

THE PROSPECTS OF APPLICATION OF GOOGLE SERVICES IN THE PROCESS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES TEACHING

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Анотація

Дана робота розкриває суть дистанційного навчання, окреслює важливість використання дистанційних навчальних курсів; також вивчається та аналізується навчальна платформа Google Classroom та оцінюються перспективи її використання в навчальному процесі, зокрема для навчання і вивчення іноземних мов.

Ключові слова: дистанційне навчання, дистанційний курс, навчальна платформа, Google Classroom, вивчення іноземних мов

Abstract

The paper reveals the essence of distance learning, underlines the importance of using distance-learning educational courses; it studies the educational platform Google Classroom and evaluates the prospects for its application in the educational process, namely in the process of foreign languages teaching and studying.

Keywords: distance learning, distance-learning course, educational platform, Google Classroom, foreign languages teaching

Current trends of technological development find their reflection in all the spheres of modern life, including education. Distance education has become a reality that greatly simplifies the access to education. It is becoming more and more popular and efficient nowadays.

According to Swan and Brehmer (1994), distance education refers to “the simultaneous delivery of instruction from a host site or classroom to remote site(s), coupled with real time live audio and real time live video interaction between teacher and student(s)”. [1] Many scientists working in the sphere of e-learning agree that “educational technology includes numerous types of media that deliver text, audio, images, animation, and streaming video, and includes technology applications and processes such as audio or video tape, satellite TV, CD-ROM, and computer-based learning, as well as local intranet/extranet and web-based learning”. [2] It is obvious that a great number of information and communication systems underlie many e-learning processes.

Nowadays, it is not a problem for an educator to develop his/her distance-learning course even without having complex technical background. A world-known American IT company has developed a tool for educators that enables creation educational courses from scratch. It is called Google Classroom. Google Classroom is a free web service tool for teachers and students. It provides a dashboard enabling teachers to create an online classroom area in which they can organize a virtual classroom and provide distance educational courses in different subjects. In fact, Google Classroom ties all the Google services (namely, Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides for work and productivity; Gmail for sending electronic mail; scheduling and time management app Google Calendar; cloud storage Google Drive; social networking Google+, etc.) together into one entity that can be used for educational purposes beneficially. For example, you can create training materials using Google Docs, Google Sheets or Google Sites. You can store the created documents on the Google Drive. Finally, you can communicate with your students with the help of Gmail or Google Hangouts.

The principle of the work of Google Classroom is quite simple. The teacher creates an online classroom into which he/she plans to deliver the educational content of the subject to be taught. In fact, it is within the virtual classroom that all the educational process is organised. Students can be added to the classroom either

by the teacher himself or they can register to the course by themselves using a unique code that is given to them by their teacher.

The platform Google Classroom gives the opportunity to create a structured distance learning course. That is, it provides the opportunity to subdivide all the material to be taught according to the pre-set themes and types of educational content. If we take a course in the English language, for example, it is possible to create tasks in the grammar section, vocabulary, audio, video, etc. The most valuable thing is that the application Google Classroom enables creation of different types of assignments. The teacher can upload a number of educational content (texts, audio, video materials) and supplement them with tasks of different types, forms and levels of complexity. It is possible to include all the needed materials from the Google drive, connected to that Google Classroom lesson, add files and images from the teacher's computer, add a YouTube video or any other link a teacher wants his/her students to study. Various interactive exercises can also be created within the platform of Google Classroom. Within the distance learning class, a teacher can keep in touch with the students of the class, create the tutorials, post announcements, give commentaries, set deadlines, plan the educational process, monitor the students' progress and assign grades.

As for the students, they have the possibility to see their results immediately after completing the tasks. They can work at their own pace devoting as much time as needed to master certain material. Another great feature is that they can communicate with their teacher and with the other students attending the class within this educational platform.

All the work within the platform Google Classroom is highly automatized which simplifies the work of a teacher greatly. For example, once a teacher creates a task in the distance-learning course, all his students are informed about this task receiving an email on their e-mail addresses. The e-mail contains not only the name of the assignment, but also specifies the due date for the task to be completed. Moreover, when the deadline is coming, all the students receive the notifications. The platform also gives you the ability to monitor the students' progress. It informs the teacher when the students have performed their tasks. Some tasks such as tests or quizzes can be checked and graded automatically.

Practically speaking, Google classroom platform can be defined as a promising technology. It can be used for providing distance education as well as it can complement the traditional forms of education. In addition, it is absolutely ideal for autonomous work and for self-study. One of the most beneficial things, is that you can give students extra exercises for practicing on their own. It is helpful when there is shortage of time during the lessons, for instance.

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