

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES STUDY BY MEANS OF DISTANCE LEARNING

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Recently, due to Ukraine's international relations extension and Ukraine's integration into the world community a great attention has been paid towards foreign language study. It goes without saying that the knowledge of the foreign language is an important precondition of international relations, scientific conferences, and cultural exchange. Modern society needs specialists, fluent in foreign languages either in everyday life or in professional activity. At the same time, the necessity to reform the system of education with the aim to increase the level of its quality, availability and efficiency appeared after Ukraine's involvement into the Bologna process. Therefore constructive ideas should be found to solve the problem of foreign languages study enhancement and essential changes in traditional didactics. So, a new form of knowledge extension and acquisition appears, that is distance learning.

Distance learning is explained as an individualized process of transferring and assimilating of knowledge, skills and abilities that takes place in the context of the indirect communication of teachers with students through the use of telecommunication connection and the methodology of independent work of students with structured academic material presented in the electronic form [1]. In other words, distance learning is a process of interaction of teachers and students who are isolated in space. The main aim of distance learning is didactic dialogue encouragement of the student with the course material.

Nowadays distance learning of a foreign language is gaining wide popularity. Scientists distinguish two forms of distance learning – correspondent and telecommunication. Using the first type of distance learning letters exchange takes place. In such a way, the teacher offers theoretical material and practical tasks, which are performed by the student and sent for examination. After it the teacher evaluates the work, gives his comments and recommendations.

The telecommunication form involves the use of computer telecommunications - audio and video conferences that create the effect of “live” communication and provide conditions for the formation of speech competence. At the same time, the main disadvantage of distance learning of a foreign language can be the fact that virtual communication, for a number of psychological and pedagogical reasons, cannot be replaced in full by “live” communication.

There are several variants of foreign language distance courses. First of all, the so-called “clean” distance courses, in which students have all types of speech activities in the distance environment, and the meeting of the teacher with students is not more than once in the academic year. The second option is distance language courses of the included type, in which the periods of students’ individual work alternate with classroom classes of the traditional form, which is somewhat similar to the full-time form of the educational process.

Several advantages of foreign languages distance learning are distinguished by the scientists. They are as follows:

- 1) flexibility - students who acquire distance education, as a rule, do not attend regular classes, but study at a convenient time and in a convenient place;
- 2) modularity – the course creates a coherent understanding of the foreign language, which enables the formation of the curriculum out of certain modules;
- 3) concurrency – education takes place simultaneously with professional activity or education in another specialization;
- 4) efficiency - efficient use of training and technical facilities, the concentrated and unified presentation of information leads to a reduction in the cost of specialists training;
- 5) technological capacity - use of new achievements of information technologies in the educational process;
- 6) social equality - equal educational opportunities of foreign language study regardless of place of residence, state of health, social status;

- 7) the role of the teacher – foreign language distance education expands and updates the role of the teacher, makes him a consultant who coordinates the cognitive process;
- 8) positive impact on the student – increase of the intellectual, creative potential of the student, who studies in terms of distance education, due to self-organization, the use of modern information and telecommunication technologies, ability to make decisions independently [2].

The main tasks of foreign language distance study include: to form abilities and reading skills with the direct use of Internet materials; to improve the listening skills on the basis of adapted and authentic audio texts; to form abilities and skills of translation and referencing texts in the specialty; to improve the abilities of monologue and dialogue speech; to expand the active and passive vocabulary, to familiarize with the vocabulary of modern foreign language; to form a stable motivation for cognitive activity.

Thus, distance learning of a foreign language is an urgent need of the present, which is characterized by certain features: flexibility, technological capacity, social equality, efficiency, positive influence on the student, etc.

References:

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