DEVELOPMENT OF SPEAKING ABILITIES USING INNOVATIVE EDUCATION STRATEGIES: STORYTELLING CASE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS

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The aim of the presentation is to introduce the storytelling method, which could be applied in teaching/learning foreign languages. Storytelling enables learners to analyze actual topics for them, to listen to other speakers and to share gained experiences. The participation in these experiences sharing activities motivate young learners to be open-minded and encourages them to learn individually seeking for information. The authors overview the significance of the storytelling method on the theoretical level as well as introduce the usefulness of storytelling elements in foreign language classes on the empirical level. The study was planned and performed in X Kaunas' Gymnasium when the second – grade young learners (mostly 16 years old) created and presented their "My Festive Day" stories. The results of the study demonstrate that young learners were more engaged while preparing the materials and managed to present them using new linguistic constructions. Moreover, while listening to other speakers they learned about various holiday traditions, different personal attitudes and improved their communicative skills. The participants of the study emphasized that it was interesting and useful for them to prepare the storytelling tasks – to gather, read and write, as well as to activate the gained information. However, some negative aspects such as lack of stress management and learning to learn were observed.

Keywords: foreign language learning; innovative education strategies; young learners; storytelling method.