

SPECIFIC FEATURES OF DISTANCE LEARNING IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES AT HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



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ABSTRACT

The article discusses some aspects of the effective implementation of distance learning technologies in the educational process of higher educational institutions. Some specific features of the use of distance learning a foreign language are given on the example of foreign experiences. The constituent factors influencing the quality and the effectiveness of teaching a foreign language remotely are discussed

Keywords: distance learning, educational technologies, computer technologies, electronic library, multimedia.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В статье рассматриваются некоторые аспекты эффективного внедрения технологий дистанционного обучения в образовательный процесс высших учебных заведений. На примере зарубежного опыта приведены некоторые особенности использования дистанционного обучения иностранному языку. Рассмотрены составляющие факторы, влияющие на качество и эффективность дистанционного обучения иностранному языку.

Ключевые слова: дистанционное обучение, образовательные технологии, компьютерные технологии, электронная библиотека, мультимедиа

INTRODUCTION

The introduction of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) into the education system of higher educational institutions requires the improvement of existing and the development of new distance learning technologies that serve to increase the efficiency of interaction between teachers and students. With the help of these technologies, an active influence on the learning process is exerted, since their application changes the scheme of knowledge transfer and teaching methods.

Distance learning technologies are understood as educational technologies implemented mainly with the use of ICT with remote interaction of students and

teachers [Mirolyubov, 2010: 464]. At the same time, the use of ICT in the educational process requires a modern teacher to improve his knowledge and practical skills in computer technologies, as well as a creative approach to teaching. This is due to the creation of new means of teaching and storing information, which includes electronic textbooks and multimedia, electronic libraries, educational network, information retrieval systems, information and reference systems and others.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The use of ICTs in education significantly accelerates the transfer of knowledge, improving the quality of learning and education. The effective implementation of these technologies in education is an important factor in creating an education system that meets the requirements of informational education and the process of reforming the traditional education system in the light of the requirements of the modern information society. In distance learning, communication between a student and a teacher takes place through information technology and communication means. At the same time, they have the ability to use synchronous methods, which include chat and video conferencing. And they can also use non-synchronous methods, which include email and various instant messengers. It should be noted that in the educational systems of higher educational institutions of many leading countries of the world, instead of traditional forms, distance learning is increasingly being used under current conditions. It is especially convenient for representatives of those age and social groups who are forced to give preference to on-the-job training [Amirova, 2014: 15-17].

With the development of information technologies, communication networks, new learning opportunities have appeared that allow maintaining the educational process at the proper level. Improving online learning methods is an urgent task of the modern education system. For example, in foreign literature, the author [Luis Miguel Dos Santos, 2020: 104-109] draws attention to the fact that in today's digital age, the search for optimal and effective teaching methods and strategies is an integral part of teaching foreign languages. Other authors [Reni Puspitasari Dwi Lestariyana and Handoyo Puji Widodo, 2018: 489-495] note that modern students have a huge experience of actively using digital technologies through resources such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and for them the online environment is familiar.

That is why, at present, many researchers in this area pay special attention to the problems of effective implementation of online learning in the educational process in universities. In this regard, the foreign expert Matthew Murdoch [Murdoch, 2012: 188] noted that currently humanity is going through an era of fundamental reforms in the

education system, built on the basis of modern information technologies. This type of training is an affordable means of spreading ideas, innovations and education around the world. According to the researcher, the abundance of information retrieval options has stimulated the explosive wave of learning to move towards virtual classrooms and other similar online learning platforms.

Distance learning is an integral part of the modern educational model, requiring the educational institution and each teacher, in particular, to reconsider the techniques and methods of teaching in accordance with new standards and technologies. Distance educational technologies using the Internet are used today both for mastering individual courses for advanced training of users and for obtaining higher education. Distance lessons, conferences, seminars, business games, laboratory work, workshops and other forms of training conducted with the help of computer technology and communication means increase the motivation of students in the discipline and qualitatively improve the learning outcomes.

When using computer technologies, the principle of visibility changes qualitatively, which, according to T.P. Leontyeva [Leontyeva, 2015: 164], becomes "the principle of hypermedia visibility", since the use of multimedia technologies offers, for example, the ability to present material accompanied by sound, graphic information and animation effects. Teachers post prepared theoretical materials, presentations, audio and video recordings, tests, test and examination materials in certain disciplines on the electronic portal of the educational institution. When choosing and presenting educational material, the teacher should remember that the "distance" student should feel "in the classroom". This effect can be achieved by combining audio and video material. When explaining the new educational material, the main attention should be paid to the quality and accessibility of audio or video recording, which the "remote" student, in contrast to the "traditional" one, can listen to or view at a convenient time for himself, reproduce as many times as necessary for better memorization and assimilation material. At the same time, the playback of audio and video materials can be carried out in different quality, depending on the quality of the connection and the data transfer rate.

In the modern system of higher education in our country, as in world practice, distance learning methods are widely used in the study of foreign languages. Of course, distance learning of foreign languages involves the use of modern information technologies. Even in the recent past, specialists in this area tried to create computer programs for studying certain aspects of the language, but now, due to the intensive development of computer technologies and communication facilities, more effective

methods of online learning are being developed. Thanks to the Internet, millions of students constantly communicate on Internet forums, in various messengers, in video conferencing programs, for example, in Skype, Zoom, TEAM and others.

Existing distance learning methods can be roughly divided into two types:

first, it is the student's independent study of the English language using the materials provided in a different format;

second, by communicating a student with a teacher through computer technology and communication: webinars or online conferences.

The difficulty of self-education lies in the fact that without regular contact with the teacher, full-fledged assimilation of thematic materials by the student, even using the best materials, is unlikely. Without the help of the teacher, the student can easily spoil his pronunciation, in an attempt to memorize the words on his own. Self-study of the English language practically does not bring the expected results. Without systematic and effective feedback from the teacher, no courses or teaching materials will help you learn the language at the proper level.

The overall effectiveness of teaching a foreign language, in particular English by distance, depends on several components, the main of which are:

- the use of interactive and classical teaching methods;
- simplification of communication between teacher and student;
- achieving maximum assimilation of the materials of the lesson, by using audio and video materials, as well as multimedia;
- creativity and professionalism of the teacher;
- personal motivation of the student.

Developed new methods of distance learning should always flexibly combine the systematic and operational interactions of a professional teacher and the cognitive work of a student. The student can study both the recommended literature and independently find information in the information network. One of the good ways to test your language skills is to watch a feature film or science program in a foreign language. If classes are held in small groups, it is necessary to ensure the interaction of group members within the framework of joint language projects, possibly with the participation of foreigners. You can organize video seminars on specific topics. In addition, the presentation of short videos during the class has a positive effect on the process of mastering the teaching materials.

Monitoring progress is one of the main elements of the educational process and should be carried out by the teacher systematically. Control can be carried out in the form

of open and closed testing, listening in real time, writing reports and abstracts on various topics. Attention should be paid to some points that have a significant impact on the implementation of the competence-based approach, which are associated with increasing the effectiveness of training. This requires an analysis and revision of curricula and plans for the taught discipline, and, as a result, the search for new approaches and techniques in order to optimize the learning process in new conditions. It should be noted that the processes of integration and expansion of the educational space require the development and implementation of new methods and technologies of vocational education in general and teaching a foreign language in particular.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, the quality of the knowledge gained and the overall success of distance learning directly depend on the methodological quality of the materials used and the method of organizing classes. The effectiveness of distance learning is significantly related to the professional training and creativity of the teacher, as well as the personal motivation of the student. The combination of the principles of accessibility and clarity, the presented educational materials and a clear worked out system of regular testing of knowledge, improve the quality of online classes and allow students to learn a foreign language without any particular difficulties.

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