**Использование английской и американской художественной литературы как средства формирования лингвистических навыков**

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**The use of English and American fiction as a means of developing linguistic skills**

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**Аннотация**

В проекте исследуется роль чтения книг на иностранном языке от простого уровня текстов к сложному.Чтение оригинальной художественной литературы на изучаемом языке способствует формированию грамотной устной речи, обогащает словарный запас, знакомит с культурой и литературой стран изучаемого языка, однако не у всех учащихся наблюдается интерес к чтению иностранной литературы в оригинале, это может быть обусловлено сложностью текстов и их объемом. В статье исследуются тексты разного уровня сложности, также, авторы дают рекомендации по выбору книг для разного уровня владения языком.

**Abstract**

The article explores the role of books in learning foreign languages, starting with simple texts and gradually progressing to more complex ones. Books are not only a source of knowledge but also a powerful tool for language immersion, vocabulary expansion, and grammar improvement. The article analyzes the characteristics of texts with simple and rich language, demonstrating their importance for language development, also, the authors give recommendations in choosing the books for different levels of English language.

**Ключевые слова:** обучение чтению, чтение на иностранном языке, формирование языковых навыков, анализ текста, виды чтения

**Keywords: c**omplex texts, language learning, language skills development, texts analysis

**Introduction.** Books have always been more than just a source of knowledge and entertainment; they are a gateway to new worlds, a mirror reflecting cultures, and a powerful tool for learning foreign languages and shaping our speech. For centuries, books have played a crucial role in education. When it comes to learning a foreign language, books offer a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in the language, to feel its rhythm, and to understand its nuances.

Just some decades ago, however, finding a book in a foreign language was often a challenge. Access to literature in other languages was limited. But today, thanks to the digital revolution and globalization, the situation has changed dramatically. We now have access to an incredible variety of books in almost any language we might want to learn. From classic novels to modern bestsellers, from children's stories to academic texts, the options are endless. E-books, audiobooks, and online libraries have made reading more accessible than ever before, breaking down barriers and opening up new possibilities.

Despite this abundance of resources, many students still underestimate the value of reading in language learning. Some find it intimidating, fearing that they won't understand the text or that it will take too much time. Others simply don't realize how effective reading can be as a tool for improving vocabulary, grammar, and overall language proficiency. Moreover, in our fast-paced, technology-driven world, reading books is often overshadowed by other forms of entertainment and learning, such as social media, videos, or language apps. As a result, many people read less than they used to, missing out on the countless benefits that books can offer.

**Analysis of simple texts.** So, let us start with the analysis of simple texts. Books with simple language are texts that are intentionally written in a clear, straightforward, and accessible style. They are designed to be easy to read and understand, making them ideal for beginners, young readers, or anyone who prefers a more relaxed reading experience. The key characteristics of such books include short sentences, minimal use of complex vocabulary, clear and direct communication, engaging and relatable content, and support for language learners. Short sentences in these books are concise and to the point, avoiding complex structures or lengthy clauses. This makes the text easier to follow and reduces the cognitive load on the reader. The minimal use of complex vocabulary means these books rely on common, everyday words that are familiar to most readers. They avoid jargon, advanced terminology, or overly poetic language. Clear and direct communication ensures that ideas and stories are presented in a straightforward manner, without unnecessary complexity or ambiguity. The focus is on delivering the message or story in a way that is easy to grasp. Engaging and relatable content is another hallmark of books with simple language. The themes and topics are often simple and relatable, such as everyday life, friendships, or adventures. [2] This helps readers connect with the material and stay engaged. Many books with simple language are specifically designed for language learners, featuring glossaries, illustrations, or simplified versions of classic stories. Books with simple language play a crucial role in language learning and reading development. They build confidence by providing an accessible entry point, helping readers feel successful and motivated to continue reading. Examples of books with simple language include children's books, adapted literature, and modern prose. **Firstly**, children's books are written with simplicity and clarity, making them perfect for beginners. They often use repetitive phrases, basic vocabulary, and engaging illustrations to help readers understand and enjoy the story. **Secondly**, adapted books are simplified versions of classic or popular stories, designed specifically for language learners. They are graded by difficulty level, making them accessible to readers at different stages of language learning. **Finally**, modern novels written in a simple, conversational style are also great for language learners. They often focus on relatable themes and use everyday language, making them easy to follow. **In summary**, these types of books provide accessible and engaging material for learners at various levels, helping them build confidence and improve their language skills.

Reading books with simple language is an excellent way to improve your language skills, but it’s important to approach it strategically. Here are some practical tips to make the most of your reading experience. First of all, using a dictionary is essential. Even simple books may contain unfamiliar words, and a dictionary helps you understand their meaning and usage. To do this effectively, keep a dictionary or a dictionary app handy while reading. Look up only the words that are essential for understanding the text, avoiding the temptation to check every unfamiliar word. Pay attention to example sentences in the dictionary to see how the word is used in context. As a tip, beginners can start with a bilingual dictionary and switch to a monolingual one as their skills improve. Secondly, keeping vocabulary flashcards is another useful strategy. Flashcards help you memorize new words and review them regularly, which is key to building your vocabulary. To create flashcards, write down new words and their meanings, and include example sentences from the book to understand how the word is used. Review your flashcards regularly, using techniques like spaced repetition to reinforce your memory. For added convenience, consider using apps like Anki or Quizlet to create digital flashcards that you can review on the go. Another important technique is reading aloud. Reading aloud helps you practice pronunciation, intonation, and fluency, while also reinforcing your understanding of sentence structure. To do this, choose a quiet place where you can read without distractions. Read slowly and clearly, paying attention to how words are pronounced. You can also record yourself reading and compare it to audiobooks or native speakers to identify areas for improvement. As a tip, start with short passages and gradually move to longer sections as your confidence grows. In addition to these strategies, there are several other tips for effective reading. For instance, set realistic goals by starting with short reading sessions of 10-15 minutes and gradually increasing the time as your stamina improves. Choose the right book by picking one that matches your current language level; if a book feels too difficult, switch to something simpler. After finishing a chapter or section, try to summarize it in your own words, as this helps reinforce comprehension. Discussing the book with a friend, teacher, or language partner can also improve your speaking skills and deepen your understanding. Finally, be consistent by making reading a regular habit. Even a few pages a day can make a big difference over time.[3]

**Analysis of complex texts.** Books with rich language are characterized by their elaborate and expressive style. They often feature complex sentence structures, vivid descriptions, and creative use of language, such as metaphors, similes, and symbolism. These books are designed to evoke emotions, paint vivid pictures in the reader’s mind, and explore deep themes. One of the key characteristics of books with rich language is the use of complex sentences. These books often employ long, intricate sentences with multiple clauses, reflecting the depth of the ideas being conveyed. Additionally, metaphors and figurative language are frequently used to create vivid imagery and convey abstract ideas. For example, instead of simply stating "the sky was blue," an author might write, "the sky was a canvas painted with the soft hues of a summer morning." Another defining feature is the inclusion of detailed descriptions. Richly written books often provide elaborate depictions of settings, characters, and emotions, helping readers immerse themselves in the story and connect with the characters on a deeper level. Furthermore, books with rich language often tackle complex themes such as love, loss, identity, and morality. The language itself becomes a tool for exploring these themes in a nuanced and thought-provoking way. Finally, the artistic and poetic style of such books sets them apart. The writing is often lyrical and poetic, with a focus on the beauty of language itself. Every word is carefully chosen to create a specific effect or mood, making the reading experience both intellectually stimulating and emotionally resonant.

### Books with rich language are important for several reasons. Firstly, they expand vocabulary by introducing readers to advanced vocabulary and sophisticated expressions, which can significantly enhance their linguistic abilities. Secondly, they develop critical thinking, as the complexity of the language encourages readers to analyze and interpret the text more deeply. Thirdly, exposure to rich language can inspire readers to improve their own writing style, making their communication more eloquent and expressive. Lastly, the vivid descriptions and poetic language found in such books help readers connect with the story on a deeper emotional level, making the reading experience more immersive and meaningful.

### Examples of books with rich language include classic literature, modern literary prose, and poetry and literary fiction. Classic literature is particularly known for its rich language, complex sentence structures, and deep themes. These books often employ metaphors, symbolism, and elaborate descriptions to create vivid imagery and explore profound ideas. Similarly, modern literary novels combine rich language with contemporary themes, making them both challenging and rewarding for readers. Additionally, poetry and literary fiction frequently use rich language to convey deep emotions and complex ideas in a condensed and impactful form. Together, these genres offer readers a diverse range of experiences, from exploring timeless themes to engaging with modern narratives, all while immersing them in the beauty and depth of expressive language.

These examples are highly useful for language learners for a variety of reasons. To begin with, classic literature introduces learners to advanced vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and sophisticated language structures, which are essential for expanding their linguistic capabilities. Additionally, these books often reflect the historical, social, and cultural context of their time, helping learners understand the language within a broader framework. The complex themes and layered narratives found in classic literature encourage readers to analyze and interpret the text, thereby improving their critical thinking skills. Moreover, classic literature is rich in metaphors, symbolism, and other literary devices, offering learners a deeper appreciation of how language can be used creatively. On the other hand, modern literary prose provides its own set of benefits. It uses language that is closer to how people speak and write today, making it more relatable for learners. These books often tackle current issues such as identity, technology, and globalization, allowing learners to connect with the language through relevant and contemporary topics. The combination of rich language and engaging plots makes modern prose enjoyable to read, encouraging learners to read more and thereby improve their fluency. Furthermore, modern authors frequently employ subtle and nuanced language, which helps learners understand how to express complex ideas and emotions effectively.[4]

Reading books with simple language is a great starting point for language learners, but it’s important to approach them strategically to maximize their benefits. Here’s how to make the most of your reading experience. First of all, take your time. Even though the language is simple, reading slowly helps you fully understand the text and absorb new vocabulary. Read at a comfortable pace, pausing to reflect on the meaning of each sentence. Avoid rushing through the book—focus on comprehension rather than speed. Secondly, use a dictionary. Simple books may still contain unfamiliar words or phrases, and a dictionary helps you understand their meaning and usage. Keep a dictionary or a dictionary app handy while reading. Look up only the words that are essential for understanding the text, and pay attention to example sentences to see how the word is used in context. By following these strategies, you can make the most of reading books with simple language and build a strong foundation for further language learning.

**The practical part. Comparison of excerpts from simple and complex texts.**

The first excerpt is taken from «The green door» by O. Henry (Rich language):

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| For one moment he hesitated; then he seemed to see the contumelious sneer of the African juggler of cards; and then he walked straight to the green door and knocked against it.  Moments like those that passed before his knock was answered measure the quick breath of true adventure. What might not be behind those green panels! Gamesters at play; cunning rogues baiting their traps with subtle skill; beauty in love with courage, and thus planning to be sought by it; danger, death, love, disappointment, ridicule—any of these might respond to that temerarious rap.  A faint rustle was heard inside, and the door slowly opened. A girl not yet twenty stood there, white–faced and tottering. She loosed the knob and swayed weakly, groping with one hand. Rudolf caught her and laid her on a faded couch that stood against the wall. He closed the door and took a swift glance around the room by the light of a flickering gas jet. Neat, but extreme poverty was the story that he read. |

The characteristics of this piece include long sentences with complex syntactic structures, the use of metaphors, epithets, and a strong attention to detail to create atmosphere and convey mood. For instance, the sentence "Moments like those that passed before his knock was answered measure the quick breath of true adventure" demonstrates the use of long, intricate sentences that reflect the depth of the narrative. Additionally, metaphors such as "measure the quick breath of true adventure" convey the tension and anticipation of the moment, adding layers of meaning to the text. Epithets like "contumelious sneer" and "faded couch" enhance the text’s expressiveness by providing vivid descriptions. Furthermore, the author pays close attention to details, as seen in the passage, "A girl not yet twenty stood there, white-faced and tottering. She loosed the knob and swayed weakly, groping with one hand," which effectively creates a vivid atmosphere and conveys the mood of the scene. These elements work together to make the text rich and immersive.

The second excerpt is taken from « A Man of Habit» by Jerome K. Jerome (Simple language):

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| There were three of us in the smoke-room of the ship – me, my very good friend, and, in the opposite corner, a shy man, the editor, as we knew out later, of a New York Sunday paper.  My friend and I were talking about habits, good and bad.  “After the first few months,” my friend said, “it is as easy to be a saint as to be a sinner; it becomes a habit.”  “I know,” I interrupted, “it is as easy to jump out of bed early in the morning as to say 'All Right,' and turn over for another five minutes of sleep, when you have got the habit. Not to swear is as easy as to swear, if you make a custom of it. A piece of bread and water is as delicious as champagne, when you got used to its taste. It is only a question of making your choice and getting used it.”  He agreed with me. |

The characteristics of this piece include concise and easy-to-follow sentences, the use of common, everyday words, a conversational tone, straightforward comparisons, and the absence of complex metaphors or elaborate descriptions. For example, the sentence "There were three of us in the smoke-room of the ship – me, my very good friend, and, in the opposite corner, a shy man, the editor, as we knew out later, of a New York Sunday paper" demonstrates the simplicity and clarity of the sentence structure, making it easy for readers to follow. The text relies on familiar, everyday words such as "smoke-room," "friend," "habits," "sinner," "saint," "bread," and "champagne," which make it accessible to most readers. Additionally, the text feels like a casual conversation between friends, as seen in the line, "My friend and I were talking about habits, good and bad," which adds a relatable and approachable tone. Straightforward comparisons, such as "A piece of bread and water is as delicious as champagne, when you got used to its taste," help explain ideas clearly and effectively. Finally, the text avoids complex metaphors, symbolism, or elaborate descriptions, keeping the language simple and direct. From the above excerpts and their characteristics, it can be concluded that texts written in simple and rich languages do vary greatly, but this makes them suitable for language learning at different levels. Starting with simple texts and ending with complex ones, a person can gradually expand their vocabulary, delve deeper into the subtleties of the language, and reason on increasingly serious topics in another language. Books, in particular, are an excellent way to immerse yourself in the language and culture of other countries, so make reading a regular part of your routine.Fourth, avoiding stress is essential for effective language acquisition. Krashen emphasizes that low stress levels promote better learning. During extracurricular reading lessons at the pre-university, some students read books in English, such as "The Gift of the Magi" and "And Madly Teach". This process was organized to maximize the development of language skills.First, students used dictionaries to record and translate unfamiliar words, which helped not only expand their vocabulary but also better understand the context and nuances of the text. New words were written down in notebooks or apps for further review.After reading, we discussed the books in class, which allowed for a deeper understanding of the plot, characters, and main ideas of the works. Additionally, these discussions contributed to the development of speaking skills, as students learned to express their thoughts in English and argue their points of view.To reinforce new words, flashcards were used. Students created cards with new words and their meanings, then regularly reviewed them using spaced repetition techniques. This helped them memorize vocabulary more effectively and actively use it in speech.Furthermore, some parts of the text were read aloud. This exercise improved pronunciation, intonation, and fluency, while also helping students better grasp the rhythm and style of the language, which is particularly important for understanding literary texts.To verify the result, a survey was conducted in 2025.

The survey showed, that 50% of surveyed have read books in English;50% of surveyed have not read books in English. **45% of the respondents believe that their English language level has improved, 15% of respondents think that their English language level has not improved, 40% of students have not read books in English.33.3%** of respondents reported an improvement in **vocabulary**, **24.2%** noted enhanced **ability to express thoughts**, while **18.2%** mentioned improvements in **grammar**. **12.1%** of respondents stated that **nothing improved**, and another **12.1%** have not read books in English.The research findings highlight that reading books in English has proven to be a highly effective tool for improving key language skills. Students who engaged in reading reported enhancements in their **vocabulary**, as they encountered and learned new words in context. Additionally, exposure to well-structured sentences and varied grammatical patterns in books contributed to a better understanding of **grammar**. Furthermore, the practice of reading aloud helped students refine their **pronunciation**, intonation, and overall fluency, making them more confident in their spoken English. These results underscore the importance of reading as a comprehensive method for developing language proficiency, fostering not only technical skills but also a deeper connection to the language.

**Conclusion.** In conclusion, books play a crucial role in both learning foreign languages and shaping our speech. Whether it's through rich descriptions that immerse us in another world or simple sentences that make reading accessible, books help us expand our vocabulary, improve our grammar, and develop a sense of style. By reading books in a foreign language, we not only learn new words and expressions but also enrich our own speech.As a result of this project, I have compiled a table of books recommended for reading at different levels of English proficiency, providing a practical guide for learners to progress from beginner to advanced stages.

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