

DIGITAL TOOLS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING: APPROACHES AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE

Today, thanks to the development of digital technologies, new opportunities have emerged to improve education, including the teaching of foreign languages. Effective language learning requires creating an environment that closely resembles the natural language setting typical of native speakers.

Teachers strive to simulate such an educational environment using digital tools. These technologies help immerse students in a virtual reality that closely mimics real-life language environments. This allows learners to develop speaking skills in a setting that simulates authentic communication.

Immersive virtual reality technologies enable students to acquire oral skills more quickly by providing conditions for practicing real communicative competence. In these virtual spaces, students can practice the language as native speakers do, which promotes the development of their speech abilities. Virtual reality serves as a comprehensive set of educational resources that expand students' communicative experience and make learning more engaging and effective.

Using digital technologies allows for the creation of artificial language environments while simultaneously developing educational skills. To do this successfully, teachers need to be proficient in working with modern technologies and capable of immersing students in virtual language environments. Digital tools also help make learning faster and more interesting, especially for students who are accustomed to rapid information processing.

Today, it is more effective to present information in small portions, using videos, short clips, and other multimedia materials. This approach enhances retention because the visual and multimedia format better aligns with the way modern students process information. Modular, nonlinear presentation of data supports the development of both hemispheres of the brain and facilitates understanding of complex educational content.

Short videos and multimedia stories make learning more emotional and engaging, helping students better understand the material and develop analytical skills. This method promotes more effective information processing and memorization. Engaging each student in the learning process through digital technologies allows them to independently select the most relevant information, increasing the overall effectiveness of education.

Learning a foreign language with the help of digital technologies makes the process more exciting and dynamic. It helps create vivid, immersive images, giving students the sensation of being present in a native-speaking

environment. The virtual environment includes various resources and tools that assist in personalizing learning and achieving new results in real-life situations.

Digitalization broadens opportunities for knowledge acquisition. It involves using various digital technologies to teach people of all ages. In language learning, digital resources help accelerate the development of speaking skills and foster professional competencies. For this, both students and teachers must develop skills in working with media, the internet, and creating videos and presentations.

Digital technologies open up new possibilities for solving tasks that were previously impossible. Teachers can develop more modern and engaging learning materials, stimulate communication, and immerse students in interactive language environments. This helps prepare specialists capable of communicating effectively while considering cultural nuances.

Creating a cultural space within lessons helps students gain intercultural communication experience. Teachers who utilize digital tools can simulate intercultural interactions, fostering students' intercultural sensitivity—an essential quality for successful communication and understanding of different cultures.

Electronic applications accompanying textbooks include language learning programs for vocabulary memorization, grammar exercises, as well as additional practice in listening and writing. These programs offer the ability to significantly modify methods of managing the learning process and facilitate targeted individualization of education, thereby enhancing the quality of learning. Working with these programs helps students better grasp new material through visual representations.

Multimedia presentations are another convenient technology for integration into the educational process. To utilize them, a computer and a projector are required. Presentations can be delivered either synchronously (live) or asynchronously (pre-recorded). The way presentations are incorporated into lessons depends on the lesson content and objectives. Effective purposes for their use include illustrating and studying new material, consolidating a new topic, and assessing comprehension [1].

A resource that provides access to a wide range of presentations across various fields is the platform SlideShare. Teachers can benefit from a collection of ready-made presentations created and shared by colleagues, which significantly reduces preparation time. Students can also create their own presentations on specific topics to develop presentation skills. Using instructor-made presentations allows the teacher to present material in a sequence that aligns with the goals and objectives of the particular lesson.

Electronic testing is an automated tool for assessing and monitoring students' knowledge, which can be used by teachers or as a self-assessment method. It provides visual and, in some cases, oral feedback on results.

Another online resource is Google Classroom, offering free tools for managing email, electronic documents, and cloud storage. This service was

developed in close collaboration with educators to save time and improve communication with students. Its advantages include: 1) easy addition of students to courses; 2) student enrollment through a code and the ability to work with multiple courses simultaneously; 3) creating announcements; 4) importing assignments; 5) co-teaching with multiple colleagues; 6) creating templates, which reduces time spent on assignment creation; 7) integrating additional materials (Google Forms, PDF files, PPT files, and others) from Google Drive. An important feature is the mobile app, which enhances student workflow by allowing text highlighting in attached files and tables, adding notes and comments, and enabling online discussions with instructors.

This system also offers several methodological advantages for teachers, helping students develop self-organization skills. In Google Classroom, educators can set assignments with options such as 'preparation,' 'quick polls,' 'tracking student submissions,' and 'individual tasks.' Teachers can assign tasks to specific students or the entire class with deadlines, modify grading systems, track completed work, transfer final grades to Google Sheets or CSV files, and send them to students, print, and more [2].

The use of digital technologies makes lessons more engaging and meaningful, helping learners understand the speech behavior and cultural norms of native speakers and the country of the language studied. This approach promotes the development of intercultural communication skills, strengthens mutual understanding, and allows for a deeper comprehension of the mentality of the target culture.

Integrating digital technologies into foreign language education enhances students' cognitive activity, fosters independence, and stimulates creative thinking. It is a vital tool for developing cultural and professional competencies necessary for effective intercultural communication and professional success. One of the main goals of teaching foreign languages at the university level is to prepare students for intercultural communication. Digital technologies play a crucial role in developing students' skills for interacting with native speakers, taking into account cultural and mental differences. Therefore, the use of digital tools contributes to shaping highly qualified specialists capable of effective engagement within intercultural environments.

Список цитированных источников

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