CONTRASTIVE SEMANTIC ANALYSIS IN STUDIES OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

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In contemporary society comparative linguistic studies are particularly relevant. Nowadays it is not possible to live in society without reflections of other culture, customs, rules, regulations and law in general. These reflections define the behavior in the intercultural communication. Contrastive linguistic studies facilitate an understanding of our own language differences, reveals characteristics of other languages. Comparative studies of terminology are critical because they help to reveal the peculiarities of both foreign language and native language terminology. The paper is intended to present possibilities of using contrastive terminology analysis method in teaching foreign language for specific purpose. It has several aims. Firstly, it intends to overview the strategies of foreign language teaching paying special attention to the method of contrastive analysis and possible ways to involve IT technologies, i.e. corpus linguistics. We focus on semantic equivalence between lexical items of different languages. Secondly, we seek to define specifics of legal terminology and contextual differences in Lithuanian, English and German contract law. Thirdly, we overview the possible semantic analysis of very basic but at the same time quite complicated contract law terms in the chosen languages. Three European languages (Lithuanian, English and German) are chosen for the analysis. These are widely used in commerce, logistics, administration and diplomacy. Moreover, emigration of Lithuanians, business, cultural and other ties to foreign countries determine the popularity of these languages. Contrastive semantic analysis plays a big role in teaching and learning process of foreign languages for specific purposes. Confronting foreign language terminology with the native language terminology enables us to better understand semantics of terms and use them correctly. Contrastive terminology analysis also provides much important information for terminology developers and users, as well as translators and dictionary compilers.