

THE BENEFITS OF READING PROFESSIONAL ARTICLES FOR CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGE TEACHERS

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***Abstract:** Current articles outlines the benefits of reading professional articles for the purpose of professional development of EFL teachers in secondary and higher educational level and suggests some useful strategies to professional and personal growth.*

***Key words and abbreviations:** Educational reforms, professional development, professional articles, outcomes and purposes, CPD- continuous professional development, ELT- English Language Teaching, EFL- English as a Foreign Language*

Introduction

Until recently professional development of language teachers both in secondary schools and higher educational institutions has had monotonous, standardized and traditional nature which was mostly compulsory component of the overall teachers' obligations. With the advent of independence and reforms in all spheres including educational context of Uzbekistan, professional development for language teachers as a concept and an inseparable part of sustainable development of educational system has started to alter entirely in terms of its purpose, nature, characteristics and scope. Approximately 20 years ago for most teachers professional development meant to attend a one-month teacher retraining course and finish it with a certificate of attendance.

Main part

Today with continuous efforts, support and incentives by the government of Uzbekistan, the ministry of secondary and higher education, responsible higher

educational establishments and devoted ELT professionals in our country together with world wide renowned foreign scholars whole education system in particular ELT context and teacher development is experiencing great changes, updates and enrichment.

At present CPD for teachers means and has great many types, varieties, opportunities and enhanced developmental purposes and outcomes such as different types of teacher development series, courses, seminars, conferences, workshops, webinars, forums, debates, observations, mentoring, peer coaching, networking, collaborating, reflections, sharing findings and professional experience, writing for publications and professional journals and so on. One of the most useful strategies that help language teachers to grow professionally is reading professional articles. From the suggestions below one can learn about and hopefully finds answer to the question why we teachers should read professional articles.

From my personal professional experience, I can say there are a number of reasons why we teachers should read professional articles:

There are obvious benefits for personal and professional development of language instructors.

For the sake of personal development: while we're reading professional articles regardless of the topic and the content, we develop reading strategies, practice reading subskills, figure out and work on reading challenges, develop reading comprehension, enrich professional vocabulary, spend time meaningfully, grow as a person by other people's problem solving and conclusion drawing skills, etc.

For the sake of professional development: Enrichment of our professional knowledge. While reading we learn about new ideas, solutions, interesting and useful practices and innovative resources, techniques, constantly update professional perception.

For the sake of cooperation and growth of professional skills.

While reading professional articles we collaborate with our colleagues from all over the world, bring their new ideas into our teaching process, analyze the content,

work out useful applicable components, learn to sort out what can work well or what can't be applied in our own teaching process.

For the sake of reflection and research:

While reading professional articles we unconsciously start reflect on our own teaching as well, think about our own challenges, progress, what we need to change, improve, so on.

As we are reading somebody's experiment, findings and research, we explore and open new dimensions in this regard. We can select adaptable materials, enrich them, apply or reflect on them.

For the sake of observation and motivation: while reading we become observers of other professionals' activities which can motivate us to implement at least a minor idea or a technique, get inspired to share own findings, achievements or even challenges.

Conclusion

In addition, a number of strategies and activities related to reading professional articles can be suggested to conduct for developmental purposes, such as debates, online forums, or simply posting one article summary on online networking system such as Facebook or telegram groups to let others also know about the benefits you gained from a certain professional article. One of them is article discussion where one teacher invites other colleagues to read a certain professional article and they discuss it together on the base of decided discussion questions beforehand.

All in all there's no reason for not reading a professional article for foreign language teachers.

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