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THE INFLUENCE OF ONLINE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION ON ESL LEARNERS FLUENCY DEVELOPMENT

Abstract. The aim of this article is to show the possibilities which are revealed to ESL learners in Kazakhstan who focus on studying via the Internet. Globalization and technical progress change the nature of studying, and you can see how learning process becomes faster, more productive and sometimes less personalized. However the assistance of a real teacher is still important, the Internet has made students more independent and flexible. Now a student has a choice of videos, books and exercises to follow during his learning time. It is also important that a student can consult the teacher who is online during the day. In this article the author also touches upon different learning strategies of students which are connected with their generation.

Keywords: learning styles, e-learning, vocabulary, grammar, interactive teaching, ESL levels, flexible learning hours, tutor, videos, online language game, fluency, aspects of English.

Абстракт. Цель данной статьи - показать возможности, которые открываются перед изучающими английского языка как второй язык в Казахстане, которые фокусируются на обучении через Интернет. Глобализация и технический прогресс меняют характер обучения, и вы можете видеть, как учебный процесс становится более быстрым, продуктивным и местами менее персонализированным. А студенты с помощью интернета стали более независимыми и гибкими. Однако помощь настоящего учителя по-прежнему важна. Сейчас у студента есть выбор видео, книг и упражнений, которым он может следовать во время обучения. Также важно, чтобы ученик смог проконсультироваться с учителем, который находится в сети в течение дня. В этой статье автор также затрагивает различные стратегии обучения студентов, которые связаны с их поколением.

Ключевые слова: стили обучения, электронное обучение, словарный запас, грамматика, интерактивное обучение, уровень английского языка как второй язык, гибкий график обучения, репетитор, видео, онлайн-языковая игра, свободное владение, аспекты английского языка.

Аңдатпа. Бұл мақаланың мақсаты-Интернет арқылы оқуға бағытталған Қазақстандағы ESL студенттерінің алдында ашылатын мүмкіндіктерді көрсету. Жаһандану мен технологиялық прогресс оқытудың сипатын өзгертеді және сіз оқу процесінің тезірек, нәтижелі және кейде аз жекелендірілетінін көре аласыз. Алайда, нағыз мұғалімнің көмегі әлі де маңызды, Интернет студенттерді тәуелсіз және икемді етті. Енді студент оқу кезінде ұстануға болатын бейнелер, кітаптар және жаттығуларды таңдай алады. Сондай-ақ, студент күні бойы желіде отырған мұғалімімен кеңесуі маңызды. Бұл мақалада автор сонымен қатар оқушылардың ұрпаққа байланысты әртүрлі оқыту стратегияларына тоқталған.

Түйінді сөздер: оқыту стильдері, электрондық оқыту, лексика, грамматика, интерактивті оқыту, ESL деңгейлері, икемді оқу сағаттары, репетитор, видео, онлайн-тілдік ойын, еркін меңгеру, ағылшын тілінің аспектілері.

Introduction

Starting from the 1990s, the Internet began influencing the world significantly. Nearly each process (sales, banking, medicine, education, entertainment) was transferred to the Internet. People started relying on online encyclopedias, working with online books and databases. Of course, studying English worldwide has become one of the most popular ways of online pastime. First of all, it is cheap. Secondly, you can find any teacher you like. Thirdly, if you study using the video conference, you can get a good communication skill, as you contact the teacher nearly directly.

There are various websites at the moment which offer online English studies. Most of them need to be combined with traditional learning with a tutor, but some e-learning programmes are far from real life. You can find dozens of dictionaries on the Internet, so you are able to build synonymic rows which contain up to 100 words.

While studying online you can also choose the tempo which is suitable for you. You can study at home, at your friends' place, in a car, on a plane etc. You can choose any topic you like to brush up the grammar and catch up with the lexis. Many websites offer studying English through games.

All in all, studying English on the Internet has become a simple and reliable way of studying. People who wish to speak fluently still address their offline tutors, but most prefer to study online as of 2021.

Methods of investigation:

In this article the following methods of study are used – comparison, text analysis, interview, teaching theory analysis. Generation theory is based on Robert Capa's discovery of X generation term.

Main part

First of all, I should inform you that there are several aspects of English. They are grammar, use of English, writing, listening and speaking. All of them are part of a standardised ESL course, especially in LSE (London School of English).

While studying in a group a student learns how to increase his marks in each aspect. For instance, at each level of English you learn new facts about grammar. You find out about articles, tenses, adjectives etc. You need to do many exercises to have a stable English grammar knowledge.

When it comes to writing, you focus on concise and clear stories that you make. You choose a topic, use new words, check your spelling and grammar and produce a clear, meaningful piece of writing. When you write a short story or an essay, it is also important to use quotations and put them into your text. Each part of your writing should flow seamlessly into another, so you have the preface, the main part and the conclusion. You should also use different forms of argumentation, for instance putting contrasting points near each other. If you write a story for a magazine, think of fact that illustrate your point of view. It's important for you to be outspoken when you write, to concentrate on original, fresh thoughts.

When you write an article, it is also vital to combine spoken English idioms and literary lexis. This will make your writing vivid and inspiring.

It's important to choose the right topic for writing. In schools these are usually nature, seasons, music, travel, professions, family, visual arts, friendship and many, many others. You follow the topic and do your best to reveal it, you write according to a scheme which divides a piece of writing into several parts. You can also use 'compare and contrast' technique when it comes to argumentation of your point of view. Once it is backed up by serious facts, you write a conclusion, and it should be as abstract as possible.

Writing about your role model, a person who inspires you, is indeed a nice experience.

It helps you express yourself through writing while staying deeply connected to rules of grammar. Many school students write about their favourite actors and musicians.

From one piece of writing to another, your analytical skills grow. You learn to prove your point of view, you learn to share your experience through creative writing.

You know how important it is to develop imagination, so in this case a task to describe someone's appearance can help you.

You add as many details as possible to depict a person's looks, and you do it with your own words.

One of the important criteria of creative writing is spelling. In the US there are even national contests which are called 'Spelling bee', in which people have to write down words, like in a dictation. To make your spelling precise, you

should focus on the meaning of the word, use it in different contexts. Once you have written 5 sentences with the same word, you will be ready to memorize it and your spelling results will improve dramatically.

Listening is also a vital skill for an ESL learner. First there were different cassettes with texts for listening that were played in class. Then CD-ROM came, and afterwards, after 2010, listening became popular online. Now thousands of websites provide you with high quality information about English listening. You have to decipher the meaning of the text which is played online, and sometimes you do a post-listening quiz.

Such quizzes are popular, and they usually contain multiple choice questions connected with the text you have been listening to. There are also forms that you have to fill with omitted words. Then you check your listening results with keys that are added to a textbook.

It's also extremely easy and useful to listen to music online. You can find millions of songs on Youtube. First you listen to a song and try to guess its general meaning, then you look for details on websites like amalgamab.ru, which contain lyrics for English songs.

Listening to songs gets you closer to vibrant, informal aspects of the language.

You can feel the mood of the artist and imagine what happens in a song. Many websites are equipped with karaoke opportunities, so you can sing along to rock, pop, electro or rap music.

On many websites you can find linguistic quizzes. They are extremely useful, as they stimulate your interest in English and they help you develop various topics while you speak or write.

You don't have to be shy while writing. First you make mistakes, then you correct them, and later you do better, better and better. The improvement is based on your knowledge of words connected with various topics. You bring together grammar and lexis while writing English compositions, and it's also important to read aloud so that your spelling becomes more natural.

Spelling can be checked on special websites. Usually these are websites of online dictionaries, like Merriam-Websters or urbandictionary.com. The latter focuses on slang and informal style of English, which is also important if you plan leaving for the US or the UK. These numerous idioms help you become more persuasive as a communicator, and you shine bright with your informal style of self-expression through speech.

Watching films in English is also connected with listening. If you watch a film in English with subtitles, you follow the plot and start thinking of characters, artistic detail and the philosophy behind the story.

Youtube is vital for film lovers. It contains movies with subtitles or in English entirely. You can choose comedies, adventures, sci-fi, horror, historical films and many, many others.

Music videos are one of the best aspects of English self-study. You can write down the lyrics and learn them by heart, you can sing along to songs and listen to artist interviews. Usually pop and rock artists are very outspoken and they share their news and answer questions easily. In songs you can find many set expressions that enrich your English vocabulary. You find out about cultural realities of different countries, for instance, like in a song ‘Sunday Bloody Sunday’ by U2, which was connected with tragic events in Northern Ireland in the 1980s. Listening to songs is also important because you can hear different accents, and you have to find out the meaning of a song. English songs are catchy and uplifting, you will have lots of funny moments while working with those lyrics. ‘Lyricstranslate’ is a website that contains hundreds of thousands of song lyrics in English. You get the English version, the Russian version the Kazakh version, you look through the lyrics and find soulmates on this website. You can find various fanclubs where you can chat with new pals, and you can always write comments and thank translators. Later you can become a translator, too.

You can choose to work with lexis in a more detailed, productive way. To do so, you can focus on a written vocabulary. You choose a copybook and several colourful pens, and you write down new words and their definitions. You take one word and highlight it with colour and then you write down its definitions and translations. Later you can use these words in sentences or short stories.

The more words and definitions you write down, the richer your language becomes. When you are inspired by the best examples (Shakespeare, Jack London, Jane Austen and many others), you start writing better. A key to success in creative writing is knowing the standards and self-expression through words. You can share your emotions and impressions freely, focusing on a combination of high level of literacy and flight of imagination.

Speaking about the learning process in general, it is often said that Z generation students tend to lose concentration quickly. Unfortunately, this is true. If an average Z generation student doesn’t read in his free time, he will become more short-tempered and inattentive than a Y generation student. You should try to inspire your Z generation students by letting them influence the study process, by showing them fast results of their studies, by giving them riddles that train the mind. Yes, Z generation people often lose the track of their studies, but they are very creative and honest, so they can give you good feedback in terms of teaching methods.

How can you choose an English course?

It mostly depends on your goals when you study. If you make plans to go abroad, you should choose a course with native speakers. This is how you will get good, natural pronunciation, lots of fresh idioms, a deep knowledge of lexis and a fine grasp of grammar.

You should study in a group which is neither too big nor too small. The teacher needs to be highly motivated, open to communication.

Choose a school with a high level of originality of learning programmes. Focus on writing, reading and grammar so you can make progress easily. Use only textbooks from English-speaking countries. They will cover a wide list of topics and they will help you overcome difficulties with writing and grammar. You can also use social networks and chats to practice your English.

When you use language learning programmes like Lingualeo or Duolingo, you can find some people to chat with. This will help you believe in yourself and express yourself through use of English language.

You can use Facebook to find English-speaking friends and chat with them. When you chat, you should focus on delivering the message, and only later you will correct your mistakes. First you communicate and do your best to be understood.

If you live in Astana, you can choose various speaking clubs, in which you discover different topics like art, travel, economy, ecology, holidays, religion, cinema, theatre, studies, work and many other topics.

In these speaking clubs people are usually divided into groups according to their level of English knowledge.

You can even make presentations if you visit speaking clubs regularly.

Speaking clubs have become increasingly popular, and the Internet helped it too. You choose your group and do your home assignment, and you have 1-2 hours to forget your mother tongue and start speaking English fluently. You will act out different situations, like asking the address in the street, buying plane tickets, choosing a car etc. In all these communicative situations you become more and more fluent in English and you can feel inspired because you feel your results soar up high quickly.

If you have questions or insecurity concerning English, you can hire a tutor who will choose the right rhythm of studies and will help you train your writing, speaking and reading skills.

Reading texts in English is an important skill as well. You read a text and then answer multiple choice questions or other questions. The more right answers you get, the higher your grade is.

You can choose textbooks like ‘Opportunities’, ‘Essential English Grammar’ and many others to focus on while you study.

Organize your time so you can have time for studies and leisure time.

You should do your best to write down at least 20 new words each day, this is how you will go from an absolute beginner to a confident speaker.

Internet and innovations have changed the world of English studies dramatically. If you are a beginner, you should try learning English from an online robot, but when you already have experience, you will prefer to talk to a tutor who is a real person, so you can talk to him/her and ask questions. It’s important to copy most English pronunciation manners and intonations, but you should do your best to start feeling the language – its poetry, its beauty, its inspiration.

Results

New websites for those who study English are really helpful. For instance, Grammarly, a writing tool, is now embedded in most email services.

You can use the Internet to read, write, edit your writing, to listen to songs, to watch films, to consult textbooks and dictionaries.

The Internet helps you a lot, but you should always remember that live communication is extremely useful when it comes to studying ESL.

All in all, the Internet has changed approaches to studying dramatically, making people more proactive in their learning choices, giving them lots of theory and practice in learning English, connecting them into groups based on the interest in learning languages, raising the overall literacy of the population, creating the atmosphere of competition and positive rivalry. Teachers who catch online trends are much more successful than those who ignore them. The world has become global, and studying ESL is part of this change process.

This investigation has shown that most ESL learners are satisfied with changes that are stimulated by the Internet, they use Youtube to watch films and websites like Linguleo to brush up grammar in a game-like environment. Sometimes ELS learners are less stable than before and they change their teachers if they don't provide them with more breathtaking emotional experiences during studies. It is more complicated to grab the attention of an online learner, but the process has become more interactive, as learners are becoming more open to sharing their experiences and results. The Internet has made ESL learners more versatile, more dynamic and independent in their choices, and it has influenced also the nature of pairwork and groupwork during the lessons. People generally accept the changes brought about by the Internet, they tend to experiment with their studies, organizing them in flexible hours and being able to choose among a wider variety of topics than before.

Maybe reading has become less popular, but speaking and use of English grammar are the aspects of ESL which are thriving in the era of the Internet.

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