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Theoretical analysis of group dynamics in the context of foreign language learning

Theoretical principles of group dynamics in the context of foreign language learning have been examined in this article. Characteristics of a group and dynamic group processes significantly influence students' success or failure in learning a foreign language. Therefore, it is important for the teachers and instructors to be aware of the principles of group dynamics.

Groups can be motivating factors while learning a foreign language and also appear to be one of the means of a psychological support, since leaning a language is quite slow and prolonged process and a group can provide endurance and help in difficult situations. Therefore, the aim of this article is to theoretically analyze the effectiveness of group dynamics while learning a foreign language.

The analysis shows that group dynamics is characterized by group cohesiveness, group roles, group aims and group size. An important factor which influences group dynamics is a leader (an instructor or one student). Talking about the size of a group, the instructor should divide students according to a particular type of a task, defining the amount of students for qualitative task completion. The group aims are achieved with a help of various strategies. Students might use competing, cooperative or individual structure. The most efficient structure in learning a foreign language is cooperative one, since in this way inner motivation of a student is maintained and it reduces anxiety, increases task involvement, positive emotional atmosphere and attitude to a subject of learning, cohesiveness between peers and an instructor. There are fixed set of roles in each group and it is vital to give students an opportunity to change them regularly, taking unusual ones and in such a manner, the effectiveness of group members will increase.

Cohesiveness of a group is an important principle and work in a group allows student to cluster and reduce anxiety.

***Key words:** group dynamics, group cohesiveness, group roles and size of a group, group leader.*