

DISTANCE LEARNING IN TEACHING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Summary: The article deals with the goals, basic components and advantages of distance learning. The article also reveals the relevance of the topic.

Key words: distance learning, computer and information technologies, professional activities, students' independent work, distance learning programs, teaching methods and technologies.

The current stage of development of society is characterized by deep economic and social transformations, based, among other reasons, on the widespread use of the achievements of scientific and technological progress, in particular, computer and information technologies. In these conditions, the system of training specialists in higher education establishments is being improved. It becomes modular, directing researchers to develop optimal ways and means of training, to determine the degree of quality of students' training and the possibilities of its use in their further professional activities. Particular emphasis is placed on distance learning as one of the most effective and affordable forms of modern education.

This relatively new form of training has already proven itself in teaching many academic disciplines. Distance learning can be extremely effective in training specialists in a foreign language.

By distance learning, we mean a system of interconnected tools, organizational forms, and teaching methods of interaction between the subjects of the educational process, based on a specific educational and methodological complex and providing for a significant increase in the share of students' independent work [1, p.7].

Distance learning programs are based on basic textbooks containing basic educational information, and these textbooks may not necessarily be oriented to distance learning, but should contain basic information and provide basic

knowledge. In addition to the textbooks, professionally oriented methodological developments of the relevant courses, audio materials, video recordings, CDs and, finally, the capabilities of computer telecommunication technologies such as e-mail, voice mail, electronic conferences, electronic bulletin board, Internet software systems and others are used. Each form of distance telecommunications has its own specific characteristics, and it can determine the features of the educational process. And vice versa, the need to use one or another educational technology requires the search for adequate telecommunication facilities and information technologies. So, for example, the intensity and frequency of interaction between the teacher and the student is not very high during the individual lessons of the latter, therefore, to provide such classes and consultations, email capabilities are sufficient.

For distance learning in a group where the quantity and quality of educational interactions determines the effectiveness of the entire training, the teleconferencing mode is recognized as more acceptable. Work requiring a lot of repetition and self-control to correct pronunciation skills, master students' vocabulary, generalize knowledge in the field of grammar, etc. provided by a variety of programs on CDs.

It should be noted that the information support of distance learning of foreign languages is not only decisive, but also the most difficult.

In contrast to various forms of distance learning, distance learning based on computer telecommunications provides the following advantages:

- operative transmission of information of any volume, of any kind (visual, and sound, static and dynamic, text and graphic) to any distance;
- storing it in the computer's memory for the right time, editing, processing, printing, etc.;
- access to various sources of information, work with this information;
- organization of joint telecommunication projects, including international, electronic conferences, computer audio and video conferencing [2, p. 34].

Together with new teaching methods and technologies, distant learning introduces new concepts and terms into theoretical pedagogy and educational practice. These include:

- virtual class (group);
- training support;
- educational communication projects;
- feedback;
- dialogue technology;
- computer communication;
- teleconference;
- coordinator, moderator.

The main goals of distance education can be formulated as follows:

- provide students with the opportunity to improve and master their knowledge in various fields, including the study of a foreign language;
- issue a certificate of education, one or another qualification degree based on the results of relevant exams (external studies);
- to provide high-quality education in various areas of university programs, including in terms of a foreign language.

The effectiveness of any type of distance learning depends on four components:

- a. effective interaction between teacher and student, despite the fact that they can be physically separated by distance;
- b. using pedagogical technologies;
- c. the effectiveness of the developed teaching materials and methods for their delivery;
- d. feedback efficiency [3, p. 15].

It is very important to know on what conceptual pedagogical positions it is advisable to build a modern distance learning course.

At the center of the learning process there is the learner's independent cognitive activity (learning, not teaching). Independent activity in mastering

various types of speech activity, the formation of the necessary skills is the specificity of this field of knowledge. Hence, on the one hand, a more flexible education system is needed, which allows one to acquire knowledge where and when it is convenient for the student.

On the other hand, at the same time, the student must not only possess user computer skills, but also ways to work with authentic information that he meets in various Internet resources. It is about the fact that the students should have a good command of various types of reading: studying, searching, familiarizing; work with electronic directories and dictionaries. Therefore, it is important to have courses aimed at teaching these specific types of reading, working with reference electronic materials.

In other words, the success and quality of distance learning is more dependent on the effective organization and methodological quality of the materials used.

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