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## **THE FORMATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEXICAL COMPETENCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

The modern educational reform in Ukraine aims at developing key competencies in students, among which foreign language lexical competence plays an essential role. According to the concept of the New Ukrainian School (NUS), students must acquire proficiency in a foreign language for successful communication and integration into the global space. The ability to communicate in a foreign language is not only a tool for academic success but also a necessity in the contemporary world, where globalization has created an interconnected environment for professional and personal interactions. Early language learning helps students build a strong foundation for their future studies and careers, allowing them to participate in cross-cultural dialogue and develop a broader perspective on the world [1].

One of the fundamental aspects of language acquisition is lexical competence, which refers to the ability to understand and effectively use words and phrases in communication. In primary school students, lexical competence involves not only memorizing words but also developing the skills to apply them in various contexts. A well-formed lexical base allows learners to express their thoughts clearly, understand spoken and written language, and engage in meaningful conversations. The psychological characteristics of young learners, such as their natural curiosity and ability to absorb new information quickly, make this stage of education ideal for introducing and reinforcing vocabulary.

**The purpose of this article** is to analyze the theoretical foundations and methodological approaches to developing foreign language lexical competence in primary school students, particularly through the use of interdisciplinary connections.

Foreign language education in primary school should be engaging and dynamic, incorporating various techniques to ensure effective learning [2]. The use of interdisciplinary connections has proven to be one of the most efficient approaches in this regard. By integrating foreign language learning with other subjects, such as mathematics, natural sciences, art, and music, teachers can create a more immersive and meaningful learning experience. This method not only reinforces linguistic knowledge but also helps students see the practical application of the language beyond the classroom setting. For instance, learning numbers and basic arithmetic in a foreign language during a math lesson can enhance both linguistic and mathematical skills simultaneously. Similarly, exploring nature-related vocabulary in science lessons strengthens comprehension and retention by providing real-life contexts.

Interdisciplinary connections contribute to cognitive development by encouraging students to establish links between different fields of knowledge [3]. When students

recognize how language is connected to various subjects, they develop a deeper understanding of concepts and improve their ability to transfer knowledge from one area to another. This approach also enhances motivation, as learners find the lessons more engaging and relevant to their daily lives. Research in language pedagogy suggests that interdisciplinary learning supports long-term retention of vocabulary and fosters a more holistic educational experience.

The process of forming lexical competence in primary school students occurs in several stages. The first stage involves introducing new lexical units, during which children become familiar with the pronunciation and meaning of words. At this stage, teachers employ visual aids, interactive games, and storytelling techniques to make learning more engaging. Exposure to authentic language materials, such as songs, videos, and illustrated books, further facilitates comprehension.

The second stage focuses on receptive-reproductive training, where students reinforce their knowledge through structured exercises. Activities such as matching words with images, filling in missing words in sentences, and practicing simple dialogues help solidify their understanding. At this stage, repetition and contextual usage play a crucial role in ensuring that new vocabulary becomes an active part of the learner's linguistic repertoire.

The final stage is communicative practice, where students apply their acquired vocabulary in real-life conversations. Role-playing exercises, group discussions, and interactive storytelling sessions encourage students to use new words in meaningful ways. Creating a classroom environment that simulates real-world communication allows learners to gain confidence in their language skills. Teachers can facilitate this process by designing collaborative projects that require students to work together using the target language, such as creating a class newspaper, conducting interviews, or preparing simple presentations on familiar topics.

Incorporating interdisciplinary connections into language education also supports differentiated learning by catering to various learning styles. Some students learn best through visual stimuli, while others prefer auditory or kinesthetic activities. By integrating elements from different subjects, teachers can create diverse learning experiences that accommodate individual preferences. For instance, artistic students may benefit from drawing and labeling pictures, musically inclined learners may enjoy singing songs in a foreign language, and kinesthetic learners may engage more effectively through movement-based activities such as acting out stories or participating in language-based physical games.

Moreover, interdisciplinary approaches prepare students for real-world communication, where language is rarely used in isolation. In professional and everyday settings, people use language to discuss a wide range of topics, from scientific discoveries to cultural traditions. By exposing students to vocabulary related to multiple subjects, educators equip them with the skills needed to navigate diverse conversations and understand various types of content. This approach aligns with modern educational trends that emphasize the development of critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills alongside linguistic competence.

Another advantage of interdisciplinary learning is its positive impact on student motivation. Young learners often struggle with memorizing vocabulary when it is

presented in isolation. However, when words are introduced within meaningful contexts, students are more likely to remember and use them effectively. For example, learning about seasons and weather patterns in both foreign language and science classes reinforces vocabulary retention and enhances comprehension. When children see the relevance of language in their everyday experiences, they develop a more positive attitude toward learning and become more enthusiastic about expanding their knowledge.

To maximize the effectiveness of interdisciplinary connections in language education, teachers should adopt an integrated curriculum approach that aligns language learning objectives with those of other subjects. Collaboration among teachers of different disciplines can lead to more cohesive and well-structured lessons that facilitate cross-subject learning. Schools can also implement project-based learning strategies that encourage students to apply language skills in multidisciplinary tasks, such as organizing an international food festival, designing an eco-friendly community, or creating a bilingual guidebook for their school.

In conclusion, the formation of foreign language lexical competence in primary school students is a vital aspect of their educational development. The use of interdisciplinary connections enhances this process by making vocabulary learning more engaging, meaningful, and applicable to real-life situations. By integrating foreign language instruction with other subjects, educators can create a dynamic learning environment that fosters deep understanding, long-term retention, and increased motivation. This approach not only prepares students for future language proficiency but also equips them with essential cognitive and social skills necessary for success in an increasingly interconnected world.

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