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INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

At the present time social and economic transformations of society require the implementation of radically new directions in the training of highly educated and competitive personnel. The teacher's goal is to teach students to work independently with a large flow of information from any sphere of human activity.

The innovative information and communication technologies introduction in the process of foreign language teaching increases the potential for students to master it as a means of intercultural communication in a professionally oriented field. Therefore, modern educational technologies that are aimed at reorganizing students' cognitive activity are becoming particularly relevant.

There is a huge amount of e-learning software that offers a wide range of tools with which the teachers themselves can create electronic materials. The constant development of computer-based training provides the teacher with the opportunity to choose online learning tools aimed at mastering the skills of oral speech, namely integrated teaching of all types of speech activity (monologue and dialogical speech, writing and reading), providing teacher and student feedback through written comments and audio-/video recordings.

Teachers have certain difficulties with a wide variety of types of electronic learning tools because, on the one hand, they want to use these resources in foreign language classes, and on the other hand, to organize students' independent work both in the classroom and at home.

When selecting information and communication technologies, foreign language teachers should consider the following points:

1.	Does this electronic learning tool implement the main provisions of the communicative approach?

2.	Does the language and speech material correspond to the curriculum (areas of communication, subject-thematic content of communication)?

3.	How does this e-learning tool relate to calendar and thematic planning in a foreign language for a specific course (group)?

4.	Does this electronic learning tool allow for high-quality management of students' academic and independent learning activities?

5.	Are these materials valuable for forming undistorted ideas about the culture of the country of the language being studied?

6.	Is it possible to guarantee students' free access to this electronic learning tool at any time and using any operator?

All modern information and communication technologies have become an integral part of any foreign language lesson. All of them are used at any stage of the lesson to achieve specific methodological goals and objectives. For example, the service Genially is widely used in English classes with the first-year and the second-year students at the Belarusian National Technical University. It is an ideal source of interactivity that helps students of any level of proficiency in English to create all kinds of didactic resources, interactive images, presentations, illustrated processes, games, and summaries [1].

It should be noted the high potential and popularity of Padlet – digital education communication platform. Being simple and flexible in use, this service allows students and teachers to exchange information on a virtual board and work on joint projects and assignments. There are some significant advantages of Padlet:

1)	its flexibility,

2)	it's free,

3)	posts are automatically saved,

4)	shareable,

5)   the ability to make it available only to a specific group of users,

6)   excellent ease of use [2].

At a technical university, in practical classes we have too little time to listen to oral students' monologues. So, different tasks on the online board complement the material of the textbook used in the learning process and help the teacher to easily cope with their verification. For example, when taking a topic on higher technical education in Belarus as a final creative project presentation, it is suggested to record a 3-4-minute video about your university campus, the so-called promotional video for future applicants, and post it on Padlet. The students are given instructions on how to complete such tasks on the online board. Of particular importance are comments or ratings that the teacher can leave on the board for each completed student's work, which helps to increase both motivation to use this resource and interest in performing homework.

Thus, information and communication technologies are an integral part of any English language lesson. But the effectiveness of their use depends not only on the technical equipment of the educational process, but also on the initiative of the students and the teacher himself/herself.

References

1.   Genially   reviews   //   Software   advice.   –   URL: https://www.softwareadvice.com/cms/genially-profile/reviews/ (date of access: 23.12.2024).

2.   Padlet   pros   and   cons   //   KrimsynnTech.   -   URL: https://www.krimsynntech.com/resources/other-tools/padlet/padlet-pros-and-cons (date of access: 15.12.2024).