tasks: in the study of a foreign language, legal professionals must master a range of writing skills, such as composing judicial documents, drafting bills, creating analytical reports, and preparing other legal documentation. It requires the ability of students to apply their knowledge and skills across various contexts and scenarios.

6. Motivational issues are also highlighted as contributing to students' struggles in the article-writing process, leading to heightened levels of anxiety. The need for targeted interventions and support mechanisms to address these multifaceted challenges and enhance students' academic writing skills are also worth taking into account. While studying a foreign language in a legal context, enhancing writing skills poses notable challenges due to the unique demands and intricacies of legal written communication. Nonetheless, with consistent learning, practice, and self-improvement, students can effectively surmount these challenges.

Broadly speaking, teaching a foreign language with a focus on writing to law students presents numerous obstacles. However, by acknowledging these challenges, delving into the subject matter, implementing effective teaching approaches, and continuous improvement, educators can overcome these hurdles and facilitate the success of students in learning written foreign language skills within the legal profession.

For the improvement of foreign language proficiency in the teaching of writing skills to law students, educators can adhere to the following recommendations:

1. Provision of resources: instructors should supply students with a variety of materials in a foreign

language specific to the legal field, such as legal cases, court documents, precedents, etc. These resources enable students to familiarize themselves with legal vocabulary and sentence structures.

2. Emphasis on grammar skills: educators should focus on the grammatical facets of the language, as they form the foundation for effective writing. This can involve lessons dedicated to grammar rules, along with additional tasks and exercises to reinforce acquired knowledge.

3. Cultivation of writing skills: teachers can design lessons aimed at honing writing abilities, including exercises on crafting essays, analyzing legal texts, and composing documents and letters. Constructive feedback and suggestions from the teacher are crucial in aiding students to enhance their writing proficiency.

4. Individual approach: Educators should take into consideration the proficiency level of each student and devise individualized assignments and exercises that cater to their needs. This personalized approach contributes to more efficient learning and heightened student motivation.

5. Integration of technology: utilizing modern technologies in teaching, such as interactive textbooks, online resources, applications, and social media platforms, enables students to access supplementary materials in the language, engage with native speakers, and engage in self-directed learning.

Implementing these recommendations will empower educators to effectively instill writing skills in a foreign language in law students. This will enable them to attain a high level of language fluency and rely on their acquired knowledge in their forthcoming professional endeavors.

Conclusion

Overall, the cultivation of writing skills in foreign language classes for law students plays a pivotal role in fostering their successful career growth. Mastery of written language allows students to communicate persuasively, advocate effectively, and prosper in their legal professions. Written exercises on legal topics in a foreign language serve as a crucial tool in honing students' skills, enabling them to delve deeper into the field of law, grasp terminology in a foreign language, and foster analytical and argumentative thinking. Engaging in these exercises enables students to enhance their level of expertise and effectively apply it in their prospective career endeavors. Enhancing writing abilities in foreign languages can significantly contribute to the confidence and success of law students as future professionals. Proficiency in writing in a foreign language equips legal professionals with the capability to engage in global legal disputes and engage with international counterparts, thereby broadening their professional horizons. Consequently, fostering proficiency in writing in foreign languages among law students assumes a pivotal role in their academic development.

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Развитие навыков иноязычной письменной коммуникации у студентов юридических специальностей

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Аннотация

В данной статье рассматривается вопрос о развитии навыков иноязычного письма у студентов юридических специальностей. Тема данного исследования является актуальной, так как в современном мире навыки письменного владения иностранным языком являются неотъемлемой частью профессионального развития будущих юристов. Анализируя литературные источники, автор статьи предлагает систематизированный подход к развитию навыков иноязычного письма у студентов. В статье подробно рассматриваются различные аспекты иноязычного письма, включая развитие грамматической компетенции, лексических навыков, умения структурировать тексты, эффективно использовать стилистические приемы и правильно оформлять документы. Особое внимание уделено роли преподавателя при обучении навыкам письменной речи. Преподаватели должны уметь донести до своих студентов важность правильного изложения мыслей на письме, а также объяснить, какие возможности открываются при наличии грамотных навыков письма.

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Ключевые слова

Иноязычное письмо, навыки письма, иностранный язык, студенты-юристы, письменная речь, специализированная лексика, юридическая сфера, высшая школа.

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