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**THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN MODERN CHINA
(ON THE EXPERIENCE OF TEACHING RUSSIAN
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IN CHANGCHUN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)**

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The promising cooperation of the Russian and China in the field of education increases the demand for specialists with a knowledge of the Russian language and constant growth of interest to studying it, the students of Chinese universities being interested as well.

Key words: *Russian-Chinese cooperation; Chinese students; the Russian language; teaching methods; tutorials, curricula.*

**РУССКИЙ ЯЗЫК В СОВРЕМЕННОМ КИТАЕ
(ОПЫТ ПРЕПОДАВАНИЯ
В ЧАНЧУНЬСКОМ ИНЖЕНЕРНО-ТЕХНОЛОГИЧЕСКОМ ИНСТИТУТЕ)**

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Перспективное сотрудничество Российской Федерации и Китайской Народной Республики в области образования способствует увеличению спроса на специалистов со знанием русского языка и постоянному росту интереса к его изучению, в том числе в среде студентов китайских вузов.

Ключевые слова: *российско-китайское сотрудничество; китайские студенты; русский язык; методика преподавания; учебные пособия; учебные программы.*

Education is the most important mechanism for development, stabilization, harmonization of society and achievement of social justice in China. Cooperation between Russia and China in the field of education and science contributes to an increase in demand for specialists with a knowledge of the Russian language and constant interest of Chinese students. The Chinese government has paid great attention to the study of the Russian language for a long time. The first Russian Language School appeared

in Beijing 300 years ago. After formation of People's Republic of China in the 50s of the XX century, Russian was studied as the first foreign language in all educational institutions of the country: both in primary and secondary schools and in universities. In the 60s, because of the complex political relations between our countries the Russian language was almost stopped from being studied. In the late 70s, friendly relations between the USSR and China were gradually restored. The Russian language

and culture reawakened in China in the 80s of the past century. In 1981 with MAPRYAL's (the International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature) support, there was created the Chinese Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature (CAPRYAL). It is a qualitatively new stage in the history of teaching and learning Russian in China. Currently, the largest Russian language learning centers in China are Peking University, Heilongjiang University, Dalian University and Shanghai University [1].

The Russian language is largely promoted by academic competitions (the Russian language, literature, history and culture) on the basis of higher educational institutions. In China they publish journals («China», «Partners»), and specialized methodical editions in Russian: «The Russian Language in China» (CAPRYAL research journal), «Russian Language in Secondary School», «Russian Literature». At present, the system of teaching the Russian language in Chinese universities is being reviewed in accordance with the current needs of the country's market economy and development trends of economic, political and cultural relations between Russia and China.

At Changchun Institute of Technology (CIT), the training of technical specialists is traditionally carried out in accordance with state programs and standards of higher education. The language education is aimed at ensuring students' ability to effectively use a foreign language, including Russian in various fields of professional and scientific activity, business and intercultural communication. In this regard, the higher educational institution has an important task to train highly qualified specialists with skills and abilities of professional communication in a foreign (Russian) language [2, 3].

CIT English language Department teaches English as the main language, while Russian and Japanese are taught as a second foreign language. The «Foreign language» program is designed for 328 classroom hours. Russian as a second language is studied for 3 semesters (170 hours). Currently, 27 students of this faculty have chosen Russian as their second foreign language. Other students study Japanese. After their graduation, students of this faculty may use knowledge of the Russian language in their work. If graduates decide to continue their studies they choose

MA or postgraduate programs and can take the Russian language as an entrance exam.

The partnership of CIT and SRSPU (NPI) has been going on for more than 15 years. Joint educational programs are a successful option for cooperation in the field of education. Since 2006 they have implemented the Agreement on International Cooperation with Changchun Institute of Technology (China) in MA training. The «Thermal stations» program («4+3» master's model), provides Chinese CIT students with a MA SRSPU (NPI) course. The project is aimed at teaching Russian to students of a Chinese partner University using distance learning technologies and lectures of SRSPU (NPI) teachers. All that will solve «the problem of distance» and make the learning process more intensive and effective. Currently, 92 first-year students (2 groups) of the CIT Energy Faculty study Russian as a foreign language.

The goal of the project «Development of Distance Learning Courses in Russian as a Second Language for Chinese Students of Technical University» is to prepare Chinese students for study in social, cultural and educational environment of a Russian Technical University [4, 5]. The project task is as follows:

1) organize distance learning courses in Russian as a foreign language for Chinese students of Technical Universities;

2) develop the textbook «The Russian Language for Special Purposes. Energy Industry»;

3) develop a Russian-Chinese dictionary to the textbook «The Russian Language for Special Purposes. Energy Industry»;

4) develop test tasks for the textbook «The Russian Language for Special Purposes. Energy Industry»;

5) hold online round tables and form an electronic collection on the topic: «Russian is the Language of Friendship, Science and Progress», «Achievements of Science and Technology in the Service of Chinese and Russian Economy»;

6) hold video conferencing meetings on implementation and development prospects of the project within the framework of SRSPU (NPI) and CIT.

There are positive changes in cooperation between higher schools of China and Russia, so student educational exchange becomes an important factor that expands our opportunities

for international cooperation and promotes understanding and rapprochement of our countries. The Chinese government organizes annual activities aimed at fostering the Russian language and Russian culture in China.

It has become a good tradition to hold annual Youth Culture Festivals at CIT and SRSPU (NPI) partner universities (2012–2015).

Every year there increases the number of Chinese citizens who want to study in Russia or study the Russian language in China. The study of Russian in China has good development prospects, due to the further expansion of political, cultural and economic relations of our countries.

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