

THE ROLE OF A FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER IN SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

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Annotation

This article examines the critical role of foreign language teachers in specialized fields such as medicine, law, business, and tourism. It highlights seven main areas: teaching specialized vocabulary, improving professional communication, fostering cultural awareness, motivating learners, using technology, designing tailored materials, and preparing students for international exams. The article emphasizes that foreign language teachers play an essential part in helping students succeed professionally and globally.

Keywords: foreign language teaching, English for Specific Purposes (ESP), specialized vocabulary, professional communication, intercultural competence, motivation, technology in language learning, tailored courses, language exams, professional success

In today's interconnected and fast-changing world, the need for specialized knowledge in foreign languages is greater than ever before. Foreign language teachers play an essential role in preparing learners not only for everyday communication but also for professional tasks in fields such as medicine, law, engineering, business, IT, and tourism. This article explores the main responsibilities and contributions of foreign language teachers in special directions and explains why their work is crucial for learners' academic and professional success.

Teaching Specific Vocabulary and Terminology

Foreign language teachers help students acquire field-specific vocabulary that is essential for communication in professional settings. For example, in medical English, students need to learn terms like "surgery," "anesthesia," and "symptoms," while in business English they need expressions like "market analysis," "profit margin," and "negotiation." Without a strong grasp of this terminology, learners may struggle to understand professional texts, participate in meetings, or communicate with colleagues and clients.

Developing Professional Communication Skills

In addition to vocabulary, teachers help students develop communication strategies suitable for their fields. This includes writing emails, reports, and official

documents; giving presentations; participating in meetings; and interacting with clients or patients. Teachers often use role plays, discussions, and simulations to train learners in real-life professional situations.

Building Cultural and Intercultural Awareness

Effective communication in international environments requires an understanding of cultural norms and expectations. Foreign language teachers help students understand cultural differences, such as greetings, politeness strategies, eye contact, gestures, or negotiation styles. By teaching intercultural competence, they help learners avoid misunderstandings and build successful international relationships.

Motivating and Supporting Learners

Teachers play a crucial motivational role, especially when learners face difficulties or lack confidence. They encourage learners to keep practicing, offer constructive feedback, and help them overcome language anxiety. This emotional support can be especially important in special directions where learners fear making mistakes in high-stakes professional contexts.

Using Technology and Authentic Resources

Modern foreign language teaching increasingly involves the use of technology. Teachers select authentic materials such as videos, podcasts, online articles, and software related to the students' fields. They may also organize virtual exchanges, webinars, or invite guest speakers to give learners real-world exposure to their profession's language.

Designing Tailored Courses and Materials

Another key role is creating or adapting teaching materials to meet the needs of specific groups. Teachers design courses that focus on the most relevant language skills, tasks, and texts, making sure the content is practical and engaging. This personalized approach increases the efficiency and relevance of language learning.

Preparing for International Exams and Certifications

In some special directions, learners need official language certifications, such as IELTS, TOEFL, TOEIC, or specialized exams like OET for healthcare professionals. Foreign language teachers guide learners in preparing for these exams by providing practice tests, strategies, and feedback.

Conclusion

Foreign language teachers working in special directions have a complex and meaningful role. They prepare students to communicate confidently and competently in their professional fields, combining language instruction with intercultural training, practical skills, and emotional support. Their work not only improves learners' linguistic competence but also opens the door to career opportunities and international collaboration.

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