

MOBILE APPLICATIONS AS A MEANS OF ORGANIZING THE INDEPENDENT WORK OF STUDENTS

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Анотація

Стаття присвячена актуальній проблемі використання інформаційно-комунікативних технологій в процесі викладання іноземних мов. Розглянуто поняття мобільне навчання та його переваги. Також в статті надано короткий опис мобільних додатків для вивчення англійської мови та досвід їх використання в самостійній роботі студентів.

Ключові слова: інформаційно-комунікативні технології, мобільне навчання, освітні мобільні додатки, самостійна робота студентів.

Abstract

The article is devoted to the actual problem of using information and communication technologies in the process of teaching a foreign language. The concept of mobile study is revealed and its advantages are considered. This article provides a brief overview of mobile applications for learning English and experience of using them in independent work of students.

Key words: information and communication technologies; mobile learning; educational mobile applications; independent work of students.

Introduction

Foreign language education is now becoming one of the basic components in the structure of competence training models. In this regard, the role of a foreign language is increasing significantly in the training of specialists in educational institutions of higher education, in which the course of a foreign language is communicative-pragmatic and professionally oriented.

Nowadays, higher education is faced with the task of not only modernizing the content of training courses, but also introducing new technologies for the formation of foreign language communicative competence of future specialists.

Analysis of the latest research in the field of innovations in teaching foreign languages has shown that one of the most relevant directions is the introduction of modern information and communication technologies into the educational process, in particular technologies related to mobile learning, which ensure the optimization of the educational process, accessibility and the effectiveness of training, the integration of students into the information society. This is expressed, in particular, in the gradual introduction of applications for mobile phones based on various platforms: Android, iOS, etc. into the learning process.

Research Results

Many scientists and teachers are confident that the future of education with the support of information and computer technologies is associated precisely with the spread of mobile communications, the emergence of a large number of educational applications and programs, new technologies, which expand the opportunities and quality of education.

Mobile learning today is a new, evolving direction in education, a distinctive feature of which is the creation of a new learning environment.

The theory and practice of using mobile devices and mobile educational resources is actively discussed at scientific conferences and forums. Since 2002, a number of conferences and seminars have been held annually in Europe and the United States to discuss the use of mobile educational technologies.

The fundamental difference of mobile learning is following:

- the informal nature of learning, in which the proportion of independent work of students increases;
- an ongoing learning process, blurring the boundaries between study sessions and extracurricular time.

Mobile devices are successfully used in the study of different academic disciplines, and a foreign language is no exception. The expediency of using mobile devices in the process of learning a foreign language is undeniable, based at least on the fact that the modern generation of students perceives mobile devices from their attractive interface, interactivity, customized approach to a user needs.

Currently, there are a huge number of applications available for learning foreign languages, especially English. Nevertheless, students with all their awareness in the field of digital technologies need to be guided by the teacher. The teacher's task is to help students choose the necessary and appropriate products that can maximize language learning, thereby individualizing the learning process.

Today there are mobile applications and programs focused on different aspects of teaching a foreign language. Study of scientific literature, market of mobile applications of foreign languages, as well as the systematization of the experience of using applications for learning a foreign language showed that they can be divided into the following main groups:

- 1) mobile applications aimed primarily at improving certain speech skills;
- 2) mobile apps designed for development language skills such as vocabulary or grammar;
- 3) universal mobile applications designed for the integrated development of foreign language communicative competence.

Of course, the large amount of applications are not limited to work on one type of activity or a specific skill. So, for example, applications in which teaching listening is the dominant goal, in one way or another, combine listening comprehension with teaching reading, speaking, and development of lexical skills. Practical application of mobile applications has great potential, but however, the integration of work with applications into the structure of a practical lesson presents certain challenges and can be used in a rather limited way. At the same time, the introduction of interactive technologies in the learning process in order to organize and intensify the independent work of students (mainly extracurricular) seems to be a very promising direction.

So, mobile applications can be quite effectively used to develop listening skills, due to the fact that modern mobile devices offer rich technical capabilities of watching video clips, listening to audio fragments, recording speech fragments and video clips. Free apps developed by British Council training programs - Learn English Audio & Video, Learn English Great Videos, Learn English Elementary Podcasts - features the best podcasts and videos, designed for learning English. Applications are equipped with a number of additional functionalities, such as interactive texts of audio recordings, interactive glossaries of keywords, comprehension exercises for each piece of information material. They present materials of different levels of difficulty, allowing students to improve listening comprehension skills, as well as replenish vocabulary. Mobile applications Two Minute English, Real English, Puzzle English, built on learning perception of listening speech are also of significant interest to English teachers and students.

Among the mobile applications designed to work on the development of grammar skills are the application Learn English Grammar (British Council), the English Grammar Test, the British Council Johnny Grammar's Word Challenge is a quiz for English language learners, which will help to check not only the general level of grammar, but also spelling and vocabulary used in everyday English.

Pearson's free MyGrammarLab course app contains mobile interactive exercises of different levels. This course is suitable both for self-study and for use within the framework of group lessons in the English language course.

The applications designed to develop lexical skills and to expand the vocabulary of students are the MyWordBook app available on the British website, English with Words, Easy ten, Polyglot. English words, Memrise. These applications are distinguished by an individualized approach to the needs of the user, in particular, they feature such abilities as creation of customized word lists, spoken words and usage contexts are included, individual training schedule, various types of training tasks.

Conclusions

Practical application of mobile apps has a huge potential in increasing the effectiveness of the process of learning foreign languages and is able to significantly improve the process of foreign language training of students, open its new sides and turn from a serious laborious process to an exciting activity.

Practice shows that they have a considerable advantage over traditional teaching methods: intensification of independent activity, individualization of teaching, increasing teaching cognitive activity and motivation for

learning. The use of mobile technologies in the learning process contributes not only to the enrichment of the educational process, but also the acquisition of skills and abilities by students, the formation and development of which on the basis of traditional means seems quite time consuming.

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