

DISTANCE LEARNING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Анотація

Комп'ютерне дистанційне навчання може бути найбільш ефективно використано при вивченні іноземних мов. Розглянуто переваги і недоліки дистанційного навчання. Зазначено, що дистанційне навчання іноземним мовам з використанням інформаційних технологій істотно сприяє підвищенню ефективності освітнього процесу, оскільки дозволяє вирішувати коло завдань, які важливі не тільки для викладачів, а й для студентів.

Ключові слова: іноземна мова, дистанційне навчання, спілкування, ефективний, технології.

Abstract

Computer-based distance learning can be used most effectively in foreign language learning. The advantages and disadvantages of distance learning are considered. It is noted that distance learning of foreign languages with the use of information technology significantly contributes to the educational process efficiency, as it can solve a range of tasks important not only for teachers but also for students.

Keywords: foreign language, distance learning, communication, effective, technologies.

More recently, all the educational institutions in Ukraine have faced the necessity of conducting distance learning. And rather soon distance learning has gained its important place in the teaching environment. Computer-based distance learning can be used most effectively in foreign language learning which includes discussion, comprehension, and coordinated teamwork. When using distance learning at the lessons of foreign languages, various methods of presenting educational methodological information, technologies combined with high didactic potential, telecommunication technologies, multimedia technologies, audio and video broadcasts, video conferences, and various Internet broadcasts can be used.

In general, effective distance learning requires strong motivation and self-organization. Distance learning means self-education; it is the student's ability to work independently. Everything depends on a person and his/her character. For some students it can be an advantage, and for others – on the contrary – a disadvantage.

One can define quite many advantages of distance learning in foreign languages. Among them there are the following:

- knowledge access, regardless of the location of a student or a teacher;
- flexibility and individuality while preparing educational materials;
- independent choice of learning tempo;
- maintaining personal contact with students;
- feeling of direct voice contact;
- instant feedback from students;
- raising the knowledge level through the use of modern means of information and communication technologies;
- students obtain knowledge in comfortable conditions;
- for teachers it is a great opportunity to discuss and solve common problems or tasks, exchange experiences or information;
- for universities it means utility costs reduction.

Among the disadvantages of distance learning they mention the psychological problem of teachers and their lack of skill in computer sciences, as traditional methods of teaching involve live communication between a student and a teacher.

The lack of direct face-to-face communication between students and a teacher leads to the less emotionally charged material presentation.

In some villages of Ukraine there are still problems with Internet connection or there is lack of hardware and software. As the students are usually mostly at home during the distance learning, they may be diverted by their family members, by everything that is going on around them, which is not favourable for the effective material understanding.

Distance learning of foreign languages with the use of information technology significantly affects the quality of foreign language learning of university students. Distance learning of foreign languages is really gaining popularity in the educational area. Modern students live in the age of information technology and feel dull spending hours listening to teachers and taking notes. Due to modern information resources, students can develop all the skills of speech activity, significantly enlarge their vocabulary. Further retrieval and application of new computer technologies will promote the development of effective distance learning of foreign languages in higher education institutions.

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