

# Skimming Technique in Teaching a Professionally-Oriented Foreign Language at a Technical University

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**Abstract:** This article discusses the role and features of skimming in teaching a professionally-oriented foreign language. The author also claims that skimming is of great importance, being one of the means of human communicative activity. Here, special attention is paid to the issues of teaching a foreign language as a language of professional interaction, in which reading original literature is considered as the main source of obtaining the latest information of a special nature.

**Keywords:** professionally-oriented foreign language, skimming, professional competence.

## Introduction:

In the era of incredibly rapid development of science and technology, it is implied that a person must have a huge amount of knowledge, and for this it is necessary to process a considerable amount of information, in which, in order not to get lost, it is necessary to be able to separate the main from the secondary. Reading skills can help in solving this problem. Proficiency in a foreign language becomes a kind of key to the professional success of a modern specialist.

## Literature review:

When teaching a professionally-oriented foreign language, reading is of great importance, being one of the means of human communicative activity. The problem of teaching reading in non-linguistic universities has been studied by many authors (A. Ya. Bagrova, L. S. Bannikova, E. S. Davidenko), but its relevance has not been lost at present due to the fact that the level of proficiency in this skill by graduates of non-linguistic universities does not meet modern requirements and is not a fully professionally significant component of the training of a future specialist [1, 611].

At present, the classification of types of reading depending on the purpose of reading is generally accepted. According to the classification of prof. Folomkina S. K. [5, 68], the following 4 types of reading are distinguished by purpose: study, familiarization, browsing and search. Every competent specialist should be able to read in a foreign language in different ways:

1. be able to look through a book, magazine, article in order to determine whether it is of interest, that is, to determine whether it is "needed or not". Such reading is called skimming. If there is no interest, reading stops and readers move on to the next material;
2. in case of a positive assessment, the nature of reading changes, for example, searching for the necessary information is carried out, or the text is taken into account for more detailed reading later. Introductory and study reading may take place here. Skimming reading involves obtaining a general idea of the material being read. Its purpose is to obtain the most general idea of the topic and range of issues considered in the text.

## Results and discussions:

Skimming reading can be productively used for research purposes, for example, when working on the Internet and need to decide whether to download this article or not and decide whether to read it or not. The speed of skimming should not be lower than 500 words per minute, and the learning tasks should be aimed at developing the skills and abilities to navigate the logical and semantic structure of the text,

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the ability to extract and use the material of the source text in accordance with a specific communicative task.

The skill of skimming does not arise spontaneously; it requires regular training of a number of skills:

The ability to ignore unfamiliar units of speech that do not affect the understanding of the main content of the text. A complete understanding of the message is possible even in the presence of a certain number of unknown linguistic elements due to the redundancy of information in any speech message. [4, 1201]. It is very difficult to know all the foreign vocabulary from the text being read, especially if this text is a scientific article or a note from a professional field. The reader's task is to understand the essence of the message, omitting unfamiliar words, "not getting hung up" on them.

Extracting the necessary information from the entire volume of text, the ability to omit irrelevant information. When solving the task of getting a general idea of the information contained in the text and determining the usefulness of this text, the reader must be able to separate the main from the secondary. This skill is not directly related to a foreign language; it is also relevant for reading in the native language.

The ability to read and understand the text without mentally translating it into the native language. To develop this skill, a sufficient level of proficiency in a foreign language, a solid vocabulary and a decent knowledge of grammar are necessary. The reader should not think about the meaning of each word, but should understand the material from the first cursory reading.

Mastering the mechanisms of semantic compression of information. In the situation of a professionally oriented foreign language, semantic selectivity and, as a consequence, semantic compression become a key aspect of teaching and learning [1]. Training attention, the ability to distribute it, since while reading we simultaneously perceive the text, comprehend the content and remember the information.

The main feature of skimming is the rapid comprehension of the text, which occurs when the eyes move "from top to bottom" - from the title, author (abstract) - to subheadings or the beginning of paragraphs - to the conclusion. In this case, the meaning is extracted according to the principle "from the whole to the particular" - from the title of the article - paragraph - superphrasal units - to the sentence (and not vice versa, which occurs in exploratory reading).

Such work requires a certain level of knowledge, skills and abilities.

Here are some recommendations for mastering the technique of skimming:

1. Read the title of the article.
2. Look at the title elements: the title of the publication, the publisher, the year of publication, the series, the month, the issue, the author's last name, first name (patronymic), his position, his place of work, his academic degree, the country, the dedication.
3. Read the abstract - the contents of the article in a condensed form (if any); the introduction (formulation of the tasks); subheadings or other means of graphic articulation; the initial and final paragraphs of the article, where the main points are usually summarized; graphic and illustrative material (diagrams, drawings, tables, graphs, illustrations, photographs).

Skimming reading involves reading without referring to a dictionary or grammar reference. The lexical minimum of 2,500 words can be considered sufficient. Therefore, skimming reading training is conducted at the final stage of study at a non-linguistic university. It is important to know that due to the redundancy of information in any speech message, complete understanding is possible even in the presence of a certain number of unknown linguistic elements, while 70% of understanding is considered sufficient for practical purposes.

### **Conclusion:**

Thus, the ability to skim read is of great importance for a professionally oriented foreign language, since the main purpose of using this type of reading is to obtain information from a foreign source (in written and oral forms). This requires processing a large amount of information, where it is not the



literal translation word for word that is important, but the general understanding, highlighting the essence of the statement. All this is provided by skim reading. But for the sustainable development of this skill, regular training of a number of skills and regular practice of this type of activity are required.

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