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DISTANCE LEARNING THROUGH THE EYES OF STUDENTS

Дистанционное обучение глазами студентов

With the development of technologies, it was only a matter of time, when distance learning would become widespread. A great number of researches on this problem not only provides evidence that the interest in distance education, which has become an international trend, is steadily increasing, but also proves that it is an effective way of knowledge transfer and linguacultural development.

The use of distance learning tools in classrooms can encourage students, simplify the process of making lesson plans for teachers and generate materials for personalized learning and self-study. It also helps students build essential foreign language skills [1].

Distance learning significantly affects not only the concept of learning, but the methods of obtaining information and its assimilation as well. There is a great number of different distance learning tools. The general student-teacher communication applications are presented by Google classroom, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Edpuzzle. For foreign language learning specifically, there are such apps as Quizlet, Kahoot! Anki.

Basically, Google classroom, Microsoft Teams and Zoom allow teachers to organize meeting rooms. In the meeting room students are able to talk to the teacher via webcam, send messages and the teacher can even share their screen and send files. This makes lessons very interactive and creates a breathtaking learning experience. Students and teachers are able to use different types of devices to enter meetings, such as smartphones, laptops, interactive boards.

Edpuzzle, in simple terms, is an application for video editing, designed to meet teachers' needs. Teachers are able to use their own videos or source, using YouTube or any other website link. Then, commentary and questions are added to personalize them for certain groups. Students are not just told which videos to watch, but there's a control system included, too. Teacher can see who is viewing the video and how is a certain student interacting with it.

Talking about FAMCS BSU English classes, the edufpmi.bsu.by platform, based on Moodle, proves to be an effective tool. It allows teachers to post messages and links for students, organize learning materials in a convenient way, make tests, hold the videoconferences and leave additional educational resources as textbooks, manuals, files with different tasks. Senior professors from the Department of English for Natural Sciences (BSU) worked out two practical manuals, «English. Information Technologies» in two parts, which are accessible at edufpmi.bsu.by. These books are suitable for distance learning,

because they do not only include a variety of texts, exercises, and creative tasks but also contain links to video materials, lectures on professional issues, and Quizlet word-training [2]. The use of video materials [3] in the process of foreign language learning is a way to improve listening comprehension skills without direct teachers' control, but Quizlet is one of the best tools for learning words and terms, and it is not just a vocabulary — it provides a student with a lot of techniques such as generated tests and flashcards to memorize the necessary vocabulary.

All the mentioned applications and platforms are just tools and, of course, will not work without the efforts of teachers. That's why the key to learning a foreign language effectively is the people engaged into this process. And distance learning makes it much easier [4]. This is the main reason why it has become an integral part of the educational process, bringing new methods of linguacultural environment development.

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE BELARUSIAN LANGUAGE IN MODERN SOCIO-CULTURAL CONDITIONS

Развитие белорусского языка в современных социокультурных условиях

In the context of the mutually characteristics of globalization, most languages are undergoing dynamic processes of change, both positive and negative, for example, the