Distance learning of a foreign language in a pandemic

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Annotation. It is very important that in the conditions of quarantine, when organizing online classes, the teacher becomes the central figure on whom the result of this lesson depends, he is the manager and conductor of the virtual audience. In addition, do not forget the fact that the online lesson takes place in the Internet space, access to which is comprehensive.

The purpose of this article is to consider the features of distance learning of university students during the pandemic, and, in particular, to solve the problem of motivating students in the absence of direct contact with the teacher. However, in modern conditions of computer and communication technologies, the picture of distance learning receives new content, including for foreign languages.

Quarantine still has one positive side: it allowed to increase computer literacy and increased the desire to be modern and mobile, eliminated the fear of being open to virtual interaction and helped to master new virtual platforms.

Keywords: Pandemic, distance learning, distance education, virus, increasing student motivation, online learning platforms, MS Microsoft Teams, foreign language.

The pandemic was a kind of impetus in the rapid development of digitalization. What is it, good or bad, will make sense for both teachers and students. But the fact that everyone has experienced some stress is obvious. What previously seemed unreal is already fully present in our lives.

Kazakhstan’s education, like all education in the world, is going through difficult times today. The coronavirus pandemic is changing the old foundations and traditional approaches.

COVID-19 is a world reboot. The global crisis provoked by the coronavirus pandemic has no analogues in modern history. We cannot be accused of exaggeration when we say that they immerse our world as a whole and each of us individually in the most difficult times that we have faced for generations. This is our defining moment - we will be dealing with its consequences for many years, and many things will change forever. This leads to economic destruction of monumental proportions, creating a dangerous and unstable period on several fronts - political, social, geopolitical - causing deep concern about the environment, as well as expanding the reach of technologies in our lives. No industry or business will be protected from the impact of these changes. [2, p.1].

People, being at a distance, got closer to each other, many specialties got closer to society, countries support each other. We are all experiencing events of historical importance together, but most importantly, we are experiencing them together. A high-quality online lecture or seminar is a completely different transfer of information and a different formulation of verification tasks.

The virus was the impetus for the transition from a post-industrial society to a digital one. The use of new technologies in the near future will affect most professions, including teachers. And, if we talk about the skills that teachers should have, then the role of understanding digital reality and having deep knowledge about information technologies will increase. At the same time, in order for the training to be effective, certain conditions are necessary.

First, strong motivation is needed. Almost all the educational material is mastered by a remote student independently. Distance requires a high level of consciousness. It requires willpower, responsibility and self-control.

Secondly, in distance learning, personal contact of students with each other and with teachers is minimal, or even completely absent.

When teaching foreign languages, it is necessary to take into account the individual preferences of each student and the group as a whole. To study in electronic format, students must have basic technological skills, such as the ability to send emails, communicate with messengers, work on various platforms and etc.

The highest goal of the creation and development of the distance learning system is to provide the widest circles of the population in all regions of the country and abroad with equal educational opportunities, as well as to improve the quality of education through more active use of the scientific and educational potential of the university. The distance learning system will allow the student to receive both basic and additional education in parallel with his main activity. Ultimately, the distance education system being created is aimed at expanding the educational environment, at the fullest satisfaction of human needs and rights in the field of education [3, p. 245].

Of particular interest is the study of foreign languages online. The global network allows you to transfer a huge amount of information and files in various ways to anywhere in the world in a matter of minutes.

The discipline “Foreign language” has its own specifics, just like any other subject. The purpose of learning a foreign language is not only to master language competence, but also communicative skills. Speaking of a foreign language, we are talking about practice rather than theory. Nevertheless, it is sometimes difficult to organize an online language learning process. Tasks should be diverse and individual, clear and understandable. The specificity of the subject "Foreign language" is primarily...
due to the fact that the leading component of the content of teaching a foreign language is not the basics of sciences, but the methods of activity - teaching various types of speech activity: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Academician Shcherba L.V. points out that teaching a foreign language is teaching a certain activity and the specificity of the subject consists of mastering speech, communication, in the formation of speech-thinking activity [4, p.160].

One of the requirements for the content of a modern foreign language textbook is the availability of tasks related to project activities. On the one hand, such tasks contribute to the development of creative, research activities, on the other hand, to the formation of information and communication competence of schoolchildren, since, as a rule, educational Internet resources are involved in the course of project research, which, in turn, require the ability to work with information. [1, p.100].

Modern education has been undergoing profound changes recently. Distance learning is just starting to gain momentum. What is the secret of online learning? Does it benefit the student? What are the advantages and difficulties of implementing such an innovative format?

With the help of distance learning, it is an individual approach that is successfully implemented, taking into account the capabilities of the teacher, his intellectual abilities, helps to remove psychological difficulties in mastering the educational material. This introduction of the most promising technologies (video materials, computer graphics, presentations, electronic dictionaries, videoconferencing and etc.) is now becoming a very popular form of education.

Advantages of distance learning

1. Speaking about the global benefits of distance learning, we can safely say that online learning saves a lot of time. You don't need to go somewhere, you can stay at home and get knowledge on the spot. We are talking about the universality of such training. The student and his parents are not bound by a time frame, they can allocate their time independently. Distance learning in this case promotes self-education, develops a sense of responsibility.

2. Online training allows you not to miss classes. For example, if a student is ill in real life, he most likely will not be able to attend an educational institution. But while at home, you can connect to an online lesson and listen to the material at home, consolidate after completing tasks, thereby keeping up with your peers. As a result, absenteeism is reduced to a minimum.

3. By attending classes remotely, there is an opportunity to communicate with a native speaker at a distance, which is very effective for developing speaking skills. This is a powerful incentive for teaching a foreign language. As a rule, native speakers "give" a "living" language (they use modern expressions, colloquial phrases, clichés).

4. Psychologically comfortable environment plays an important role in remote language learning. Sometimes in educational institutions there are unpleasant situations with classmates or with teachers, students may not find a common language with each other. At home, in the native walls, the student feels comfortable and is open to new knowledge, to study with pleasure. In online learning, the effectiveness of such students is much higher.

5. Since the remote format of lessons passes through the Internet, one more big advantage can be highlighted - the availability of educational materials. Almost any reference information can be found on the Internet. Many educational materials are placed in open access to the Internet space. Thus, we can safely say that distance learning frees you from heavy bags and briefcases.

6. As mentioned earlier, there are many language programs for online learning. Each student can choose the most understandable and adapted application for themselves. Speaking of online lessons, they can be conducted on various platforms created for video conferencing in real time.

Difficulties of distance learning a foreign language

1. Distance learning may not be a joy, but a burden, because it requires extreme organization and concentration. Not all students meet these requirements. For some, it is difficult to concentrate on their own, without the supervision of a teacher, if the lesson took place in an ordinary classroom. Therefore, such training may not be productive for everyone.

2. If we talk about teachers, then conducting online lessons, the work schedule often becomes irregular, which can affect the quality of education in general.

3. Learning a foreign language online is not for everyone. Some students just need live communication, and not through a monitor, it is important for them to have a teacher nearby in the classroom, eye contact, control.

4. This training format is also related to the technical characteristics of the computer or any other gadget with which the training is conducted. Not all participants of such training can be equipped with high-speed Internet, good headphones, and the power of their computer.

Hearing studied in detail the advantages and disadvantages of online foreign language teaching, it should be noted that there are obviously more advantages. Indeed, distance learning is the future. But we must not forget about the features of each subject separately. For example, a foreign language implies mainly face-to-face classes for more effective development of grammar, vocabulary, audio perception and writing.

The Microsoft Teams platform has become an excellent assistant and the most effective tool for gaining knowledge during a pandemic. Since March 2020, we have been actively teaching students a foreign language using the Microsoft Teams platform. The main representative of educational platforms is Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams is a service integrated with other Microsoft products in which you can create a learning environment by including chats, various training materials and tests. In fact, this is a virtual classroom for teachers, students and their parents. This allows students and teachers to stay in touch 24/7 and help each other through conversations, chats and online meetings.

Microsoft Teams is an ideal platform for the learning process.

Modern educators use a lot of hitherto unknown tools, ranging from time management applications to educational platforms. Often the information they receive is scattered and comes to them from a variety of sources: by mail, from social networks, virtual webinars.
In order not to miss the "important", teachers switch from one browser tab to another, from application to application, and simultaneously monitor notifications on various platforms.

With the help of Microsoft Teams, teachers can easily use the information received and effectively manage the learning process. The teacher will not need to download dozens of applications and create many accounts, since all the necessary tools are already available in Teams. In one interface, you can create classes for collaborative learning, maintain interactive communication with students, share files, give and evaluate assignments. The platform not only simplifies the process of distance learning, but also provides the teacher with a space for successful interaction of the teacher with the students and their parents.

Microsoft Teams provides unlimited opportunities for the implementation of the learning process. Which is the result of both its extensive functionality, regular updates and improvements, and simultaneous use of the entire Microsoft 365 ecosystem.

10 main opportunities for teachers in Microsoft groups

Microsoft Steam is an online communication platform that, first of all, translates the teacher's communication with the students into a remote format. It includes the functions of audio and video calls, demonstration of materials, chat, file sharing and their remote storage. Teams allows you to create a unique educational environment for interacting with students, communicating with them, forming and posting assignments and teaching materials, developing and testing control tasks.

Any teacher with the help of Microsoft Team will be able to easily and simply:
- conduct online lessons - full-fledged classes in the video conference format;
- create teams and combine them into groups, which will allow you to form separate groups with students and maintain communication with them;
- send students any files and open shared access to them, thereby sharing with them the schedule, educational and other useful materials;
- send messages and announcements to individual students, and to the whole group at once;
- create, distribute, sort assignments and give feedback to students, and to check the material passed, create test assignments or open type;
- send messages and communicate with students and parents, while any student can ask a question in the chat, and the teacher can share valuable information there;
- put down grades for completed tasks, and they will be saved in the system;
- use virtual notebooks OneNote Class Notebooks for the exchange of notes, materials and feedback, as well as for the collection and exchange of data on professional development;
- apply selected popular educational applications directly in the Teams environment, such as Kahoot, Nearpod, Quizlet, and Flipgrid;
- store files, projects and tasks in the cloud.

In addition to these features, it is especially important that Microsoft Office tools such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel and OneNote are already built into the platform. The teacher can create documents in the appropriate format directly in Microsoft Teams, and also use these tools to organize work with students.

10 Reasons to Use Microsoft Team in Online Training

- Virtual school classroom. Teams is an affordable and versatile tool for sharing multimedia data. It makes it possible to create a virtual classroom - with support for broadcast speeches and two-way conversations, exchange of materials, setting specific tasks and checking homework. And all this in one browser window on absolutely any smartphone, tablet or standard computer.
- Streaming. You can share with all students fascinating multimedia material from the screen of the teacher's PC, using it as an interactive blackboard. In this way, the teacher can demonstrate any presentation from his own computer.
- A single interface for accessing websites and applications. With the help of Teams, you can open most third-party Agi websites, Yandex. The textbook, in separate tabs, and share them with students for sharing. In addition, you can arrange video meetings using the built-in Skype technology or take part in video discussions with Flipgrid, which is also integrated into the platform.
- Immersive reading improves the quality of information assimilation by students with a variety of abilities and capabilities, facilitating the perception of the text, and inclining them to participate in discussions.
- Online presentation in front of the class. Students can write comments about what is happening in a text chat, and if they want to join the discussion and share their own opinion. The teacher has all the necessary tools to transmit a word to only one speaker and to switch the general broadcast from his desktop to any other, which is similar to a "call to the blackboard". All this helps remote classes to neutralize spatial remoteness.
- Schedule with notification. With the help of the built-in diary, the teacher can remind students about the beginning of the lesson or notify those who were absent about the last lesson.
- Collaboration and evaluation. How well the learners understood the lesson can be checked through Microsoft Forms questionnaires, which are easily integrated into Teams. Collaboration with several participants can be organized in Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, Sway, Forms.
- Virtual courses. It is not difficult to organize extracurricular activities. For example, joint reading, checkers, creative workshops and even an "excursion" with classmates into the closed world of Minecraft to create a double of the building of their educational institution.
- Memory recording. Teachers advise to keep a record so that students can review the lesson again and learn the lesson better. All materials, including videos of classes, are stored in the OneDrive cloud storage. If a student missed a lesson in real time, then he can watch it later and "catch up" with classmates.
- Guests in a virtual classroom. As a rule, groups in Teams are created closed for the educational process.
But this does not exclude the possibility of inviting third-party users to a virtual lesson.

The right way to increase motivation for distance learning is to create a community where everyone can learn and communicate together. Microsoft Teams has all the necessary functionality, using which teachers, students and parents can communicate with each other, conduct a dialogue, share files, websites, and make appointments online.

All practical classes, seminars, lectures this academic year were held on the Microsoft Teams platform. Teachers on this platform conducted online educational events, conferences, international Olympiads, webinars, advised students if they had questions about the discipline.

The prospect of introducing and using webinars in teaching foreign languages is obvious due to the growing mobility of the population and the increasing penetration of the Internet around the world and, accordingly, the constant increase in the number of potential listeners of webinars.

The use of new information technologies, provided that appropriate equipment is provided, the use of various means of distance learning opens up new prospects in the field of teaching foreign languages.

In conclusion, it can be concluded that the organization of the process of learning foreign languages remotely allows for the most complete implementation of a personality-oriented approach to learning. With this approach, a student is considered as a person ready for a continuous process of education and improvement of their abilities. It is continuity that is one of the most important factors that determine success in learning foreign languages.

**Literature:**

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