TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES WITH THE USAGE OF COMPUTER PROGRAMS

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The issues of computer training are studied in the framework of computer linguodidactics that deals with the problems of theory and practice of computer usage when teaching a language.

Nowadays computer training programs for studying foreign languages are produced in the form of electronic textbooks. Let's consider the most famous computer training programs.

1. Reward InterN@tive. The full course of English with integrated means of distance learning. Multimedia book REWARD Intern@tive is based on of the printed textbook of the REWARD course. It consists of 4 levels: Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate, Upper-Intermediate, where each level of the multimedia course includes materials from the relevant parts of the printed textbook and its audio and video applications. This is the most complete multimedia teaching course, which provides the opportunity to fully learn the English language. Unlike many other training programs, REWARD Intern@tive encompasses the learning process completely, harmoniously combining all the components of language learning

In REWARD Intern@tive, there is a special module for working on pronunciation, and also the program includes the ViaVoice system – one of the four best systems to recognize English speech.

Thanks to the grading of tasks, their successful localization, interactivity, constant knowledge control, additional auxiliary (reference) function in the performance of tasks, the possibility of to organize one's own lessons and plan classes, the program provides the student with the fullest possible help in mastering a foreign language.

The built-in means of Reward InterN@tive of distance learning through the Internet services "News", "Forum", "Games" make it possible to organize classes

both in the computer classroom of the educational establishment and at home. Via the Internet the teacher can check written assignments and carry out remote monitoring of the students' education.

2. My Way to Perfect English. The main objectives of the course are to teach the user to speak a foreign language, including pronunciation skills, to understand a foreign speech, to read, to write correctly.

The sections of the program are accompanied by practical exercises, language games, tests and crosswords, aimed at consolidating the study material. The presence of interactive dialogues with different variants of the development of the situation on screen helps the user overcome the language barrier, allows the student to feel more confident while communicating, which is very important for a further interaction with native speakers.

The program has standard functions for working with a microphone – recording speech, reproducing it and comparing it with the speech of the speaker, which allows the user to develop auditory memory.

The free electronic dictionary "MultiLex-Muller" (English-Russian, Russian-English) is attached to the program on a separate CD-ROM. The dictionary contains 60,000 entries [1, p. 14].

3. English Platinum 2000. It is a multimedia course in American English for those who continue to study English. The whole course can be divided into the following sections:

1) The dialog section is based on the use of all possible life situations. The user listens to the English speech, says, translates, and writes dictations, simultaneously learning new vocabulary and acquiring grammatical forms.

2) The grammatical section is presented with explanations, comments and exercises.

3) Lexical section includes 15,000 illustrated and voiced words, suggesting four stages of their development. The student repeatedly sees, hears, writes and pronounces words under the constant control of the virtual teacher.

4) Phonetic section. English phonetics is represented by a separate teaching system. This is a theoretical material and more than 1000 exercises to train each sound, their combinations, intonation, accents, speed and rhythm of speech.

English Platinum 2000 is equipped with a unique system to monitor and coordinate the learning process, which includes a system for collecting student's progress statistics for all sections. Due to this system it's feasible to track the student's academic performance [2, p. 27].

It's necessary to point out that the review of modern intensive methods and technologies of teaching foreign languages leads to the conclusion that learning technologies, which involve the usage of computers and various forms of distance learning in the educational process, will be widely spread in the nearest future.

References

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2. Guzeeva, V.V. Pedagogical technology in the context of educational technology. / V.V. Guzeeva: – Moscow: MSU, 2002 – 27 p.