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## ENGLISH IN DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS: ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

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Extremely dynamic time shifts the paradigm of Ukrainian higher education concerning its conceptual approaches, theoretical and practical basis in call for highly-qualified graduates able to work in a multitasking mode. To remain competitive, our universities need to expand their programs and provide more training opportunities for students.

Recent research shows that in professional endeavors succeed those students who, in addition to mastering their majors, are fluent in several foreign languages with English acquiring the dominant status. The new generation of students is quite different in their motivation and lifestyle, their attitude towards education and employment.

A significant number of Ukrainian students are expanding their capabilities in synthesis of various sciences. Accordingly, higher education is focused on the students who choose those models of education that allow to acquire two professions at once. The type of higher education, such as dual degree program (also called double degree, or simultaneous degree program), has become increasingly popular. In this case, the students acquire wider range of knowledge, skills and abilities, which can be applied to careers, so they have much better chance of finding a good job.

Currently, we have a sufficient number of students who are quite successful in studying for two different university degrees in parallel within one university (different combination of fields, such as English and International Law, Economics, Ukrainian Philology, Psychology, Data Science, or at different institutions, even abroad. It enables them to earn two different types of degrees (e.g., a BA in English and a Bachelor of Law) and thus to explore a bigger array of possible careers both in Ukraine and in the global labor market.

Dual degree programs are also joint programs of Ukrainian and foreign universities, which allow students to study simultaneously in two institutions of different countries and simultaneously obtain two diplomas from Ukrainian and European universities. Ukrainian universities provide their students with the opportunity to gain experience studying at a foreign university and learn practical skills, that could be possibly applied to several occupations.

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Despite a large number of studies describing the system of dual education and its benefits for the EU countries and the USA, Ukrainian experience has hardly been described [3, 94].

M. Dernova looks into practical application of the dual model in higher professional education of adults in European countries. O. Davlikanova, O. Kuppenko, N. Svitailo speak about the Ukrainian experience of organizational and pedagogical support for the implementation of dual education model elements into the system of higher education in Ukraine.

However, not all academic paths are the same. A dual degree should not be confused with a dual or double major. A double major is two areas of specialization or academic focus that results in only one degree, not two.

Having dual undergraduate degrees is possible, but not as common. They usually occur when a student earns an associate degree on their way to a bachelor's degree. Two degrees might also be the result of a school's policy of creating two bachelor's degrees when a student obtains a double major in two unrelated fields.

Dual degrees are popular because they take less time to earn than if the student obtained each degree individually. Some of the most popular dual degree programs combine two graduate level degrees, like a Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration. A combination of a bachelor's degree with a master's degree, like a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing, is also very popular not only in Ukraine but in European countries as well.

It is also important to pay attention to the advantages and drawbacks to a dual degree. Let's look at the advantages: 1) Long-Term Cost – a major superiority of a dual degree program is saving money. This is because earning a dual degree is typically faster than earning each degree individually. This could mean not having to pay for an extra year or two of schooling. 2) Professional Flexibility – having two degrees allows for more professional options. Not many jobs require multiple degrees, but having two degrees theoretically means graduates will have twice the number of potential jobs they are qualified for. 3) Saving Time – this is probably the single biggest advantage of a dual degree. Otherwise, students would just get each degree, one at a time. In most dual degree programs, students can save at least one year of schooling time. 4) Networking – one of the benefits of getting a graduate or undergraduate degree is the networking opportunity. Access to alumni networks from each respective college or department, along with the connections made with classmates, will be valuable for advancing a professional career.

However, there are also some disadvantages: 1) Short-Term Cost – getting a dual degree will be more expensive than getting a single degree since it takes more coursework. Even if a joint degree program lasts the same amount of time as a single degree program, students will be taking heavier course loads, as well as classes during the summer. 2) Real World Experience Still Helpful – to make the most of each respective degree, students should consider accompanying the degree with relevant experience. 3) Intense Studying – getting a single degree is hard enough. Getting two at once is extra challenging. Prospective dual degree students should make sure they can handle the academic rigor of a dual degree program.

Turning to some specific examples of dual education, for instance, speaking about philological students majoring in Linguistics and Translation, we observe that their professional orientations are getting more and more focused on future perspectives which require their involvement in dual educational programs. According to the data obtained in the result of questionnaires analysis carried out among first- and second-year students of the Department of Communicative Linguistics and Translation, Chernivtsi State University, Ukraine (academic year 2020-2021), 36% of them pursue two degrees within the home university and other national colleges,

including 6% of those who simultaneously study for another degree abroad, mostly in European schools. In comparison with third- and fourth-year students the rate is down to 27% of undergraduates who go in for one more educational program. The priority of educational combinations falls onto the fields of Germanic Languages and Economics or Law, though the range of majors is diverse including Pedagogy, Ukrainian Philology, Psychology, Tourism, Political Science, Sociology, Computer Sciences. Answering the question what stipulated their choice to pursue another diploma they predominantly say that pure Linguistics even with its applied constituent – Translation – is somewhat limited and not enough to be a success in a modern world. And, vice versa, another field of specialization cannot do without high level of language proficiency as it is the way to self-realize professionally.

So, despite being extremely challenging students' taking up the load of dual education may be considered a growing tendency helping young generation to meet the requirements of nowadays. In this light university policies of language education should turn direction to individual needs of every student.

Thus, within the pedagogical perspective present challenges stipulate some changes in elaboration of more field-oriented language teaching procedures. Besides, university language trainers should undertake a deeply personalized instruction focused on learners' individual needs. Language education for students whose first major is English should be oriented on solving professional issues within the area of their second major. For instance, semester scientific research topics can be chosen and conducted within interdisciplinary spectrum in the focus of field of their second specialization. A diversity of activities might be implemented to expose students to practices which involve them in solving professional issues within an area of their expertise i.e. different types of projects, development of professional portfolios etc. Having done individual research on the specific topic that meets their needs each student might make the results public sharing them within a group and having others involved in the subject matter under study.

Meanwhile, for students with major different from Philology or having it as a second major, some practical exploration of professional issues must be implemented into English class practices on the regular basis for further development of professional skills through the spectrum of target language means. In other words, teachers of English for Specific Purposes should involve students in practices promoting attainment of language proficiency level which allows them to effectively solve problems within the area of their specialization.

In both cases combination of professional and language components would promote development of language and professional competences. Such approach would be beneficial for both language and dual major seekers as it enhances development of professional awareness in students and their vision of future perspectives on further career path.

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