

PROJECT-BASED-LEARNING IN L2 TEACHING

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Project-Based-Learning (PBL) refers to engaging students in accomplishing a project in real-world context through which students move towards developing knowledge and skills related to the project [1]. It is perceived as a learning method, as a philosophy or didactic conception, and as coherence of knowledge construction and research approach [2]. In L2 teaching, PBL is often engaged to promote intellectual and social development of students, for it requires them to actively participate in the process of acquiring knowledge and skills with limited teacher supervision [3].

The main idea of PBL usage in teaching a foreign language is to shift the learners' focus from a different type of low motivating exercises to active efforts in L2 acquisition through project work aimed at obtaining the end-product of purposeful communication in language environment.

The following general stages for successful project work implementation can be used: a) speculation (choice of project topic based on learning environment and group discussion); b) means of investigation (sources of information, methodology implementation, activities to take up, places to visit); c) final product (presentation, report, etc.); d) evaluation (assessment of the product from others, as well as self-assessment of project participants).

PBL is of considerable current use when teaching L2 learners from Austrian universities at language summer courses which traditionally take place at NTU "KhPI" [4]. The program of the courses provides not only a high level of learners' L2 acquisition, but also a significant enhancement of their intercultural competence when traveling about cities of Ukraine. The project work was implemented by students to describe the most outstanding events of their sojourn in Ukraine so that their L2 skills were properly developed, and the grounding for oral and written parts of the final exam was provided. All students' projects were checked and carefully considered (dates of checks at recent (2017) language summer courses: 13/07/2017 – project "Kyiv-1" (1-st week); 17/07/2017 – project "Lviv"; 20/07/2017 – project "Kyiv 2" (2-nd week); 27/07/2017 – project "Kharkiv").

References:

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