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PEDAGOGICAL AUTHORITY AS A BASIC COMPONENT OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF A FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR'S AUTHORITY

Educational process organization is a complicated phenomenon that requires certain theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The optimal form of discipline and democracy development in teaching is realized by a specifically educated authoritative person. It has been proved that the information that comes from a person that is highly respected is adopted and memorized by students much better [2].

If to speak about definition of the notion of authority, Ukrainian pedagogical dictionary defines it as generally recognized human's importance, his influence on others, support of his ideas and actions by public opinion, respect and trust in his intelligence, will, morality [3]. The notion of pedagogical authority interested many scientists. Particularly, it was enlightened in works of A. Shyshko, M. Kondratiev, I. Andriadi, N. Levitov, I. Pyrohov, M. Suhomlynskyi and others.

As for the structure of pedagogical authority, we can define two main components: personal and professional one. Personal component includes teacher's appearance and behavior, tactfulness and other personal characteristics. Professional component includes pedagogical competence and professional tact [1]. By the notion of professional tact we understand the usage of creative approach by a teacher in the salvation of various problems that occur during educational process. As for the notion of pedagogical competence, A. Shyshko defines it as an integrated phenomenon of professional structure that reveals one's professionalism, formation of professionally important qualities and characteristics that are based on theoretical knowledge, personal experience, and determines readiness to perform pedagogically [4].

Although the importance of pedagogical authority is more or less realized by many teachers, the image of an authoritative pedagogue remains unclear. It often represents a hybridized phenomenon that combines features of dictatorship methods used widely in the USSR and new democratic values. For this reason it is important to define the qualities that a teacher should possess in terms of current social transformations.

In order to find out what kind of a foreign language can win authority among students and hereby organize a successful educational process, we decided to conduct a survey among the students of the College of Romance and Germanic Languages of the National University of Ostroh Academy. The aim of the survey was to find out what features should a teacher have in order to become authoritative, win respect among students and to make a general image of a perfect foreign language instructor according to the points of view of the students of the National University of Ostroh Academy.

Taking part in the survey, students were very active in describing qualities and characteristics of a perfect foreign language instructor. Making a general, integrated image of a perfect teacher, following aspects should be mentioned. On a personal level, students would like their teacher to be creative, flexible, communicative, easy-going, sociable and have a good sense of humor. Students really want him or her to be demanding and respectful to their private space. Speaking about his or her professional competence, respondents most of all appreciate pedagogical and communicative skills. The students expressed their preference to the democratic style of teaching. Perfect relations between a foreign language instructor and students, participants of the survey see as equal but at the same time they would prefer their teacher to demonstrate his or her leadership skills. The respondents agree on the importance of a teacher's personality in a successful educational process and majority of them believes that a perfect foreign language instructor must possess a solid professional competence and has a natural flare for teaching.

In conclusion, pedagogical authority is a very important component of a successful pedagogical process as without it current educational and social transformations would be hard to be conducted. Current changes require new specifications from a foreign language instructor that is why the personality of a teacher becomes an important factor in these flows. The true pedagogical authority is a complicated phenomenon that requires certain personal qualities and professional skills. It is a very important issue to be paid attention to as pedagogical authority ensures decent adoption of the material taught and effectiveness of educational process in general.

References:

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