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COLLABORATION WITH THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN THE DIRECTION OF TEACHING AND PROMOTION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Introduction. Azerbaijani universities closely cooperate with cultural representations of foreign organizations in our country to improve students' knowledge of the English language, and to learn new methods of English language teaching for teaching staff. It should be noted that those organizations are also interested in cooperation with our universities in terms of promoting the English language. Thus, this cooperation includes not only the promotion of the English language, but also the promotion of the history and culture of a country.

British Council Azerbaijan (BC) is one of the organizations that functions in Azerbaijan. It is an international organization, closely cooperates with universities and successfully implements joint projects.

Main part. We would like to specially mention the "Intensive teaching of English" project with the support of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The main goal of the project is to create a modern professional development system for English language teachers that reflects the latest achievements in the field of teaching, to apply interactive learning methods and new pedagogical technologies in teaching English.

Azerbaijan English Language Teachers Association (AzETA) was founded in 2003 on the initiative of the British Council, and the organization has its head office in Baku and branches in 8 regions. Touching on the importance of improving the teaching of foreign languages in terms of the integration of Azerbaijan into the world community and the expansion of international cooperation, the Minister of Education gives effective results of applying the methods successfully used in international practice in our country.

In that year, education talked about the existing problems in the field of teaching foreign languages in the general education schools of our country and the work done to solve them. From the 2008—2009 school year, the "Intensive teaching of English" project was implemented in 7 pilot schools in Baku.

On June 16, an event was held at the Ministry of Education on the work done, achievements and future tasks under the "Intensive Teaching of English" project. At the meeting held within the framework of this project, Minister Misir Mardanov said: "The project covers 189 classes and 5352 students, and informed about new curricula, programs and defined textbooks prepared for intensive teaching of English in schools. Stating that the professional level and methodical skills of 120 teachers from 7 pilot schools were increased in the training seminars held by the trainers of the British Council for the purpose of training teachers who will teach English intensively, the Minister of Education emphasized the need to improve the quality of teaching in all education institutions and schools where English is taught. Taking this factor into account, Misir Mardanov said that it is planned to increase the number of schools to 20 where English is taught intensively from the next education year.

Director of the British Council for Azerbaijan, Paul Clementson, expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Education Misir Mardanov for the successful implementation of the "Intensive English Language Teaching" project. Emphasizing that the Ministry of Education attaches special importance to joint cooperation, P. Klementson talked about the main directions of the activities of the organization he leads and noted that joint projects serve the development of relations between our peoples. Expressing his views on the importance of knowing English to succeed in the fields of education and business in the international world, and the rapid increase in the number of people using the English language in the world, the director of the British Council for Azerbaijan said that the work done in the direction of intensive teaching of the English language in Azerbaijan has yielded positive results.

Gülshan Huseynova, program manager of the British Council, who mentioned the measures implemented within the framework of the "Intensive English Language Teaching" project, listed the facts about the results of the work done and, in addition to the national textbooks, the textbook sets published by the University of Cambridge and acceptable for Azerbaijan (the textbook for the student, workbook, teacher's materials, CD, audio materials and didactic materials) are used. Gulshan Huseynova emphasized that last year the classes of 85 teachers of pilot schools in I and VII classes were observed by British Council employees.

In 2011, the program manager of the British Council, who said that 4 leading trainers of the project participated in intensive training at Warwick University of Great Britain, drew attention to the final results of the general monitoring of the project. Gulshan Huseynova compared the number of hours allocated to English language teaching in Azerbaijan with relevant indicators in other countries and made a number of relevant suggestions to increase the efficiency of the project. British Council Azerbaijan has been operating in Azerbaijan for 30 years. Its purpose is to build trust and mutual understanding between the peoples of the world. Through our programs, we enable hundreds of millions of people around the world to learn about British culture and creativity.

Courses are provided that feature a method of learning English in a fun way. Also, the British Council organizes many projects to support English language learners and teachers in Azerbaijan. We implement our English teaching programs through training sessions, classes in schools, and multimedia. Their aim is to improve the English language skills of learners and teachers as well as to offer new perspectives [1].

One of the ATMs cooperating with BC is UNEC. In 2022, the “UNEC Language Center” (ULC) Language Center was opened at UNEC. The head of this Center is associate professor Aysel Khalilova. UNEC Rector Professor Adalat Muradov, British Council Country Director Nargiz Hajiyeva, South Caucasus Examinations Manager Nargiz Akbarova and university employees took part in the opening of the center.

Rector Adalat Muradov informed the guests about the activity of the center as well as foreign language teaching at the university. He said that “General English”, “Business English”, “Business Correspondence”, “Academic English” and “IELTS” courses will be organized at ULC by UNEC professional teachers. As a result, a cooperation agreement was signed between UNEC and “British Council”. According to the agreement, as an official IELTS partner, UNEC will also organize IELTS exams by the British Council. Students can sign up for the exam by registering at the Language Center. IELTS tests are planned to be held at the center on weekends [2].

One of the most important competencies of students in higher pedagogical education is mastering the English language in a good way. British Council Azerbaijan organizes many projects to support English language learners and teachers [3].

Conclusion. So, the organization implements our English teaching programs through training sessions, classes, and multimedia. There are prospects for the cooperation of ATMs with the British Council in terms of improving the English language skills of learners as well as teachers, and offering new perspectives.

References

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