

APPLICATION

**MODERN MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGIES AS A WAY OF TEACHING
STUDENTS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS**

Section 2. Foreign language teaching techniques

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“Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important” — Bill Gates.

Currently, when the need for knowledge of foreign languages is recognized as a demand of modern society, contemporary communicative-oriented education trains students to use a foreign language in real life, for cultural, professional and personal communication with representatives of other cultural traditions and social devices.

Nowadays there is an urgent necessity for IT-based education aimed to rationalize intellectual activity globally by implementing new information technologies and increase the efficiency and quality of highly-qualified specialists training with a new type of thinking that meets the requirements of post-industrial society.

Nowadays, a new phase of computerization in various scientific disciplines, including foreign languages teaching, is being introduced into education caused by the development of multimedia technologies. In the interaction they use graphs, animation, photos, video, sound, text to create an integrated information environment where the user can find qualitatively new opportunities that are implemented as a significant means of students' educational activities.

Modern information and communication technologies provide a whole range of tools for foreign languages teaching, namely: multimedia training programs (“Professor Higgins”, “Oxford platinum”, “English platinum”,) and dictionaries (<http://spravki.net/>), a huge variety of Internet resources, such as educational and authentic materials in foreign languages, electronic versions of foreign newspapers and magazines (<http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/>), publications (<http://www.washtimes.com/>), etc. Currently, there are many multimedia learning

tools available, such as “Tell me more”, “English: the path to excellence”, interactive courses, etc. [1].

Multimedia tools in the educational process of higher education can be presented in electronic textbooks, self-prepared teacher material, presentation of information using the PowerPoint program, video method, e-mail, role-playing game, electronic interactive whiteboard, etc. [2].

The following types of multimedia courses can be used to organize the study of theoretical material.

- video lectures. The lecture of the teacher is recorded on a videotape. The undoubted advantage of this method of presentation is the ability to listen to the lecture at any time, referring to the most difficult parts whenever you want;
- multimedia lecture. Interactive computer training programs can be implemented in the process of independent work on the lecture material. Learning effect in multimedia programs is achieved not only with the help of content and friendly interface, but also by using, for instance, testing programs that allow the student to assess the degree of mastering of the theoretical educational material;
- traditional educational publications: electronic lectures, reference notes, methodological assistance to study theoretical material, etc. [3].

Nowadays, one of the most popular resources that is widely used in institutions of higher education is the Moodle system.

This multi-functionality system is implemented in English language classrooms to promote students' learning. Moodle can be used as a supplement of the foreign language teaching, as a means to upload and share documents, to assign students' homework and encourage them to download learning material being outside the class, providing the opportunity to practice English learning skills sitting at home. Besides, it makes course administration easier and helps to reduce the cost and time of delivering instruction. Thus, there are some problems when using Moodle in English language teaching [4].

One of the disadvantages of online teaching is low engagement and higher dropout rates in comparison with offline traditional learning methods. Moodle teachers also face the problem of low student interaction within the course. For measuring the interaction in your Moodle course, you need to measure how long your students are online. Within a course, you can use the dedication plugin to check 3 different reports, namely:

Dedication of individual student: detailed sessions for a student with start date and time, terms and IP address.

Dedication time for each student in the course: calculates total dedication time, mean dedication time and connections per day for each student in the course.

Dedication time of a group of students: the same but only for chosen group members [5].

The use of multimedia interactive technologies in communicative teaching of a foreign language improves the quality of the lesson's presentation and the effectiveness of students learning this material significantly. As practice shows, the use and implementation of modern technologies, multimedia equipment enriches the content of the educational process, increases the motivation for learning English and creates the close cooperation between the teacher and the student.

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