Title: Problem situations in teaching foreign speech competence.

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Topicality: The status of a foreign language in world community is rising and causing interest in effective ways of forming foreign language communicative competence. Therefore there is a necessity of developing school students’ personality, their language, intelligence and cognitive abilities.

Goals: The paper is aimed at considering the correlation of the topic, the situation and the problem in teaching speaking in a foreign language; characterising an educational and speech situation as well as at methodological substantiation of the necessity of organising problem situations in foreign language lessons as a condition of forming oral speech competence.

Tasks: The following tasks were performed:

- study modern trends in foreign language teaching methodology;
- study oral communication in a foreign language as the goal and the result of teaching at the second stage of secondary school (8th – 9th grades);
- analyse the correlation of the topic, the situation and the problem as a condition of organizing oral communication in a foreign language;
- discover psychological characteristics of a teenager as a participant of communication;
- analyse authentic communication-oriented tasks that contain communicative purpose and cognitive problem for students;
- consider teaching techniques of teaching communication in a foreign language;
- apply the selected techniques in practice.

Theoretical Value and Practical Applicability: Problem situations in teaching foreign language communicative competence have been theoretically substantiated. The possibilities a language teacher possesses for organising authentic problem oral communication as a necessary means of teaching foreign language communicative competence have been described.

Results: A set of tasks has been proposed, which form the necessary social skills of oral communication in a foreign language as well as tests for assessing the level of communicative skills.

Recommendations: The research results can be used in foreign language teaching in secondary school applying problem situations to teaching foreign language communicative competence.