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SWOT analysis as a means of critical thinking skills development of IT students in professional English class

This article focuses on theoretical and practical issues of using SWOT analysis as a means of critical thinking skills development of IT students at the professional English language lessons. The authors emphasize the importance of close-knit teaching of critical thinking skills and SWOT analysis that form the core of an English lesson for future IT specialists. Currently, the problem of developing critical thinking of students and schoolchildren is relevant, since developing thinking means enhancing the ability to think. The use of SWOT analysis gives an opportunity to build learners' skills and abilities to process and sort out necessary information, find strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats that arise in the workplace. Thanks to a person's competence to think "outside the box", new ways of solving problems will be revealed, difficult tasks will be solved, discoveries will be made, inventions will appear. The research is based on the works by well-known home and foreign methodologists studying the issues of critical thinking.

Keywords: SWOT analysis, critical thinking, IT students, professional English, higher education, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, problem solving.

Introduction

Nowadays a rather significant part of Kazakhstani non-linguistic University students have difficulties in expressing their thoughts using English because of the text-based teaching tradition throughout the school period. School students learn English grammar and vocabulary items, but they didn't acquire well what they are learning. They are developing memory faculties, but not reflective thinking ones. Consequently, our task is to study the issues dealing with critical thoughts, providing ideas, solving problems, etc.

The methodologist, Nikolaeva, argues that there is a huge number of disadvantages of traditional education. Firstly, this is the minimum level of student activity. Secondly, it is quite complicated for many students with traditional educational background to perceive new information without additional techniques (pictures, photos, video presentations). It is difficult for them to assimilate the material simply by reading and auding. Thirdly, it is the lack of new skills learned independently. In English class with traditional teaching, students are not always willing to express an opinion on matters under discussion, and seldom share their views in writing and in person. Fourth, teamwork is not a usual technique to be used in class. For full-fledged development, students need to be involved in every activity at the lesson and shouldn't feel embarrassed to express their own opinions, share language experience with others, think critically about others' points of view and correctly make comments. Lack of the above-mentioned competencies negatively affects communication skills [1, 2].

Therefore, research problem lies in traditional methods of teaching which contribute insufficiently to the advancement of critical thinking skills of non-linguistic university students requiring new approaches to betterment of critical mindset.

The relevance of this paper accounts for the shortage of knowledge about the problem related to improving students' critical thinking faculties.

The aim of this research is to develop a set of exercises on the base of SWOT analysis technique to build critical thinking skills of IT students in professional English classes**.**

The essence and content of SWOT analysis

One of the methods which can assist university students to improve critical thinking skills is a SWOT analysis. It is an analytical tool that emphasizes the evaluation of internal and external factors being essential to the success of any organization, platform, website, product, etc.

Swot analysis is a powerful critical-thinking technique that should be applied to all areas of a company including financial, marketing, human resources, operations, and information technologies.

It was Albert Humphrey who created SWOT analysis in the sixties of the 20th century. Its structure consists of four components: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Each of these components plays an important role in the proper planning of the organization growth. Simultaneous analysis of the factors that make up the structure of SWOT technique allows to define what you have achieved so far, and what is your next step to take [3].

Richard believes that critical thinking has a set of features lying on the basis of Swot analysis that are present in "strong critical thinkers" suggested by Rutherford (2018):

- curiosity toward a variety of issues;
- desire to be well-informed and a lifelong learner;
- awareness of situations when critical thinking may be beneficial;
- confidence in their own reasoning skills;
- receptive to learning from people with viewpoints that differ from their own;
- openness to a variety of beliefs and opinions;
- objective and fair when analyzing arguments and reasoning;
- recognition of their own biases and prejudices that may cloud their judgment;
- reservation of judgment until they have examined all of the facts;
- willingness to reevaluate their beliefs and adjust or abandon them if they are presented with evidence that justifies it [4].

Explaining four components we should admit that strengths are responsible for characteristics of the product that give it an advantage over others. The questions such as "What does the organization, platform, product, website, or application do exceptionally well?", "What advantages does it have?" and "What do customers identify as its strengths?" can help university students to reflect on the positive sides of the organization. As the samples, it can be a strong brand, loyal customer base, a strong balance sheet, unique technology, high quality, etc [5, 6].

As for weaknesses, it's product properties having a disadvantage related to others. The drawbacks limit the organization from performing at its optimum level. It's areas where the organization needs to improve in order to stay competitive. By analogy with the analysis of strengths, when studying weaknesses, one can pose the following questions: "What could the platform, product, website, or app do better?", "What is it criticized for or receives complaints?", "Where is it vulnerable?", and "What are its competitors?". For example, it can be a weak brand, staff shortage, lack of sales training, high levels of debt, etc [5, 6].

Regarding the third component, opportunities are elements in the environment that the product could be exploited to its advantage. Opportunities relate to favorable external factors which could give an organization a competitive advantage. Since there are countless ways to discover new opportunities, try to start by asking yourself the following questions: "What are market fluctuations or needs?", "What are the new trends?", and "Which opportunities are good at this time?". For instance, demographics, promotion, innovation, partnerships, etc. [5, 6]

Threats are environmental elements that could cause trouble for the product. In other words, it's external factors that can be harmful to the organization. It could be anything from a global pandemic to a changing competitive environment. There are a few questions that can assist you to identify threats: "What changes in the industry are a cause for concern?", "What new market trends are on the horizon?", and "What are our competitors superior to us in?". Such samples as the increase of competition, uncertain economic environment, or undercutting so heavily on price can make your organization vulnerable [5, 6].

Besides this, one of the most popular methods of SWOT analysis is a visual representation of strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This format is called a SWOT matrix (Fig. 1). It is usually an area of four squares that together form one large square.

The SWOT matrix is great for collecting information and documenting the issues that enable to do the right decision-making. This matrix can not only be referenced, but can also be used to visualize patterns. Below is an example of the Kazakh clothing brand "Qazaq Republic" that will give you an idea of how to start the analysis yourself [7].

Figure 1. Diagram of the SWOT matrix (complied by the authors)

There are advantages of the SWOT matrix as a method of strategic analysis:

1) Simplicity and logical interconnection of the components of the SWOT matrix;

2) A variety of options and areas of application of SWOT analysis;

3) A wide range of phenomena, factors, aspects, functional areas of activity that SWOT can cover;

4) A convenient scheme for researching the strengths and weaknesses of the organization, opportunities, and threats; for evaluating the resources and competencies of the company;

5) For IT students, SWOT analysis offers a logical scheme on the basis of which discussions can be systematically conducted, the need for changes discussed, alternative options for strategic decision-making considered;

6) SWOT analysis allows us to draw conclusions about how the company's current strategy corresponds to changes in the environment [8].

While critical thinking may be commonly understood as problem solving, or thinking that is "outside the box", the key components to any such thinking are, in synthesis, reasoning and making wise decisions. These components underpin the use of critical thinking with regard to teaching SWOT in professional English classes [9].

As for definition, critical thinking is a general term that characterizes a wide spectrum of cognitive abilities and intellectual aptitude necessary for effective recognition, analysis and evaluation of arguments and correct statements, for finding and overcoming personal prejudices, formulation and presentation of convincing reasons in support of the conclusion, as well as for rational and reasonable decisions about what to believe and what to do [10].

Critical thinking — the ability to question any information: both the generally accepted point of view and their own beliefs. Critical judgement involves the ability to separate reliable sources of information from fakes and make informed decisions.

SWOT analysis as means of critical mind development:

- A sober assessment of information and its interpretation.
- Unbiased analysis of the situation, arguments, beliefs.
- The study of the phenomenon from different positions and approaches.
- Formation of conclusions with qualitative justification.
- Independence in decision-making.
- Reflection on stereotypes and motives.
- The correct formulation of questions without ignoring inconvenient ones.
- Search for reliable, alternative sources.
- A clear understanding of the problem, a clear definition of terms and concepts.
- Building logical chains without departing from the main topic.
- Separation of emotions from the essence of phenomena.
- Comparison, generalization, classification.
- Attentive listening to opponents.

- Ability to formulate a problem, isolating contradictions.

Critical thinking is an adventure. Becoming mentally fit is hard work. And thinking independently can be a little scary at times. But in the end you'll be a smarter, stronger, more confident thinker.

As Martin Luther King Jr said: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically", in a critical thinking course, students learn a variety of skills that can greatly improve their classroom performance [11]. These skills include:

1. Analysis. The ability to find connections between statements, questions, arguments.

2. Evaluation. The ability to assess the reliability of statements, the persuasiveness of arguments.

3. Explanation (argumentation). The ability to explain the course of their thoughts / method, defend their conclusions.

4. Deduction of hypotheses (decision planning). The ability to form hypotheses and draw conclusions themselves, to detect a lack of information.

5. Self-regulation (control). Reflection, self-examination and correction.

6. Problem Solving. Analysis of the situation, search for the cause of the problem, its formulation and finding solutions.

7. Decision making. The choice that we make in the process, preferring something and rejecting something at each of the key stages.

Critical thinking let us achieve the personal empowerment and enrichment that result from learning to use your mind to its fullest potential.

Critical thinking is what a university education is all about. In many high schools, the emphasis tends to be on "lower-order thinking (Lots)." Students are simply expected to passively absorb information and then repeat it back on tests. In university, by contrast, the emphasis is on fostering "higher-order thinking (Hots)": the active, intelligent evaluation of ideas and information. This doesn't mean that factual information and rote learning are ignored in university. But it is not the main goal of university education to teach students what to think. The main goal is to teach students how to think – that is, how to become independent, self-directed thinkers and learners.

Put it somewhat differently, critical thinking is disciplined thinking governed by clear intellectual standards. The most important of these intellectual standards are clarity, precision, accuracy, relevance, consistency, logical correctness, completeness, and fairness.

When students first enter university, they are sometimes surprised to discover that their professors seem less interested in how they got their beliefs than whether those beliefs can withstand critical scrutiny. In university the focus is on higher-order thinking skills: the active, intelligent evaluation of ideas and information. For this reason critical thinking plays a vital role throughout the university curriculum [12].

There are many situations outside the classroom and the workplace when critical thinking is useful. Let's dwell upon three examples of how it works.

First, critical thinking can prevent us from making bad judgments for ourselves. We have all made decisions about relationships, personal behavior, relationships with other people, and other things that we afterwards discovered were incredibly ill-informed or irrational. By educating us to consider significant life decisions more carefully, rationally, and logically, critical thinking can assist us in avoiding such errors.

Secondly, encouraging democratic procedures requires critical thinking to be successful. In a democracy, "we the people" truly do have the final say in who rules and for what reasons, despite what cynics may claim. Therefore, it is crucial that citizens' decisions are as thoughtful and well-informed as possible. Poor critical thinking is primarily to blame for many of today's most pressing societal issues, such as environmental degradation, nuclear proliferation, religious and racial intolerance, deteriorating inner city areas, failing schools, and rising health-care expenditures. Albert Einstein once remarked, "The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the level of thinking we were at when we created them".

Third, learning critical thinking is worthwhile for its own purpose because of the potential benefits it has for improving our quality of life. The fact that most people accept what they are often told is one of the most fundamental truths of the human experience. For the most of recorded history, beliefs such as the earth's center of the universe, disease being caused by demons, the justness of slavery, and the inferiority of women to males were all taken for granted. Honest and brave pursuit of critical thinking can assist in releasing us from the unquestioned presumptions and prejudices of our society and upbringing.

It enables us to step back from the dominant cultural practices and views and consider, "This is what I've been taught, but is it true? In other words, critical thinking enables us to live autonomous, "examined"

lives. The ultimate aim of a liberal arts education is, as the name suggests, personal liberty. No other benefits of liberal education can compete with its greatest reward".

Experimental

There is a number of effective exercises based on SWOT analysis in order to develop critical thinking in English. That sort of exercises are performed strictly in pairs, as this allows students to develop mental activity, fluency of speech, as well as skills of teamwork and reflection. They are the essence of critical thinking.

To begin with, students are invited to make a project in pairs, they might analyze any Kazakhstani online service, product, platform, or website for government institutions, business, education, transport system or healthcare, etc. Format of this project is "PowerPoint" presentation or Canva. For instance, it can be:

1) Payment apps: Rakhmet, Senim, etc.

2) Educational platforms: soyle.kz, kaz-tili.kz, etc.

3) Financial institution platform: Kaspi.kz, Halyk.kz, etc.

4) Products: Qazaq Republic, sabyrzhanailin, adili.kz, etc.

For this project we must teach them how to analyze Kazakhstani online services, products, platforms, or websites from different perspectives, and demonstrate them how to eliminate threats. In other words, after analysis students should provide a business plan that includes solutions for threats and recommendations for working with negative sides of Kazakhstani online services, products, platforms, or websites. So, we can provide plethora of exercises in order to help them to achieve positive results displaying successful project completion. There are various activities for analysis.

Strengths:

Exercise 1. In pairs each student chooses one step to work individually and one step to work on together. Afterwards, they should briefly explain their part to the partner and get ready to answer partner's questions; they share their opinions on the common part. There are three parts which can help them to analyze strengths:

1) Identify "strategic advantage factors". These are the keys to competitive advantage in an industry, such as: marketing (e.g. efficient and effective market research or an efficient and effective sales force); research and development (such as process or product design, or scientist capabilities); production and operations management (including efficient inventory of control systems or the ability to control costs); corporate human resources and management practices (getting and keeping top-quality employees, good relationships with the government, controlling labor costs); and finance and accounting management.

2) Analysis. Identifying the attributes of the strategic factors that are most critical for success, followed by comparative assessments based on three different standards: historical comparisons with the company's past achievements; competitive comparisons with direct and indirect competitors.

Watch the different advertising campaigns to see how companies portray their strengths and see how your platform can do the same thing with the product/service.

Regardless of the size of the business, one of the strengths should always be reliability and quality. How well is it considered in the chosen platform?

What is the feedback that customers/clients are giving? Are they all saying the same thing, highlight one aspect of the platform's service? This is a great strength.

Exercise 2.

Activity 1: In your SWOT pair, choose 8-10 criteria from the list to analyze strengths of your pair's platform.

Activity 2: Delegate equal number of criteria per member.

Activity 3: Each member should answer their questions in terms of design, organization, user-friendliness and content.

Activity 4: Share your answers

These are criteria examples:

- Advantages of proposition.

- Capabilities.

- Competitive advantages.

- Resources, assets, people.

- Experience, knowledge, data.

- Financial reserves, likely returns.

- Marketing - reach, distribution, awareness.
- Innovative aspects.
- Location and geographical position
- Price, value, quality.
- Accreditations, qualifications, certifications.
- Processes, systems, IT, communications [6].

Weaknesses:

Exercise1. In their SWOT teamwork students discuss how each of the following weaknesses might affect their company. They should provide examples substantiating what effect they will have on the design, organization, user-friendliness and content of the platform (Fig. 2).
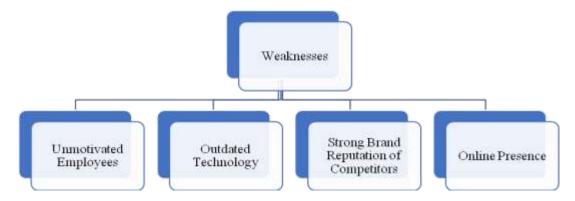

Figure 2. Diagram of weaknesses in the SWOT analysis.

Exercise 2.

1. In their SWOT group, students delegate more than two questions per member.

2. Each member should answer their questions from the standpoint of design, organization, user-friendliness and content.

3. They share your answers in the group chat.

Below is a set of questions prepared to guide the discussions of the groups:

- What do your customers dislike about your company/website/product(s)?
- What problems or complaints are often mentioned in your negative reviews?
- Why do your customers cancel or churn?
- What could your company do better?
- What are your most negative brand attributes?
- What are the biggest obstacles/challenges in your current sales funnel?
- What resources do your competitors have that you do not?
- Compare your company's website with that of others to identify what it lacks [6].

Opportunities:

Activity 1.

Students discuss three questions in their SWOT groups:

1) Are opportunities related to positive or negative external factors? Opportunities are positive, external factors that organizations or ventures can take advantage of (Bush, 2016).

2) Can we control opportunities? Mostly, you are not able to control or create them, but you can find them. According to Farooq "one should have a bird-eye view to what might happen in the coming time" (2020).

3) What are the benefits of identifying opportunities? Opportunities are worth identifying in both your own and others' businesses, in either way they provide information useful to planning. Recognizing the various opportunities that a company faces will help you to act on and leverage them (which can increase the success of your own organization or venture), or further understand the situations that other businesses are facing (Bush, 2016) [6].

Activity 2.

1) In their SWOT group, students choose 8-10 questions from the list.

2) They should delegate more than two questions per member.

3) Each member should answer their questions in terms of design, organization, user-friendliness, and content.

4) They share answers in MS Teams chat.

The following questions are those which the authors consider it useful to address:

- What are market fluctuations/needs?
- What are the new trends?
- Which opportunities are good at this period of time?
- What new opportunities in the market are becoming available?
- How is the market changing?
- What opportunities did we pass, but are still available?
- What would be the ideal opportunity for us?
- What is the competition ignoring that we can play in our favor?
- What trends might positively affect our industry?
- Is there a talented employee available that we could hire?
- Is there a need in the industry that we're not meeting, but could?
- Can we package our products/services differently and set a higher price?
- Do our competitors have any weaknesses that we could take advantage of?
- Is our target market changing in a way that could help us?
- Is there a niche market that we're not currently targeting?
- Do our customers ever ask for something that we don't offer, but could offer?
- Could we poach our competitors' customers by offering something that they don't have [5]

Threats:

Activity 1.

Students discuss three questions in their SWOT groups:

1) List down the things that might hinder your platform/product/website/app development?

2) What are the obstacles in achieving your goals?

3) What unexpected factors can affect your work?

Activity 2.

1) In their SWOT group, students choose 8-10 questions from the list.

2) They should delegate more than two questions per member.

3) Each member should answer their questions from the perspective of design, organization, user-friendliness, and content.

4) They share answers in MS Teams chat.

Questions to be posed in group work related to threats:

- What obstacles do we face?
- Could any of our weaknesses prevent our unit from meeting our goals?
- Who and/or what might cause us problems in the future? How?
- Are there any standards, policies, and/or legislation changing that might negatively impact us?
- Are we competing with others to provide service?
- Are there changes in the field or in technology that could threaten the success?
- Is there anyone who's not currently a direct competitor, but could become one soon?
- Are employees happy and supported, or could they easily be poached?
- Is the website secure, or do we run the risk of being hacked?
- Are competitors planning on expanding or offering new products soon?
- Is target marketing shrinking?
- What are the negative aspects in the current market?
- Are there potential competitors who will be competitive in near future?
- What are the obstacles you are facing in performing current mission?
- Have you done anything which may lead to a possible lawsuit?
- Are the government regulations going to affect you?
- What are the chances of a natural disaster affecting your production?
- Will political instability hurt you? [5].

Being involved in activities of this kind university students in the field of information technologies will improve vitally significant skills for becoming a competitive specialist and expert. That type of exercises develops:

- argumentation;
- search and analysis of qualitative information;
- logic;
- systems thinking ;
- ability to ask and answer questions;
- ability to work independently;
- ability to work in pairs.

Furthermore, after explaining SWOT analysis and practicing the above-mentioned training exercises, IT students make conclusion providing business plan on how to work with weaknesses and threats of any Kazakhstani online services, products, platforms, or websites. Typically, the university students are involved in discussions on particular problems and work out solutions or recommendations through their active group work.

To summarize, according to Saidaliyeva, SWOT analysis technique can help students to improve such essential faculties as [9]:

1) Language learning and intercultural skills.

2) Communication skills: written, oral and non-verbal.

3) Critical thinking skills. Reflective learning abilities.

4) Organizational skills and professional knowledge.

5) Collaborative learning and team-working skills.

6) Life-long learning habit of the mind and its ability to solve problems.

7) Managerial and workplace communication skills such as holding a meeting, describing a project, solving a problem, negotiating a contract, giving a presentation, etc.

The approach under discussion teaches university students to analyze, think critically and evaluate the situation effectively. The use of this method enables to develop all four types of speech activity (listening, reading, writing, and speaking) let alone presentation skills. This method provides the training of highly qualified specialists in near future for Kazakhstani economy.

Results and Discussion

The above-mentioned series of exercises are aimed at improving the critical thinking skills of students majoring in IT field. Doing these exercises, students will also be asked to develop their own arguments on particular topics or issues.

The paper represents the main skills that will be developed by performing SWOT analysis assignments (Fig. 3). During the application of SWOT analysis students analyze data and initial information. By asking thoughtful questions students examine the data obtained and draw their own conclusion. It is human tendency to pay attention only to what is immediately obvious, and to neglect the hidden complexities that exist in most situations, because we sometimes have lack of time, many people do not want to spend time for thinking. Judgement, Questioning evidence, Scepticism let our students not automatically take everything we hear, read or see at face value but develop the ability to make considered decisions and come to sensible conclusions.
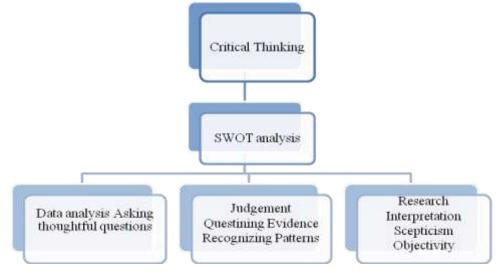

Figure 3. Diagram of critical thinking related to the SWOT analysis.

When students practice their thinking skills, they will become selective and critically engaged specialists, produce better work by themselves, use power of knowledge for one's own benefit and express ideas more clearly and effectively. In addition, they will manage their own time and attention effectively, while becoming more aware of the ways in which thinking itself tends to be biased or flawed. Furthermore, students will be more confident and critically engaged user of digital information systems, ranging from search engines to websites to social media and beyond. As a discipline, critical thinking traditionally places a great deal of emphasis on these ideas, in connection with learning to engage critically with arguments and explanations: with the ways in which both you and others seek to explain how things come to be the way they are, and why certain beliefs and courses of action are reasonable.

Conclusions

The use of SWOT analysis for the development of critical thinking in English class allows a University teacher to build learners' skills and abilities to process and sort out necessary information, find strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, analyze and systematize the obtained data, supply possible solutions to the problems that arise in the workplace. In the future, a person with analytical thinking is able to think extraordinary even in the most critical situations, which allows interpreting the data obtained and using it to make non-standard decisions, finding new ways and approaches to solving problems.

The development of critical thinking leads to a high motivation of students for the educational process, an increase in mental capabilities, flexibility of thinking, its switching from one type to another, the development of the ability to independently design, build concepts and operate with them skillfully.

The use of SWOT analysis enhances the cognitive activity of learners. Students learn more thoughtfully, retain ideas in memory longer, work meaningfully with new material, practice to express their own opinion, back it up with facts, and think independently. Critical judgement is generated by observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.

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SWOT-талдауы кәсіби ағылшын тілі сабақтарында IT-студенттерінің сыни ойлау дағдыларын дамыту құралы ретінде

Мақала IT мамандығы студенттерінің кәсіби ағылшын тілі сабақтарында сыни тұрғыдан ойлау дағдыларын дамыту құралы ретінде SWOT-талдауын қолданудың теориялық және практикалық мәселелеріне арналған. Авторлар болашақ IT мамандары үшін ағылшын тілі сабағының негізін құрайтын сыни тұрғыдан ойлау дағдылары мен SWOT-талдауы бойынша біртұтас оқытудың маңыздылығын атап көрсеткен. Қазіргі уақытта бақылау, тәжірибе, рефлексия, пайымдау және тілдесім негізінде орын алатын білім алушылардың сыни тұрғыдан ойлау құзыретін дамыту өзекті мәселе болып саналады. SWOT-талдауын қолдану оқушылардың қажетті ақпаратты өңдеу және сұрыптау, күшті және әлсіз жақтарын, жұмыс орнында туындайтын мүмкіндіктер мен қауіптерді табу дағдылары мен біліктерін дамытуға мүмкіндік береді. Адамның қалыптан тыс ерекше ойлау қабілетінің арқасында мәселелерді шешудің жаңа әдіс-тәсілдері табылады, күрделі міндеттер шешіледі, жаңалықтар ашылады, сөйтіп өнертабыстар пайда болады. Зерттеу сыни тұрғыдан ойлау мәселелерін зерделеп жүрген танымал отандық және шетелдік әдіскерлердің жұмыстарына негізделген.

Кілт сөздер: SWOT-талдау, сыни тұрғыдан ойлау, IT-студенттері, кәсіби ағылшын тілі, жоғары білім, күшті және әлсіз жақтар, мүмкіндіктер, қауіптер, мәселелерді шешу.

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SWOT-анализ как средство развития навыков критического мышления у студентов IT на занятиях по профессиональному английскому языку

Статья посвящена теоретическим и практическим вопросам использования SWOT-анализа как средства развития навыков критического мышления у студентов специальности IT на уроках профессионального английского языка. Авторы подчеркивают важность обучения навыкам критического мышления и SWOT-анализу, которые составляют основу урока английского языка для будущих IT-специалистов. В настоящее время проблема развития критического мышления студентов и школьников является актуальной, поскольку развитие мышления означает развитие способности мыслить. Использование SWOT-анализа дает возможность развить у учащихся навыки и умения обрабатывать и сортировать необходимую информацию, находить сильные и слабые стороны, возможности и угрозы, возникающие на рабочем месте. Благодаря способности человека мыслить нестандартно, раскрываются новые способы решения проблем, решаются сложные задачи, делаются открытия, появляются изобретения. Исследование основано на работах известных отечественных и зарубежных методистов, изучающих вопросы критического мышления.

Ключевые слова: SWOT-анализ, критическое мышление, IT-студенты, профессиональный английский, высшее образование, сильные и слабые стороны, возможности, угрозы, решение проблем.

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