The relationship between students' learning strategies and speaking performance in English (an experimental approach)

© N.N. Nikolaeva

Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Moscow, 105005, Russia

The article presents the results of an experimental research carried out among third and fourth year students of the technical specializations. It aims at seeking a relationship between learning strategies employed by the undergraduates and their speaking performance. P. Oxford's taxonomy of language learning strategies and the "Strategy Inventory for Language Learning" (SILL) were used as the bases for the research. The data were correlated with the overall end-of-the-term/year results of the oral examination. The results show that some language learning strategies might go in pair with better speaking performance, but there is much individual variation in this respect. The findings, their evaluation as well as psycholinguistic interpretation can be used to facilitate the language learning process and to boost each student's learning efficiency.

Keywords: training methods, speaking performance improvement, the English language, language learning strategy, Strategy Inventory for Language Learning (SILL).

REFERENCES

- [1] Stern H.H. What can we learn from the good language learner? *Canadian Modern Language Review*, 1975, no. 31, pp. 304–318.
- [2] O'Malley J.M., Chamot A.U., Stewner-Manzanares G., Kupper L., Russo R.P. Learning strategies used by beginning and intermediate ESL students. *Language Learning*, 1985, no. 35, pp. 21–46.
- [3] Oxford R.L. Language Learning Strategies: What Every Teacher Should Know. New York, 1990, 102 p.
- [4] Rubin J. Learner strategies: Theoretical assumptions, research history, and typology. *Learner strategies in language learning*. Wenden A.L., Rubin J., eds. Englewood Cliffs, NJ, Prentice Hall, 1999, pp. 15–30.
- [5] Yang N.D. Effective awareness-raising in language learning strategy training. *The annual meeting of the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages*. Long Beach, CA, USA, 1995, pp. 189–196.
- [6] Huang S.C. Effect of language learning strategies training on English learning. *Conference information package of the National Changhua University of Education.* Taiwan, 15 August 2011, Report FL no. 027 117, pp. 65–72.
- [7] Dansereau D. Learning strategy research. *Thinking and Learning Skills: Relating Learning to Basic Research*. Segal J.W., Chipman S.F., Glaser Hillsdale R., eds. NJ: Erlbaum, 1985, pp. 209–240.
- [8] Ghani M. Language learning strategies employed by L2 learners. Journal of Research (Faculty of Languages & Islamic Studies), 2003, vol. 4, pp. 31–36.
- [9] Chamot A.U. Issues in language learning strategy research and teaching. *Electronic Journal of Foreign Language Teaching*, 2004, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 14–26.
- [10] Lee C.K. An overview of language learning strategies. ARECLS, 2010, vol. 7, pp. 132–152.
- [11] Dreyer C., Oxford R.L. Learning strategies and other predictors of ESL proficiency among Afrikaans-speakers in South Africa. *Language learning strategies around the world: Cross cultural perspectives*, ed. Oxford R., Manoa, University of Hawaii Press, 1996, pp. 17–18.

- [12] Park G.P. Language learning strategies and English proficiency in Korean university students. *Foreign Language Annals*, 1997, no. 30, pp. 211–221.
- [13] Bremner S. Language learning strategies and language proficiency. Investigating the relationship in Hong Kong. *Canadian Modern Language Review*, 1999, no. 55, pp. 490–514.
- [14] Sheorey R. An examination of language learning strategy use in the setting of an indigenized variety of English. *System*, 1999, no. 27, pp. 173–190.
- [15] Nisbet D.L., Tindall E.R., Arroyo A.A. Language learning strategies and English proficiency of Chinese university students. *Foreign Language Annals*, 2005, no. 38, pp. 100–107.
- [16] Pawlak M. Grammar learning strategies and language attainment: Seeking a relationship. *Research in Language*, 2009, no. 7, pp. 43–60.
- [17] Mystkowska-Wiertelak A. The use of grammar learning strategies among secondary school students. *Investigating English language learning and teaching*. Pawlak M., ed. Poznan — Kalisz, Adam Mickiewicz University Press, 2008, pp. 139–148.
- [18] Oxford R. L., Ehrman M. Adults' language learning strategies in an intensive foreign language program in the United States. *System*, 1995, no. 23, pp. 359– 386.
- [19] Cohen A.D., Scott K. A synthesis of approaches to assessing language learning strategies. Language Learning Strategies Around the World: Cross-cultural Perspectives, ed. Oxford R., Manoa, University of Hawaii Press, 1996, pp. 89– 106.
- [20] Ellis R. *The study of second language acquisition*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, 302 p.
- [21] Takeuchi O. Language learning strategies and their relationship to achievement. *English as a foreign language. Language Laboratory*, 1993, no. 30, pp. 17–34.
- [22] Lessard-Clouston M. Language Learning Strategies: An Overview for L2 Teachers. *The Internet TESL Journal*, 1997, vol. III, no. 12. Available at: http://iteslj.org/Articles/Lessard-Clouston-Strategy.html (accessed March 24, 2014).
- [23] Strategy Inventory for Language Learning (SILL). Available at: http:// homework.wtuc.edu.tw/sill.php. (accessed May 19, 2013). Available at: http:// e-flt.nus.edu.sg/ (accessed September 27, 2014).
- [24] Formula rascheta koeffitsienta korreljatsii Pirsona [The formula for calculating of Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient]. Available at: http://statpsy.ru/pearson/formula-pirsona/ (accessed September 12, 2014).
- [25] Oxford R.L. Employing a questionnaire to assess the use of language learning strategies. *Applied Language Learning*, 1996, no. 7 (1, 2), pp. 25–45.
- [26] Cohen A. Strategy training for second language learners. *Digest. Second Language Learning*, 2003, August, EDO-FL-03-02. Available at: http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/0302cohen.html (accessed October 05, 2014).
- [27] Konysheva A.V. Angliyskiy yazyk. Sovremennye metody obucheniya. [The English language. Current training techniques]. Minsk, TetraSystems Publ., 2007, pp. 104–133.
- [28] Krysin L.P. Sotsial'nyi aspect vladeniya yazykom [Social aspect of language proficiency]. *Social linguistics: Anthology.* Sedov K.F., ed. Moscow, Labirint Publ., 2007, pp. 96–124.
- [29] Sedov K.F. Rechevaya agressiya i agressivnost' kak cherta rechevogo portreta [Aggressive speech and aggressiveness as a distinctive feature of the speech image]. *Social linguistics: Anthology*. Sedov K.F., ed. Moscow, Labirint Publ., 2007, pp. 250–277.

Nikolaeva N.N., Ph.D., assoc. professor of the Linguistic Department 'English for the Department of Instrument Design' at Bauman Moscow State Technical University. Primary scientific interests are in (bio)cognitive linguistics, socio-and-psycholinguistics, gender studies, discourse and political researches, translation and interpretation as well as second language acquisition and foreign language pedagogy, methodology, and psychology. Currently the research focuses on issues concerning the genesis and development of a professional worldview, international communication, global spread of English and the language's impact in non-native contexts, especially in Russia and Europe. e-mail: nnn55n73@mail.ru