

Necessity of Learning Business Foreign Language in the Modern World (Jurisprudence)

Gulnara DIASAMIDZE*

Abstract

Possessing foreign language skills at the professional level is one of the conditions for successful work and career advancement for specialists in any field. Enterprises and firms try to give up translation services and are more willing to hire employees speaking a foreign language and able to translate single-discipline literature and documents. Under conditions of globalization, a foreign language, particularly English and Russian in Georgia, is becoming a significant informational product.

Keywords: Knowledge of a foreign language, language skills, requirements to language skills

Introduction

International certificates serve to confirm the high level of professional English and Russian language skills. For a specialist, having such certificates is a pass for work at the international company. One can take exams to obtain certificates while studying at the university. In this case, participation in international student conferences and student exchange programs, attending the lectures of the best foreign professors with active participation in the discussion, awarding foreign scholarships and grants are guaranteed to the student.

Presently, increase of competition is observed in the field of providing legal services, which makes the law firms and individual lawyers offer a wider range of services. As foreign partners appear on the market, legal services provided in the language convenient for these partners are in demand, so it is not surprising that employers specify knowledge of a foreign language as one of the main requirements for the position of any lawyer.

Even a perfect knowledge of colloquial foreign language (English or Russian) and the Georgian legislation does not guarantee that the specialist will understand legal documents. Therefore, the first thing necessary for a lawyer is knowledge of special legal terms. This will help to avoid mistakes and inaccuracies in translation which may lead to huge financial losses and even international conflicts. Correction and consolidation of knowledge on the legal material, for example, knowledge of prepositional-nominal system sets introduction and consolidation of legal terms as the main goal. Knowledge of professional terms will provide invaluable assistance to the lawyer in drafting and maintaining legal and financial documents, their translation from Georgian into a foreign language and vice versa.

Professional foreign language for a lawyer necessarily includes speaking skills. They will be helpful in conducting negotiations, for protection of the company interests in various courts, for communication with foreign or post-Soviet clients. Reading skills will help to understand various docu-

ments, reading professional literature etc. Knowledge of a foreign language will help the lawyer expand his knowledge in the field of international and commercial law, law enforcement procedures in various countries which are constantly changed.

Higher education in law can be received at many universities of Georgia. Foreign language is included in any curriculum for "lawyers". Curriculum of this specialty includes advanced learning of one foreign language and often, teaching a second foreign language. For example, professional English language is learnt at the Faculty of Law at the International Black Sea University and professional Russian language is taught at the third and the fourth year. Students use special training aids for law universities and dictionaries of legal terms.

A survey was conducted among students of the Faculty of Law who are taught the course of professional Russian language. 10 students participated in the survey. Below is provided a sample survey with calculated results.

Thus, the survey showed that introduction of this course at the Faculty of Law was positively evaluated by the students.

In the present time, under the crisis conditions, corporate lawyers, tax lawyers, property specialists, consulting lawyers are the most highly demanded.

Corporate lawyer is the in-house lawyer of the company who ensures legal protection of activities of his company. Foreign and Georgian companies request the corporate lawyer to know a foreign language. Corporate lawyers need to know the issues of contractual law because they often have to work with foreign investors. The requirement to the level of knowledge of a foreign language for a corporate lawyer is fluency. The higher are the position and salary, the stricter are requirements to language skills.

* Assoc. Prof. Dr., Faculty of Education and Humanities, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia
E-mail: gdiasamidze@ibsu.edu.ge

Survey

Faculty _____

Faculty _____

№	Questions of the Survey	Yes	No
1.	Do you like foreign languages?	10 st	
2.	Is it important to know a foreign language in the modern worlds?	10 st	
3.	Does knowledge of a foreign language help in career advancement?	10 st	
4.	Is competition possible without knowledge of a foreign language?	5 st	5 st
5.	Is it important for a lawyer to learn a professional foreign language?	10 st	
6.	Are you satisfied with your choice of the professional Russian language?	10 st	
7.	Do you like the training aids?	10 st	
8.	Have you learnt the special legal terms?	9 st	1 st
9.	Can you use grammar legal structures independently?	8 st	2 st
10.	Will the experience gained during this course be helpful to you in the future?	10 st	
11.	Are you willing to continue this course?	9 st	1 st
12.	Will you advice other students to choose this course?	10 st	

Consulting lawyer is an employee of a consulting firm providing various services in application of legislation in specific situations to enterprises and organizations (external lawyer). The task of consulting is to protect and optimize business. A consulting lawyer needs a high level of foreign language skills: knowledge of special terms for translation of all document; verbal communication skills for conducting negotiation, speaking before the court; sometimes, technical language to understand peculiarities of the client's business; financial foreign language in the issues of merger of companies, purchase of foreign property, investment.

International lawyer is also a lawyer of the company focused on foreign relations. The requested level of foreign language skills is "fluent"; knowledge of two and more languages is welcomed. International lawyer must conduct business of his company in such manner that no claims are made to him in his home country or on the territory of a foreign country. In such case, in addition to legal and linguistic skills, he must possess diplomatic skills.

If the level of language skills is not sufficient for successful professional activities of a lawyer, specialized lectures for lawyers are at his service. We offer a professional foreign language program for lawyers. For example, the Russian language teaching program is prepared based on learning materials for first year foreign students of the universities and faculties of law in Russia. "Russian-Georgian Dictionary of Legal Terms" is widely used. Legal terms in Russian and Georgian languages and their common meanings are provided in the dictionary. The provided meanings in two languages may not literally coincide in some cases, due to the specific nature of vocabulary of the Russian and Georgian

legislation. A short list of word combinations and expressions common for legal texts is also provided with explanations (interpretation) in both languages; legal terms and words used in jurisprudence and their Georgian equivalents are provided (Khatiaashvili & Amirejibi, 2014).

Another feature of the teaching materials is their legal direction, which is reflected in the examples from many verbal and written sources, analytical and creative assignments. Diversity of theoretical and practical material allows developing professionally valuable knowledge and skills, critical reasoning of law students. It is possible to learn under the guidance of Russian-speaking teacher or native speakers with education in law and experience in legal practice in addition to the common qualification. Lectures of the professional foreign language for lawyers will assist in mastering special vocabulary and grammatic structures in various areas of law, understand the specific nature of legislation of foreign states, their legal culture.

Russian language is one of the languages of the UN and currently, many Georgian and European corporations have partners from Russia. They need employees with knowledge of Russian language who would be able to work in their country together with their Russian colleagues or go to Russia to work, develop their firms, representing their interests (Diasamidze & Tabatadze, 2014).

High level of professional foreign language skills will be very helpful for students planning to study law at international universities and young lawyers planning to work at international organizations and apply their qualifications abroad.

Conclusion

It is not necessary to know many languages. But learning at least one of the most important languages is not only desirable but also absolutely necessary for each educated person. There are a number of reasons for that. One of them is clearly stated in the aphorism of Goethe: *“He who does not know foreign languages does not know anything about his own”*. This is true because our knowledge arises on the basis of juxtaposition and comparison. Knowledge of foreign languages enriches the native language. Learning a foreign language has a cognitive importance, is the key to the profound, cognitive study of the native language. Not knowing what happens abroad significantly narrows the outlook of the specialist – he lags behind, loses his qualification (Auerbach, 1961).

For those who have knowledge of a foreign language all doors of the world are fully opened. Travel, Internet communication with foreigners, business negotiations, education at prestigious universities of the world! You will be sure that you will understand and that you will be understood. You will not face a problem like the language barrier.

Profession of a lawyer requires not only clear knowledge of laws, but also a high common culture, ability to communicate in verbal and written form. A specialist of law must be able to express his ideas correctly, adhering to orthographic and punctuation rules, stylistic norms. Observing the norms of law, the lawyer should not ignore the norms of language.

References

- Auerbach T.D. (1961). Why and how learn a foreign language. Moscow: Knowledge.
- Diasamidze G., Tabatadze Kh. (2014). Business Russian. Tbilisi.
- Khatiashvili Kh., Amirejibi N. (2014). Russian-English Dictionary of Legal Terms. Tbilisi.