

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT USING CLIL AMONG STUDENTS IN RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES

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# Abstract

**Purpose of the study:** Justification of the factors of efficiency of implementing Krashen's theory on the basis of the implementation of the ideas of content and language integrated learning (CLIL) for the development of students' language competence in the study of English on the example of Russian universities.

**Methodology:** Questionnaire survey, a pedagogical experiment; correlation-regression analysis; the principal component method (H5).

**Main findings:** The linguistic competence in foreign language learning should be considered as a set of linguistic, communicative, and social competences consisting of a great variety of speech acts and communicative functions related to communicative behavior and social life. The most important component in the structure of linguistic competence is the linguistic competence proper that determines the level of foreign language proficiency. For students studying using the CLIL method, the learning material complexity level should be 2.5 times higher than the level of students' competence; for students studying in universities that do not use the CLIL method - 1.9 times higher. It is advisable to structure the training on principle from simple to complex content of the learning material, as well as training based on learning materials of higher complexity than the level of students' competence, using an individual approach.

**Applications of this study:** The results obtained will serve as the basis for methodological materials development and an algorithm for organizing the learning process in such a way as to ensure the maximum possible level of language competence development among students using the CLIL method not only in the process of learning English but also other foreign languages.

**Novelty/Originality of this study:** Empirical evaluation of factors of efficiency of practical implementation of the CLIL in the educational process and adaptation of Krashen's methodology in the process of forming students' language competence.

**Keywords:** Linguistic Competence, Foreign Language, Content and Language Integrated Learning, Teaching Activities, Learning Activities, Higher Education.

# INTRODUCTION

The CLIL is one of the most efficient ways of establishing interdisciplinary links that encourage the training of future specialists who can effectively communicate on a professional level in a foreign language (Agudo, 2019; Lo & Jeong, 2018; Arnó-Macià & Mancho-Barés, 2015). The students have a real context to learn the language in, they are often more motivated to do so, as they can only get the most of the content if they understand the language around it (Cañado, 2018). CLIL also promotes a deeper level of assimilation – as students are exposed repeatedly to similar language and language functions and they need to produce and recall information in their second language. The CLIL focuses on creating an efficient learning environment where students can develop cognitive skills (Abramova & Shishmolina, 2017).

CLIL suggests that the main component of educational disciplines should be the flow of incoming information, perceiving which students should focus on the meaning, and not on the grammatical form of statements (Abdulrahman & Abu-Ayyash, 2019; Catalán & Llach, 2017). In practice, this effect is difficult to achieve, especially considering that the level of mastery of the English language of students in non-linguistic universities is of a different level (Abramova & Shishmolina, 2017; Pérez-Vidal & Roquet, 2015). Thus, the problems of implementing CLIL integration in the higher education system arise, both during its conceptualization and in the implementation process. To use the approach of subject-language integrated teaching and its implementation in curricula at non-linguistic universities, there is a need to justify the practical conditions for its effectiveness. The purpose of this study, therefore, fills this gap by testing Krashen's hypotheses and clarifying them to increase the effectiveness of studying English (as a foreign language) for students of Russian universities of non-philological specialties in implementing the ideas of subject-language integrated learning.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

The CLIL is a method where a number of subjects are taught in a foreign language at a university (Lo & Jeong, 2018; Pablo & Jiménez, 2018; De Smet et al., 2019; Sanjurjo et al., 2018). The ambiguity of the concept of language competence, as well



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as its components, is subject to a tough debate in the scientific literature on the factors of effectiveness of the CLIL use for the language competence development (Doiz et al., 2014; Pablo & Jiménez, 2018; De Smet et al., 2019; Temirova & Westall, 2015). The pedagogical theory sees linguistic competence as a combination of certain language skills, which allows one to engage in foreign language speech activities by common language means and rules (Abdulrahman & Abu-Ayyash, 2019; Gali et al., 2019; Valeev et al., 2019; Lapteva et al., 2019; Vorwerg, 2015; Al-Ameedi et al., 2019). Most scientists identify the following components of the structure of linguistic competence: phonetic-phonological (knowledge and ability to perceive and generate sounds and use intonation), lexical (knowledge and the possibility to reproduce language units), and grammatical (knowledge and ability to use grammatical resources of language) competence. However, each component can still be clarified (Domahs et al., 2015; Gusti Nur & Sofi, 2019; Bachman, 1990; Topal, 2019; Mart, 2017). However, vocabulary, grammar, or phonetic composition cannot separately ensure the functioning of language as a means of communication. Therefore, in addition to a purely linguistic basis, linguistic competence implies the observance of the adequacy of the language form to the contextual role in the communicative environment (Atamanova & Bogomaz, 2014; Coccetta, 2018; Kuprieva et al., 2019; Evans & Green, 2015). Thus, the ultimate goal of language acquisition is the ability to participate in foreign language communication, i.e., to generate and perceive foreign language spoken following the real communication situation and to the extent set by the pragmatic goal of learning. Therefore, many scholars emphasize the need for unambiguous definitions for such terms as communication and linguistic competence (Otamurodova, 2019; Ruiz & Spínola, 2019; Mammadov et al., 2019; Gali et al., 2019; Day & Kristiansen, 2018). Chomsky (1986) contrasted linguistic competence to "the actual use of language". Consequently, communicative competence in the process of learning a foreign language implies the ability to participate in foreign language communication, i.e., generating and perceiving foreign language speech according to the real situation of communication and to the extent set by the pragmatic goal of learning (Tarvin, 2015; Kraft, 2019).

<u>Bachman (1990)</u> considered communicative competence from linguistics and implied a person's linguistic ability to communicate as transferring some content from one consciousness (collective or individual) to another. This includes all the kinds of knowledge required to use language, including linguistic form, textual and illocutionary linguistic functions, the context in terms of both discourse and sociolinguistic contexts.

In Bachman and Palmer's model of communicative language ability, the sociolinguistic relevance component encompasses several linguistic aspects of this criterion (Bachman & Palmer, 1996; Al-Busaidi, 2018). The social environment adds to the formation and development of a real form of language structure (Hamza, 2018; Stockwell, 2018). Consequently, social competence in the structure of linguistic competence should be highlighted (Losada et al., 2017; Gali et al., 2019; Leeming, 2019; Okuda & Anderson, 2018; Ho & Huyen, 2020).

Consequently, linguistic competence has a three-component structure, consisting of linguistic, communicative, and social competences. Linguistic competence means a system of diverse language skills and ability, interconnected with the cognitive characteristics of a person (motivational and emotional background of a person) and complementary with other means of communication, providing the basis for successful and effective communication.

The factors of the CLIL effectiveness in forming language competencies were determined using Krashen's theory. Krashen's theory is based on 5 hypotheses of problems with acquiring a second language (Krashen, 1985): H1 – The hypothesis of assimilation and study; H2 - Controller (editor) hypothesis; H3 – The hypothesis of the natural order; H4 – Hypothesis of input material; H5 – The hypothesis of an emotional filter.

# METHODS

# **Participants**

The basic research method was the questionnaire. The sample of respondents was: 2161 students, among whom the answers of 1294 students of non-philological special fields of study, who are studying English and have not taken additional language (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfibBqbat2Cn selected analysis courses, were for the NnfUh49HFc InOdSx6iZWURNYn4lkmR0-PnTw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1); 1012 teachers from this sample of as their professional competencies were to be universities took part in the survey, assessed (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6WTPvncB cH- xiVQ141jglizVLCW4xzh5LmizL5jgN5XdA/viewform? vc=0&c=0&w=1). The respondents' number ensured that the sample was representative, exceeding the minimum requirements for the sample amount (273 people), with a 95% confidence probability and a 5% error tolerance.

The respondents represented Russian universities: Kazan Federal University, M.T. Kalashnikov Izhevsk State Technical University, Tomsk Polytechnic University, Moscow Technical University of Communications and Informatics, National Research Moscow State Construction University, Saint-Petersburg Polytechnic University.



# Instruments

#### Instruments for assessing the language competences development

During the 1st academic week of September 2019-2020, academic year self-esteem and BEC methodology were used to assess the level of language competence. University English teachers conducted the exam. Its results are not certified and are used solely for this study. The results obtained by the BEC methodology were compared with the value of the indicator U1 for each student. Based on the comparison results, it was determined that for 1038 students, the level of English language proficiency according to the BEC methodology corresponds to the value of the indicator U1. Level B1 - 5 points, B2 - 10 points, C1 - 15 points, C2 - 20 points. For 256 students, the results of the self-assessment did not correspond to the actual level of English, so their answers were not used in the future. A sample for improving the methodology of teaching English in Russian higher educational establishments based on the adaptation of Krashen's hypotheses was made up of 1038 students. Correspondence of the results of self-assessment on the indicator U1 to the actual assessment made it possible to attest to the adequacy of the assessment for other indicators: U2-U13, X10-X16.

The empirical model of efficient foreign language teaching was formed based on the calculation of the integral indicator of the level of the developed linguistic competence.

#### Krashen's hypotheses verification instruments

The pedagogical experiment in this study was carried out in 2 stages. At the 1st stage, the experiment was used to test the hypothesis H1, H3, H4 and to model the optimal criteria of the Krashen theory when the maximum level of students' language competence is reached. The duration of this phase is September-October of the 2019-2020 school year. The student sample was divided into 4 groups: the control group for testing hypotheses H1, H3, H4 (KG), the experimental group for testing hypothesis H1 (EG1), the experimental group for testing hypothesis H3 (EG3), and the experimental group for testing hypothesis H4 (EG4). Students of the KG, EG3, EG4 groups had the same average level of integral language competence (*I*) for the period of the experiment: 15.8-16.2 points. The level of language competence of the EG1 group, because it is represented only by students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method, was characterized by a lower level of language competence. The level of integral language competence of the EG1 group corresponded to the average level of the integral language group KG in a subgroup of students studying at universities that did not use the CLIL method.

The size of the control and experimental groups was distributed as follows: the size of the KG group was 248 people. (among them 114 students studying at universities according to the CLIL method, 134 students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method); the size of the EG1 group is 116 people (students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method); the size of the EG3 group is 122 people (51 of them are students studying at universities according to the CLIL method); the size of the EG3 group is 122 people (51 of them are students studying at universities according to the CLIL method, 71 are students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method, 311 students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method). The uneven distribution of the number of students among the groups is because among the students of the EG4 group 9 variants of the experiment were simulated, and the students of the KG group were allocated to the control and experimental groups at the 2nd stage of the experiment.

Students of the KG group (who studied according to the CLIL method and without using it) during September-October studied according to the curriculum and work programs of academic disciplines. Students of groups EG1, EG3, EG4 - according to the conditions of experiments aimed at testing hypotheses H1, H3, H4. The experiments were conducted simultaneously.

The second stage of the pedagogical experiment (from November-December 2019-2020 academic year) was aimed at assessing the overall effectiveness using the adapted Krashen's theory. Students from the KG group participated in it. Students were assigned to a control group (KGI) and an experimental group (EGI). The number of KGI and EGI groups is 124 people each (of them, 57 students studying at universities according to the CLIL method, 67 students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method). Evaluation of each stage of the experiment was carried out based on comparing the integral level of students' competencies (*I*) in the control and experimental groups and assessing the statistical significance of the differences between these levels.

# Hypothesis H1 testing

To check the hypothesis *H1* by indicators U1 -U13, the Student's criterion was calculated for two samples of respondents. Sample 1 included students who have been studying according to the CLIL method for at least one academic year, while Sample 2 included students who have not used the CLIL method in their studies. Indicators U1-U13 corresponds to the students' scores according to their answers to the following questionnaire: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfibBqbat2CnNnfUh49HFc\_InOdSx6iZWURNYn4lkmR0-PnTw/viewform? vc=0&c=0&w=1. U1 is the sum of points on the question No.4, U2 is the sum of points on the question No.5, U3 is the sum



of points on the question No.6, U4 is the sum of points on the question No.7, etc. This assessment phase was carried out at the beginning of the 1st academic week of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Students of the experimental group during the September-October 2019-2020 academic year were trained according to the conditions of the experiment. The number of classroom hours allocated to the study of a foreign language by the curriculum was divided into 2 identical parts: half of the hours allocated to the curriculum of hours remained in the foreign language discipline; during the second half, professional disciplines were taught in English. The effectiveness of the pedagogical experiment was evaluated by the *t*-criterion for the experimental and control groups based on an integral indicator of the level of language competence.

#### Hypothesis H2 testing

To test the H2 hypothesis, an online test of the British school St George International was used, aimed at determining the level of grammar in the English language. The test was conducted among all 1038 students in the last academic week of October 2019-2020 academic year. (,) in parallel with the assessment of the level of language competence of students. The hypothesis was tested using the correlation and regression analysis implemented in the Statistica (statistical) 12.0 program, the dependent variable of which is an indicator I, and the independent one is the score obtained by passing the online test of the British School St. George.

## Hypothesis H3 testing

When testing hypothesis H3 for students of the KG group, teaching a foreign language within the framework of the Foreign Language discipline was carried out according to the curriculum approved at the beginning of the semester, according to which the teaching material is presented on a simple to complex basis; for students of the EG3 group - with changes in the curriculum aimed at assessing the effectiveness of training on a principle from complex to simple.

#### Hypothesis H4 testing

The problems of testing the H4 hypothesis were the I + 1 level uncertainty (Lightbown & Spada, 2006; McLaughlin, 1987). The initial stage of the experiment was to determine the level of complexity of the educational material based on the level of language competence, the achievement of which is ensured by a set of tasks. To determine the level of complexity of the studied material, students of the EG4 group at the beginning of the semester were asked to solve 40 sets of tasks of different difficulty levels. Each set consisted of 10 questions with answer options, 10 suggestions for filling in the blanks with answer options, a task to write a business letter on the proposed topic, 2 listening tasks: filling in the gaps, and completing fragments of the text. 1.5 hours were allotted for the task. In parallel with this, the level of language competencies of these students was evaluated according to the proposed methodology (by indicators U1-U13 with the calculation of indicator I). For the level of complexity of each of the set of tasks (indicator C), the lowest level of the indicator I of those students who correctly completed all the tasks of a certain set is taken.

During the experiment, different variants of the ratio of the initial level of students 'competence and the level of complexity of the material being studied were modeled: variants when the level of material studied corresponds to the students' level of competence  $C = I \pm 5\%$ ; when the level of the studied material is higher than the students' competence level  $C = 1.3 * (I \pm 5\%)$ ,  $C = 1.6 * (I \pm 5\%)$ ,  $C = 1.9 * (I \pm 5\%)$ ,  $C = 2.2 * (I \pm 5\%)$ ,  $C = 2.5 * (I \pm 5\%)$ ,  $C = 2.8 * (I \pm 5\%)$ ,  $C = 3.1 * (I \pm 5\%)$ ,  $C = 3.4 * (I \pm 5\%)$ . At the same time, tasks were used; the content and level of difficulty are similar to the indicated 40 sets of tasks.

# Hypothesis H5 testing

For Hypothesis H5 testing, factors affecting the formation of linguistic competence were determined based on the values of the variables X1-X16. X1 is the sum of points on question No. 2, X2 is the sum of points on question No. 3, X3 is the sum of points on question No. 4, etc. up to the variable X9 (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6WTPvncB cH-\_xiVQ141jglizVLCW4xzh5LmizL5jgN5XdA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1). Variables X10-X16 correspond to the sum of student the the section questionnaire points on questions of 2nd of the (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfibBqbat2CnNnfUh49HFc InOdSx6iZWURNYn4lkmR0-PnTw/viewform ?vc=0&c=0&w=1). X10 is the sum of points on the question No. 3, etc. These variables reflect the numerical data and scores of respondents to questions concerning the competence of teachers, the level and style of teaching a foreign language at the university, the ability and willingness to perceive and reproduce the information received from students. The Cattell criterion, which provides 90.5% of the total dispersion, is used to determine the number of factors. Percentage of dispersion exceeding 80%, indicates the completeness of the factors affecting the formation of student linguistic competence. The composition of the selected factors is determined based on the values of variables factor loads and factors.



# RESULTS

A 1.2-1.9-fold increase in the level of student linguistic competence in sample 1 versus sample 2 indicates the efficiency of the CLIL training (variables U1-U13 are statistically significant, empirical values of the Student's criterion exceeding the tabular value 1.9623 (Table 1)). The higher level of the CLIL student language proficiency is evidenced by the fact that the average level of English proficiency obtained from the self-assessment is 6.9 points for sample 1 and 4.4 points for sample 2. Approximately this range also measures proficiency in the individual components of English: the ability to speak, understand, read, and write (5.5-7.1 in sample 1 and 3.8-4.6 in sample 2).

Variable	Average Sample Value		The Student's		
	Students that were taught using	Students that were taught without	Criterion Empirical		
	CLIL (sample 1, N = 406)	using CLIL (sample 2, $N = 632$ )	Value		
U1	6.9	4.4	7.1		
U2	3.9	3.1	2.3		
U3	6.1	4.6	3.8		
U4	6.4	4.1	6.8		
U5	7.1	4.6	6.3		
U6	6.0	4.1	5.3		
U7	5.5	3.8	5.5		
U8	4.1	3.1	3.4		
U9	6.1	4.5	3.9		
U10	5.9	3.9	4.7		
U11	6.5	4.4	5.1		
U12	6.0	4.7	2.9		
U13	6.0	3.9	5.2		

Table 1: Descriptive characteristic of variables that determine the level of linguistic competence

When asked, to what extent English is a means of scientific communication and how much a foreign language performs a communicative function, respondents rated 3.9 and 6.1 within sample 1 and 3.1 and 4.6, respectively, within the sample 2. The low role of English in scientific communication is also due to decreased scientific activity among students. For most students English is not a means of business communication: the mean of the variable U8 is 4.1 for sample 1 and 3.1 for sample 2.

Most CLIL students consider English is a tool for expanding cultural outlook (average 6.1 out of 10 maximum), developing abstract thinking (5.9), creativity (6.5), logical thinking (6), and establishing interpersonal contact (6). For students who do not study using the CLIL method, the values of the variables U9-U13 are at 3.9-4.7 points.

All variables are at 3.9-6.5 points for CLIL students and 2.8-4.7 points for non-CLIL students, with a maximum of 20 points for variable U1 and 10 points for U2-U13. The data show that the average English proficiency of CLIL students is 6.9 closest to level B1 (which corresponds to a score of 5); the average English proficiency of non-CLIL students is below level B1 (4.4). The indicators for students in sample 1 are predominantly at an average level whose boundaries (3.8; 6.2] are determined by the Fibonacci rule, except for indicator U11, which is at a high level. For the students of the 2nd sample the values of indicators U2, U4-U8 are at a low level, while the values of indicators U3, U9-U13 are at an average level.

The data in Table 2 illustrates the highest importance in the structure of student linguistic competence, thus determining the level of language knowledge, ability to write, read, speak, and understand. The relative importance of this factor is found to be 36% (significant values are in Table 3, factor loads  $\geq 0.75$  were considered significant). Communicative competence evaluates the ability of students to use English for the following communication purposes: interpersonal, business, scientific, information, and this factor's relative importance is (are) 29%. The expansion of worldview, the development of thinking, and creativity through knowledge of English is denoted by the factor  $F_{Y3}$  (social competence), whose relative importance is 24%.

Linguistic Competence Components	Variables that Formed the Component (Factor)	<b>Relative Significance Coefficient of</b> <b>the Component (Factor)</b>
FY1 – Linguistic competence	U1, U4-U7	0.36
FY2 – Communicative competence	U2, U3, U8, U13	0.29
FY 3–Social competence	U9-U12	0.24

Table 2: The structure of linguistic competer
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Variable	Factor Loads with Corresponding Factors*						
	FY1	FY2	FY3				
U1	0.81	-	-				
U2	-	0.86	-				
U3	-	0.77	-				
U4	0.90	-	-				
U5	0.76	-	-				
U6	0.83	-	-				
U7	0.91	-	-				
U8	-	0.88	-				
U9	-	-	0.79				
U10	-	-	0.92				
U11	-	-	0.90				
U12	-	-	0.81				
U13	-	0.80	-				
* - Only si	gnificant fac	tors ( $\geq 0.75$ ) are	presented				

Table 3: Variables and factors that determine the level of student linguistic competence

The results of a pedagogical experiment to test the H1 hypothesis confirmed the conclusion about the effectiveness of the CLIL method in studying English. The results of Hypothesis H1 testing are presented in Table 4. The average value of the indicator of integral language competence at the beginning of the experiment was 13.3 points, according to the results of the 1st stage of the experiment, the level of language competence of the control group was 14.1, the experimental - 15.9. The increase in the average level of competence of the control group by 0.8 points characterizes the effectiveness of the educational process of the studied universities. The increase in the experimental group by 2.6 is explained by the higher efficiency of pedagogical conditions provided for by the experiment, compared with the conditions of the educational process. The significance of the differences was checked by the Student's criterion, the calculated value of which 2.84 exceeds the table value of 1.9696 at p = 0.05 and 2.596 at p = 0.01. The excess of the calculated value over the table indicates the effectiveness of using the CLIL method in studying English in Russian universities and confirms the H1 hypothesis.

Table 4: Indicators of students' language competence formed to test Hypothesis H1

	Average Value of a Variable by Group, Points						
	The Experiment Begin	nning	After the Experiment				
Variable	KG (Students that were taught without using CLIL)	EG1	KG (Students that were taught without using CLIL)	EG1			
U1	4.3	4.4	4.5	5.2			
U2	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.6			
U3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.9			
U4	4.1	4.2	4.4	5.0			
U5	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.4			
U6	4.1	4.2	4.7	5.6			
U7	3.8	3.7	4.1	4.9			
U8	3.3	3.1	3.4	3.9			
U9	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.9			
U10	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.1			
U11	4.4	4.5	4.6	5.0			
U12	4.8	4.6	4.9	5.2			
U13	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.3			
Ι	13.3	13.3	14.1	15.9			

The influence of the grammar level of students (when testing hypothesis H2) on the indicator of integral language competence was described using a non-linear one-factor regression model:

$$I = 0.05 \times b^2 - 1.20 \times b + 10.64$$



where:

*I* is the value of the indicator of the integral competence of the student;

b is the sum of points on the test of the British school St George International

The F-criterion testifies to the adequacy of the constructed model, the calculated value of which 59.74 exceeds the table value of 3.84 at p = 0.05.

An increase in the level of grammar, as shown by the constructed regression model, inhibits the development of language competence only at the initial level (at  $I \le 3.44$ ). In the future, the study of grammar contributes to the growth of integral linguistic competence. For university students in whom the level of language competence before the experiment is at the level of 19.4 (for students studying according to the CLIL method) and 13.1 (for students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method), the study of grammar contributes to the development of integral language competence.

As a result of a pedagogical experiment aimed at testing the H3 hypothesis, it was determined that the level of integral language competence of students of the KG group studying according to the CLIL method was 21.9; students of the KG group studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method - 14.1; students of the EG3 group studying according to the CLIL method - 20.1; students of the EG3 group, studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method - 13.7. The level of language competence of students of the experimental group is 1.8 points (for students studying according to the CLIL method) and 0.4 points (for students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method) below the level of language competence of students in the control group. The results obtained indicate the inefficiency of learning English on a principle from complex to simple. Hypothesis H3 - the natural order hypothesis is valid for students of Russian universities studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method (Table 5).

_	Average	Value of a	ı Variable b	y Group, Po	oints				
	The Exp	eriment B	eginning		After the Experiment				
	KG		EG3		KG		EG3		
Variable	Studen ts that were taught using CLIL	Studen ts that were taught withou t using CLIL	Students that were taught using CLIL	Students that were taught without using CLIL	Students that were taught using CLIL	Students that were taught without using CLIL	Students that were taught using CLIL	Students that were taught without using CLIL	
U1	6.7	4.4	6.7	4.3	7.4	4.6	6.9	4.4	
U2	3.8	3.0	3.9	3.1	4.6	3.1	4.0	3.1	
U3	6.2	4.5	6.1	4.5	6.8	4.6	6.2	4.6	
U4	6.4	4.1	6.5	4.2	7.2	4.4	6.8	4.3	
U5	7.2	4.5	7.1	4.6	8.1	4.8	7.5	4.7	
U6	6.0	4.1	6.1	4.0	6.9	4.7	6.5	4.2	
U7	5.6	3.8	5.5	3.8	6.2	4.1	5.8	4.0	
U8	4.1	3.3	4.1	3.2	4.9	3.4	4.3	3.2	
U9	5.9	4.5	6.0	4.4	6.6	4.6	6.2	4.5	
U10	5.7	3.7	5.8	3.8	6.5	3.9	6.1	3.9	
U11	6.3	4.4	6.4	4.5	7.0	4.6	6.5	4.6	
U12	5.9	4.8	6.0	4.7	6.8	4.9	6.2	4.8	
U13	5.9	3.9	6.0	3.8	7.0	4.1	6.1	3.9	
Ι	19.3	13.4	19.4	13.3	21.9	14.1	20.1	13.7	

Table 5: Indicators of students' language competence for Hypothesis H3 testing

When testing the H4 hypothesis, different variants of the correlation of the level of students' language competence and the level of complexity of the material studied were modeled (Table 6).

The results of the pedagogical experiment allowed for concluding that the most inefficient option for teaching a foreign language is the one in which the level of tasks corresponds to the level of competence of students ( $C = I \pm 5\%$ ). The values of the indicator I in the experimental group are lower than in the control: 20.6, 13.8 versus 21.9, 14.1. Increasing the complexity of the material studied contributes to the growth of students' linguistic competence, regardless of the teaching method. The maximum learning efficiency (the highest level of students' language competence) is achieved with a material

complexity level of  $C = 2.5 * (I \pm 5\%)$  (for students enrolled in the CLIL method) and  $C = 1.9 * (I \pm 5\%)$  (for students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method).

Subgroups	Valu	e of Indica	tor I by G	roups						
of Students	KG	EG4								
		C=I±5 %	C=1.3* (I±5%)	C=1. 6* (I±5 %)	C=1. 9* (I±5 %)	C=2. 2* (I±5 %)	C=2. 5* (I±5 %)	C=2. 8* (I±5 %)	C=3. 1* (I±5 %)	C=3.4* (I±5%)
Students studying using the CLIL method	21.9	20.6	21.5	22.6	23.8	25.7	26.3	25.6	24.1	22.5
Students studying at universities, which do not use the CLIL method	14.1	13.8	14.0	14.9	16.0	15.8	15.5	15.1	14.4	14.2

Table 6: Values of the average indicator of integral linguistic competence of students to test hypothesis H4

The obtained results indicate that to ensure the effectiveness of teaching a foreign language, the level of the material studied should be higher than the current level of students' language competence, which confirms hypothesis H4. For two subgroups of students, the excess of the level of complexity of the material over the level of competence of students is different. For students studying according to the CLIL method, the complexity level of the material should be 2.5 times higher than the competence level of students; for students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method - only 1.9 times (Table 6).

The most influential factor in the development of student linguistic competence is the factor of communicative competence (foreign language proficiency, linguistic education) assessed by teachers. The dispersion of this factor is as follows: 32.1%. Twenty-seven percent of teachers from the sample (foreign language and professional disciplines) have an international certificate, thereby ascertaining the knowledge of a foreign language at the level of B2 and above. The self-evaluation of foreign language proficiency is at the level of 8.9 points. It is also observed that English language teachers and 2% of teachers of professional disciplines have had linguistic education. More than one foreign language is spoken at the level of B2 and above by 29% of foreign language teachers, but less than 1% of professional teachers (Tables 7, 8).

Table 7: Variables and factors that affect the development of student linguistic competence

Variable	Factor Loads with Corresponding Factors *								
	FX1	FX2	FX3	FX4					
Questions for Teachers (Block 1)									
X1	-	-	0.91	-					
X2	-	-	0.93	-					
X3	-	-	0.85	-					
X4	0.91	-	-	-					
X5	0.88	-	-	-					
X6	0.79	-	-	-					
X7	-	0.88	-	-					
X8	-	0.93	-	-					
X9	-	0.79	-	-					
Questions	for Stu	dents (Bl	ock 2)						
X10	0.90	-	-	-					
X11	-	0.80	-	-					
X12	0.79	0.76	-	-					
X13	-	-	-	0.86					
X14	-	-	-	0.91					

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X15	-	-	-	0.97	
X16	-	-	-	0.78	
* - signi	ficant fac	ctors (> 0)	(75) are pr	esented	

**Table 8:** The factors that determine the formation of linguistic competence

Factor	Factor Variables	% of the Factor's Dispersion
FX1 – teacher's communicative competence	X4-X6, X10, X12	32.1%
factor		
FX2 - teacher's "content" competence factor	X7-X9, X11, X12	29.9%
FX3 – pedagogical factor	X1-X3	15.0%
FX4- student's personality factor (emotional)	X13-X16	13.5%

The factor of "content" competencies of teachers determines the level of student linguistic competence by 29.9%. The teachers themselves estimate their level of knowledge of professional disciplines, which they teach, at 7.7 points out of the maximum 10 points.

The importance of factors  $F_{x1}$  and  $F_{x2}$  in the CLIL method of teaching is that to form student linguistic competence at a high level, the teacher must have a high level of formation of these two factors: the knowledge of professional disciplines and the proficiency in the foreign language. The analysis of these two factors shows that teachers do not have a multidisciplinary competence. This problem is especially acute for foreign language teachers, who do not have knowledge that allows them to train students using the CLIL method. Most foreign language teachers do not have a bi- or multilingual background: 29% of foreign language teachers have two or more foreign language skills at B2 level and above.

The pedagogical factor characterizes the level of teachers' knowledge of the CLIL method: experience in teaching this method, training in this program (professional development programs, internships). Respondents' answers to questions X1-X3 indicate that 31% of the surveyed teachers have experience in using the CLIL method (16% – up to 1 year, 8% – 1-2 years, 4% – 2-3 years, 3% –more than 3 years). All of them are currently using this method. Within the framework of this factor, the problem of the low level of student linguistic competence is the underdeveloped use of CLIL training programs by the teachers.

The influence of the students' factor (their desire to learn, basic knowledge, successful adaptation, relationships with teachers) is 13.5% out of 90.5% described by the highlighted factors.

In terms of the value of the paired correlation coefficient, the most significant influence on the level of student linguistic competence among all the indicators X1-X16 is the indicator X15, which characterizes the level of students' motivation (value of the correlation coefficient 0.96). There are statistically significant differences in the level of this indicator: 6.7 for students of the 1st sample and 4.1 for students of sample 2. This indicates that the CLIL method can significantly increase the level of students' motivation, which has a positive impact on the level of linguistic competence of these students.

Before the second stage of the experiment, the integral level of language competence (I) of the control group (KGI) students was assessed: students studying according to the CLIL method -21.9 points; students not studying according to the CLIL method - 14 points. For the experimental group students: students studying according to the CLIL method - 21.8 points; students not studying according to the CLIL method - 14.1 points. The deviation of the experimental group from the control one was 0.36% for the students studying according to the CLIL method and 0.73% for the students not studying according to the CLIL method. The results of the second stage of the pedagogical experiment are presented in Table 9.

	Average V	alue of a V	Variable by G	roup, Points				
	The Exper	iment Beg	ginning		The Experiment End			
	KGI		EGI		KGI		EGI	
-	Students	Student	Students	Students	Students	Students	Students	Students
Variable	that	s that	that were	that were	that were	that	that were	that were
	were	were	taught	taught without	taught	were	taught using	taught without
	using	without	CLIL	using	CLIL	without	CLIL	using
	CLIĽ	using		CLIĽ		using		CLIĽ
		CLIL				CLIL		
Vl	7.3	4.5	7.4	4.6	7.8	5.0	9.1	6.7



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<i>У2</i>	4.5	3.0	4.5	3.1	4.9	3.2	6.1	4.9
<i>V3</i>	6.7	4.7	6.8	4.6	7.3	5.0	8.4	6.5
<i>У4</i>	7.3	4.4	7.1	4.5	7.7	4.8	9.1	6.6
<i>Y</i> 5	8.2	4.8	8.0	4.8	8.7	5.3	9.8	6.7
<i>У6</i>	6.9	4.7	6.9	4.8	7.4	5.1	8.9	7.1
У7	6.3	4.1	6.2	4.2	6.7	4.6	8.0	6.2
<i>Y8</i>	4.9	3.4	4.8	3.4	5.4	3.6	6.5	5.2
<i>У9</i>	6.6	4.5	6.5	4.5	6.9	4.8	7.8	6.3
<i>У10</i>	6.4	3.9	6.6	3.8	6.7	4.2	8.4	5.8
<i>У11</i>	7.1	4.5	7.1	4.6	7.6	4.9	9.0	6.5
<i>У12</i>	6.8	4.8	6.8	4.8	7.2	5.0	8.4	6.6
<i>У13</i>	7.0	4.1	7.1	4.0	7.5	4.3	9.2	6.1
Ι	21.9	14.0	21.8	14.1	23.4	15.2	27.7	20.7

According to the results of the experiment, the indicator *I* for the KGI group was 23.4 (for students studying according to the CLIL method) and 15.2 (for students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method), which is 4 and 1.9 respectively higher than the results of testing in beginning of the semester. For the EGI group, the value of indicator *I* was 27.7 (for students studying according to the CLIL method) and 20.7 (for students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method). The increase in the level of competence was 8.3 and 7.4 for 2 subgroups, respectively, compared with the beginning of the semester. The difference between the level of competence of the experimental and control groups was 5.5 for students studying according to the CLIL method, and 4.3 for students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method. Differences in the level of competence of students in the experimental and control groups are statistically significant according to the Student's criterion at a significance level of 95%.

# DISCUSSION

When testing hypotheses of the Krashen theory, statistical data processing methods were used (principal component analysis, correlation-regression analysis) and a pedagogical experiment (in cases where hypothesis testing is not possible based on the results of initial testing of students' language competencies using statistical methods). The use of two groups of methods allowed us to formalize and quantify the level of formation of language competence, which eliminates subjectivity in the process of increasing the efficiency of using the CLIL method. Since it seems possible to monitor the conditions of implementation on an ongoing basis and adapt the Krashen theory to the conditions of teaching English in Russian universities, taking into account the basic level of student competencies, teacher competencies, and pedagogical technologies used in the learning process.

The practical usefulness of the CLIL method in the higher education system for the student linguistic competence development is based on an advanced approach to the assessment. The survey testified to the higher language proficiency indices among the students of Russian universities who use English to study specialized disciplines. Yet it should be noted that the most significant factor affecting the efficiency of the use of Content and Language Integrated Learning is the motivation of students. It is the CLIL that can ensure consistency in the process of forming foreign language competence, a more intense process of forming foreign language communicative competence, and immersion in a foreign language environment of students. This confirms the point of view of scientists who have studied the use of this methodology in pedagogy (Doiz et al., 2014; Meyer et al., 2015; Pablo & Jiménez, 2018; De Smet et al., 2019; Whyte, 2019). However, it should be noted, as the results of research by scientists (Noels et al., 2000) testify, as a rule, often internal motivation factors such as pleasure and interest in studying subjects in a foreign language can serve as insufficient motivation for continuing studies. A fundamental factor in the effectiveness of the implementation of the integrated teaching method should be to increase the level of communicative and subject competence of the teacher.

The presented methodological approach to assessing the level of linguistic competence development allowed to determine the main factors of efficiency is used in the Content and Language Integrated Learning in the modern system of higher education in Russia. This system, in contrast to many others, is based on an integrated approach because it takes into account factors related to both teacher and student functioning within the educational process. The system of factors is also based on the three linguistic competences formed in the process of English language teaching.



## CONCLUSION

The results of a pedagogical experiment on the adaptation of the Krashen method confirmed the conclusion about the effectiveness of the CLIL method in studying the English language. The average value of the indicator of integral language competence at the beginning of the experiment was 13.3 points, according to the results of the 1st stage of the experiment, the level of language competence of the control group was 14.1, the experimental - 15.9. From this, one can conclude that the higher the level of students 'competence and the rate of its growth, the greater should be the excess of the level of material complexity over the level of students' competence. Based on this, an individual approach to teaching a foreign language should be implemented in universities. For students studying according to the CLIL method, the level of complexity of educational material should be 2.5 times higher than the level of competence of students; for students studying at universities that do not use the CLIL method - 1.9 times. Teaching a foreign language should also be aimed at developing factors that influence the formation of language competence: the level of communicative and subject competencies of teachers, the pedagogical factor (aimed at introducing CLIL), the personality factor (increasing motivation, adaptation, improving the relationship between students and teachers).

## LIMITATIONS AND STUDY FORWARD

The results of this study were obtained on a limited sample of respondents and cannot be extended to other studies. The article did not study the key factors of the effectiveness of the use of subject-language integrated learning in the process of developing language competence in the study of English for a long period. These questions are fundamental and form the basis of the author's further research.

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