PEDAGOGY

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Using peer teaching to improve the effectiveness of teaching synonyms in translation-oriented foreign-language instruction

Knowledge of synonyms in a foreign language (L2) and the ability to collect information about them form an essential part of the translator's professional competence. It has been observed that the approach to working with L2 synonyms used by translation students seems to have a number of shortcomings and hinders the successful acquisition of these lexical items. We developed a learning procedure based on peer teaching which was used to teach L2 synonyms to 3rd- and 4th-year full-time translation students. The findings suggest that peer teaching offers a number of significant benefits in terms of the acquisition and practice of the skills needed to work with synonyms, thereby contributing to better knowledge retention and learners' increased confidence in the ability to use L2 synonyms correctly. The findings also revealed some aspects which require further consideration. Overall, the study provides a theoretical basis for the use of peer teaching to improve the effectiveness of teaching L2 synonyms in translation-oriented foreign language instruction and offers a useful tool for achieving the above-mentioned goal.

Key words: translation, translation-oriented foreign language teaching, synonyms, peer teaching.

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