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THE CONCEPT OF THE "BLENDED LEARNING" METHOD IN TEACHING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract: The key role of the methodology of teaching English with the help of “Blended learning” has already entered one of the most relevant methods of teaching students a foreign language. In this scientific article, the concept, essence, and also its practical application in English lessons are given in more detail.

Keywords: English, innovative techniques, online learning, the concept and essence of blended learning, conditions for the implementation of blended education, models of blended learning integration.

Introduction

The development and progress in science does not stop for a long time in one place, based on various circumstances, humanity gradually begins to adapt to everything, creates a new one, which directly facilitates a lot of work in unusual situations for us, the entrance of recent and still ongoing events associated with a global pandemic, people whose professions are related to education quickly and not completely readily switched from traditional education to online.

Teaching foreign languages through online platforms, let's be honest that we were not unambiguously ready for this, as a result, a search began for methods for the convenience of teaching students through online platforms. One of these techniques used today is "blended learning".

Blended learning is an educational concept that combines traditional learning with distance learning and online learning. The student gains knowledge both internally, communicating live with peers and teachers, and independently, using modern information technologies.

These are not ordinary classes in the classroom: students master some of the material at home with gadgets in their hands at a convenient pace. It should be borne in mind that this is not entirely distance education, where the student practically does not receive help from the teacher and appears at the university only to

pass exams, this technique is also used on time to complete the course online and face-to-face meetings with a teacher who is a curator and answers all kinds of questions related to the course. This method helps to carry out training from anywhere in the world.

Conditions for the implementation of blended learning:

- creation of a high-tech e-learning environment of the university;
- creation of high-tech dynamic educational content;
- preparation of teaching staff for teaching using blended learning technology;
- on the part of the university - making changes to the organization of the educational process.

The term blended learning began to be actively used after the publication in 2005 of The Handbook of Blended Learning: Global Perspectives, Local Designs by Curtis Bonk and Charles Graham. And although in the special literature there are other names with slightly shifted accents (hybrid learning, mixed-model instruction, integrated, or web-enhanced, web-enhanced instruction), the essence is the same.

Blended learning is a mixture of traditional education and e-learning that incorporates the best of both. Blended learning is developing

most actively in the United States. If in 2000 blended learning technology was available only for 45 thousand American schoolchildren, then in 2009 their number has already reached three million. By 2019, the United States plans to deliver 50% of all school lessons in a mixed mode. Six models of blended learning integration are distinguished from the blended learning technology of the researcher M.B. Michael B. Horn of The Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation.

- **Face-to-Face Driver** - Material is passed from teacher to student in face-to-face classroom sessions. Electronic resources are used only to consolidate and deepen knowledge.
- **Online Driver** - The student watches webinars, solves online problems, undergoes Internet testing, that is, he masters the material remotely. But if necessary, he can meet with the teacher and consult on incomprehensible issues.
- **Flex model** - The bulk of the program is delivered online. The educator acts as a facilitator, keeping track of difficult topics to discuss in a classroom setting or individually.
- **Rotation model** - Full-time and online learning alternate: first, students master the material on their own through the Internet, then together with the teacher in the classroom, and vice versa.
- **Self-blend** - Students go through the program as usual. But, if certain subjects are of increased interest, you can take additional online classes for them.
- **Online Lab** - Students set up experiments and solve problems in special programs and on special sites, but within the walls of the alma mater and under the supervision of a teacher.

These models are rarely used in their pure form. Usually they are combined. For example, Face-to-Face with Flex: in addition to attending

classes, students study online on their own, and then discuss incomprehensible points with the teacher. What are the advantages of this educational methodology? There are several fairly well-reasoned reasons, among them:

1. **Openness of learning.** When taking exams on a computer, it is difficult to cheat or face bias. Also, communication technologies allow students and teachers to constantly maintain feedback, which means they can better understand each other.
2. **Individual approach.** Teachers can vary the pace and volume of mastering the educational material depending on the personal characteristics of the students. And the combination of different models allows each student to develop in exactly the direction that interests him.
3. **Development of independence.** The student must manage his time effectively, be able to plan and be disciplined. Otherwise, with a mixed system, success cannot be achieved.
4. **Increased motivation.** Many people love gadgets and services. In the 21st century, people do not just want to learn - they want it to be interactive and interesting, and take part in webinars with pleasure, conduct discussions on forums, and master various programs.
5. **Flexibility of the educational process.** Any number of teachers and students can be involved in it. Teachers can give master classes, even while on another continent, and you can refer to electronic teaching materials at any time and from anywhere.

Having listed all the advantages, do not forget that there are also disadvantages to this teaching method. So, one of the most realistic disadvantages is uneven IT - literacy, dependence on technology, broadband Internet, online stability and no limit tariffs. Often, a low level of technology proficiency becomes an obstacle to the implementation of this approach, therefore, a technological educational program is needed for teachers and students, as well as training to work with the school Blending

Learning platform. Another "inhibiting" factor is that blended learning requires technical support and certain costs for the creation of video materials, training programs and testing modules. The main drawback of pure online learning is motivation issues. According to statistics, out of ten only one person reaches the end, the rest do not dare to complete the started business to the final stage. Now the "blended learning" methodology is actively introduced into the learning process by teachers teaching foreign languages, who, by their personal example, prove that this concept can be really integrated into teaching in accordance with the modern requirements of foreign teaching practice, while improving their teaching skills and raising their own level of scientific - methodical training.

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