

Секция «Иностранные языки и регионоведение»

Esp: using movies to enhance professional language skills

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It is becoming increasingly commonplace to integrate fiction movies into the ESL (EFL) curriculum or using documentaries in teaching English for Specific Purposes (ESP). This paper fills the gap as it provides a strong foundation for justifying the use of fiction movies as an educational tool in teaching professional English.

The presenter shares her practical experience and answers a few key questions. Firstly, how to choose an appropriate movie? To answer this question she provides guidance on designing a curriculum map and demonstrates how it helps consider which movies are relevant to a particular class.

Secondly, how to frame a fiction movie for ESP students? The presenter gives examples of discussion/reflection questions and other learning activities that spark off considerable debate and encourage the students to go beyond the content of the movie and delve deeply into professional issues.

Thirdly, how to create original teaching materials and how to involve students into the process? A thoughtfully selected fiction movie, suitable for the age and social and professional maturity of the students, inspires and motivates them both for further exploration of profession-related concepts and for creating teaching materials. The paper includes samples of such materials. The presenter outlines how the findings can apply to different contexts.

During the study two films were presented to four groups of Public Administration and Management students: "Other People's Money" and "Thank You for Smoking".

"Other People's Money" was first introduced by Prof. L. Zelenskaya to her students at MGIMO University as a part of the ESP course. A book with teaching materials on the film was published and has been widely used for second year students of English and above.

"Thank You for Smoking", critically looks at the phenomenon of lobbying. Last year the movie encouraged me to explore lobbying and lobbyism as it goes hand in hand with my major in Public Administration. Having watched and studied the film and its image of lobbying in the USA, I embarked on comparative analysis of the Russian, German and American lobbying systems. I explored how lobbying affects the legislative process in Russia and in the end my study developed into course paper. A book with teaching materials for "Thank You for Smoking" is currently being designed.

On the whole the project carried out at MGIMO University proves that movies can be successfully integrated into ESP curriculum. They make the teaching/learning process entertaining and enhance professional language skills.

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