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ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF DISTANCE LEARNING FOR LANGUAGES IN MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES IN A PANDEMIC SITUATION

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Key words: Distance education, the systems of distance education in Moodle Google for Education, internet messenger Telegram, digital platforms Skype and Zoom, Communicative Competence.

ANNOTATION:

In this article the advantages and disadvantages of distance education of languages in the medical universities in a Pandemic situation as from teachers and students positions are highlighted.

В статье освещаются преимущества и недостатки дистанционного обучения языкам в медицинских вузах в условиях пандемии как с позиции преподавателя, так и с позиции студента.

Ключевые слова:

дистанционное обучение, системы дистанционного обучения Moodle и GoogleForEducation, интернет мессенджер Telegram, цифровые платформы Skype и Zoom, коммуникативная компетенция

INTRODUCTION:

The requirements for the quality of language training of non-linguistic specialists, and in particular, future clinicians, that have increased in recent years, have led to corresponding transformations,

both in the forms of organizing the educational process and in the use of various methods, teaching aids and forms of control in medical universities.

Today, knowledge of a foreign language is not a luxury, as it once was, but a vital necessity. Learning a foreign language in the modern world is one of the most important moments in the life of a modern, successful person. A foreign language is necessary not only to effectively interact in science and politics, culture and art, economics, but also in medicine and other important areas of our life.

One of the conditions for the professional competence of a future doctor is knowledge of a foreign language. The study of a foreign language in medical universities is considered as an obligatory component of the professional training of a specialist. Knowledge of a foreign language makes it possible for a future doctor to improve his qualifications, to practice abroad, in order to exchange experience and knowledge with foreign colleagues, to participate in international conferences, seminars, webinars. Knowing a foreign language, a medical student can study various medical literature, visit websites, write scientific articles, conduct research in foreign languages, conduct conversations using medical terms, compose and translate medical documentation describing diseases, choose possible methods, methods of treating a disease, procedures, drugs, manipulations, etc. In addition to all this, knowledge of a foreign language is also important in communicating with patients, native speakers.

In recent years, such a form of educational process as distance learning with a variety of various training courses, programs and lectures has been widely used for the effective study of foreign languages.

Distance learning is a form of organization of the educational process, when learning, for example, a foreign language occurs at a distance, using computer telecommunication technologies and Internet resources.

The basis of the educational process in distance learning is the purposeful and controlled intensive independent work of the student, who can study in comfortable conditions, according to an individual schedule, with special technical teaching aids and an agreed opportunity to contact the teacher by phone and the Internet.

For many years this form of study was considered as part-time. Unlike various forms of distance learning, distance learning provides many opportunities.

At the moment, the issue of distance learning for various reasons is becoming more relevant.

So in our Republic, since March, in connection with the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), a general quarantine was declared, the ongoing processes associated with this situation demanded immediate changes in the education system. All universities, in particular, medical ones, were forced to switch to distance learning. In this regard, there were difficulties in choosing Internet systems.

The most common and widely used systems for creating virtual assignments are Moodle and Google For Education. To inform and interact with student groups, teachers of many universities also widely began to use the Telegram Internet messenger, (transferring files of various formats:

PDF format, and files created using the Word program, and many others). Another way out in this situation was the use of the widespread digital platforms Skype and Zoom, which allow for online broadcasts and conferences. However, it should be noted that the Skype digital platform is inconvenient in that it imposes a limit on the number of participants who can simultaneously communicate in real time, and Zoom, in a free mode, allows videoconferencing up to 40 minutes, after which it is necessary to reconnect to the conference.

It is very important in a pandemic to have an efficiently functioning online training system that helps to ensure a smooth training process and the necessary distance support in force majeure situations

The peculiarity of language disciplines is that the goal is not only the possession of language competence, but also the possession of communicative competence.

The organization of teaching a foreign language in a distance format should be based on a well-built virtual language environment.

It is necessary to take into account many conditions that facilitate access for perception.

This includes video, audio recording, images and text.

Hence the difficulty of teaching language disciplines in distance learning.

Let's take a look at the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning.

The benefits of distance learning include:

From a student's perspective:

1. Comfortable conditions for classes (ease for beginners to learn a foreign language);
2. Saving time (no need to spend time on the road, etc.); 3. Combining training with the main professional activity "on the job"; (for example, internship or senior year work in a clinic)
4. Use of telecommunication systems and means;
5. Speed of access to educational information sources;
6. Possibility of video and audio recording of the lesson, for the purpose of consolidation, repetition and self-examination.

From a teacher's perspective:

Reduction of paper documentation (Documentation in electronic form: Curricula, programs, educational and methodological complexes, workbooks, control questions, handouts, etc.);

Saving time (no need to spend time on the road, etc.); (although all this is compensated by careful preparation for the lesson, well, more on that later)

The speed of checking test answers;

Acting as a coordinator, tutor (consulting, organization and implementation of constant two-way communication);

Extensive use of interactive interactions; (the number of trainees is not limited)

Use of new information technologies.

Disadvantages of distance learning include:

From a student's perspective:

Lack of direct communication between students and the teacher;

The need for a personal computer and Internet access; the need for constant access to information sources;

Technical reasons (Frequent failures in the Internet connection: disconnection of communication, interference, etc.);

Complexity of motivation.

From a teacher's perspective:

Difficulty using distance learning tools;

The difficulty of creating a creative atmosphere in a group of students;

The problem of user authentication when checking knowledge. It is impossible to say who is on the other end of the line; (all the more difficult it is to determine when working with students - translators, often, without seeing our faces, we evaluate knowledge);

Difficulty using paired and group forms of work in distance learning.

The problem of finding programmers specifically in language disciplines to create high-quality multimedia courses, electronic textbooks for students of medical universities.

CONCLUSION:

From all of the above, it can be concluded that the use of the form of distance learning, despite the listed disadvantages in the study of language disciplines, is one of the effective forms of education in the field of medical higher education in a pandemic. This means that each teacher of language disciplines bears high responsibility for conducting online classes, creating electronic textbooks, developing educational and methodological materials, introducing test programs, introducing new texts, assignments, launching platforms for communication of participants in the educational process, in order to form professional communicative competence of the future doctor.

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