



## The Role of Foreign Languages in Legal Education

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**Annotation:** This article is about teaching foreign languages for ESP students, particularly in Law universities. It also discusses the importance of developing foreign language skills in this field. Moreover, the author gives some relevant situations where law personnel need language skills.

**Key words:** innovative technology, judicial branch, interaction, curriculum, assessment, motivation, language acquisition.

### Introduction

As we know, every sphere of social life has its trend of education. In order to be a good specialist every person should acquire deep knowledge in their specialty. The interesting feature of education is that it gives you certain type of knowledge and the same time it gives you some special type of knowledge of social life that could help to deal with other sphere of life. Particularly, one of the leading of public administration, legal education could be evident proof to it.

Legal education, virtually, prepares professional lawyers. Most of them work in public administration or administrative branches. So it can be accepted that the judicial branch is one of the important branches in public administration. Besides, the specialists of this sphere work in different organizations as a lawyer. So the representatives of this branch are directly connected with administration. Taking into consideration the important role of the lawyers in public administration and in other administrative bodies, great attention is being paid to their training.

In this case it should be admitted that there are some difficulties in teaching Foreign languages for ESP learners, particularly, those who study the legal profession. There is great need in skilled specialists who will work with the foreign partners. ESP teachers are aware of vital importance of teaching foreign languages effectively. Thus, great attention should be paid to



teaching foreign languages in training legal personnel. Regarding this, nowadays noticeable actions are being taken in our country to enhance the legal education.

There are a number of specialized legal personnel training institutions in our country. At these higher education institutions besides the legal subjects, social sciences are also taught in these institutions. One of these social sciences is foreign languages. Taking into consideration the importance of foreign languages today, special attention is being paid to that branch in these institutions.

Tashkent University of Law is considered as one of the main universities in Uzbekistan to train specialists with good knowledge of foreign languages. This task in the “university is carried out through the establishment of “The Department of Foreign Languages ” Most ESP teachers at this department have a legal background that helps reduce preparation time for designing lessons. As Joseph Gerada, director of studies at the English Plus Language Centre, Malta, feels that „English for law is an ESP course.

Any English language teacher who has ESP training and who is in possession of an EFL teaching should be permitted to teach English for law.“ learning from contemporary experience, English language teachers are knowledgeable in 2nd fields at this university. Students who are going to get Bachelor degree learn foreign languages for two semesters in university. Students learn foreign languages for 220 hours in accordance with a module system.

It proved that there is a good condition at the University for teaching foreign languages at this university. Due to modernization and improvement modern interactive methods are used by the teachers during the lessons. ESL instructors concentrate on language – fluency, accuracy and legal terms as well. Every student is involved in language learning and has a chance to practice the language in class. Organizing the educational process interactively is giving its positive results. Students are supposed to reach B2 level of proficiency by the end of the 4 year study.

Language classes have been organized completely differently for the last decade. Teachers changed their way of teaching from Grammar Translation method to Communicative Language Teaching Approach. Skill based tasks using different interactions patterns are in focus of teachers as they realize the necessity of language skills in this sphere.

Curriculum for teaching languages was refreshed to match CEFR requirements at this university. Thanks to these changes learners develop reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in and out of class. Strategies to develop these skills are introduced in the lessons, moreover, learners work on these skills independently doing project works.

One of the advantages of teaching writing skills is that it prepares learners for academic writing and correspondence in English, as well as creative writing, writing case briefs, writing reviews, letters, graph descriptions, etc.

There is a match between teaching and evaluation done throughout a semester. Assessment is carried out according to the rating system accepted by the Ministry of Higher Education. Students collect scores during the semester for each course out of 100%. The overall score will



consist of a continuous assessment of 20% (or participation assessment), a midterm assessment of 20%, and a final assessment of 60%.

Each language semester has its own assessment profile based on the learning outcomes of the course. Continuous and midterm assessment focus on formative assessment which should help students and teachers see their progress, strengths, areas for improvement and plan further actions. Criteria for participation are generic for all the courses. The fundamental goal of changes in ESP teaching world is to prepare specialists with transferable skills and specialist knowledge who can make treaties with foreign partners.

Having known that, most of entrepreneurs are looking for the personnel, who can speak foreign languages fluently and are responsible for their job. This can be seen from job interview questions these days. For example, “what foreign language do you know?” is a popular question among employers. As we are creating such a democratic country, every person should know their rights and commitments and should know how to protect themselves legally.

Nowadays, the lack of credible personnel and the ignorance of foreign legislation show the imperfection in some situations that are related to foreign investors. This sorts of things must be avoided. Today it is important as our country is becoming known in the world. Relationships between foreign countries are also improving.

Any treatment between any people is an inhabitant legal treatment. Such treatment leads to judicial results. That`s why when getting into such contact one should think the result of this treatment. Because it should be thought whose interests are going to be meant while getting into any contact from the very beginning.

According to Vivian G. Curran even elementary language courses can introduce students to another law world and another law culture. When offered in law schools, they also have highly practical advantages, such as being organized around the schedule of the law student, rather than around foreign language department schedules that may require more meetings per week, and at times that interfere with the law school curriculum.

Similarly, courses designed for law students can focus on developing pedagogical methods to speed up the rate of language acquisition in ways that language departments do not seek or even welcome since their curriculum is not designed to end after a maximum of two years. The idea is to have instructors who are both native speakers of the target language and also lawyers trained in both that country and the United States. If such an instructor cannot be found, then an educated native speaker will be preferable to an instructor trained in another legal system but not a native speaker. So long as there are good written materials for the course, any well-educated native speaker will have more than enough knowledge of the target society, legal institutions and vocabulary to teach the course effectively

In conclusion, the number of foreign partners is increasing in our country nowadays. As they are entering the country with economic interests both sides protecting treaties are to be signed.



These negotiations should be clearly learned and organized. So, deep knowledge of foreign language is demanded from the people who are making negotiations. To take everything into consideration future lawyer, in other words current students of their in statute, should learn foreign languages from now on. We should never forget the vitally important role of foreign language in creating democratic society.

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