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PANDEMIC ERA TRENDS IN THE STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Knowledge of foreign languages is the key to success in the modern world, where communication in foreign languages and processing huge amounts of information is becoming more and more important. Language learning is a complex and long process that requires a well-constructed curriculum. Covid-19 and quarantine have forced the whole world to switch to distance and blended learning, which has completely changed the approach to teaching in higher education (Andriianova, H. I., Krutin, O. Z., Skora, N. A. & Shulga, I. M., 2021). With the transition to a different way of learning, many new and interesting trends have emerged in foreign language learning. Our practical experience has shown that even in such a difficult situation, you can find advantages.

First, I would like to start with Artificial Intelligence. AI is the ability of an engineering system to analyze the information received, draw conclusions, and make decisions based on them. It's a pretty powerful tool that has a lot of advantages. For example, the ability to quickly analyze a large amount of information, accuracy in data processing, lack of need for rest, constant processing of mistakes and learning new things. All this provides many opportunities that can be effectively used in the learning process. Artificial Intelligence can evaluate students' knowledge and save data on their progress, which significantly speeds up the educational process. The ability to learn foreign languages independently with the help of Artificial Intelligence is an interesting alternative to traditional face-to-face learning.

The program can adjust the training plan from the start, taking into account the individual needs of the person. A wide variety of tasks and resources for language learning, interesting presentation, and accessibility at any time make learning productive and information better absorbed. Artificial Intelligence, of course, cannot completely replace a real teacher, but it can become a good assistant in developing your knowledge.

Also, to move to a new quality level in learning foreign languages, you will definitely need the "Soft skills". They include communication skills, listening and interpersonal skills, ability to adapt to new conditions, self-management, self-control and responsibility (Korniush, H. V., 2022). It has become especially important to have such skills in distance learning, as it requires students to control the learning process on their own. Soft skills are not only useful in learning foreign languages, they are also the basis of a competitive specialist and are highly valued in the labor market.

Another interesting trend in foreign language learning is Virtual reality. Virtual reality is a semblance of the world around us, artificially created with the help of technical means and presented in digital form. The use of VR technologies enables remote presence. Now, it is not necessary to travel to a in the country whose language you are learning. There are many VR resources and programs that will take you virtually anywhere in the world. This has a powerful impact on learning, as students can become part of a different culture without any problems (Arestov A. V., 2021).

And probably the most popular trend in foreign language learning is Blended learning. This is currently the most practical approach in higher education institutions, as it combines offline and distance study. Blended learning has proven to be very effective and is probably one of the best teaching methods. Students receive both live communication practice and online materials that they can work on independently (reading books, articles, watching movies, completing written assignments). The main thing is to create the right course and distribute the learning

material so that each type of information is well absorbed. This way, we get an easy and continuous process of learning a foreign language.

The process of globalization requires a modern specialist to have a high level of foreign language skills. The pandemic has greatly affected our conventional approaches to education. Therefore, a modern specialist must be ready for the new reality and easily work with the latest trends in the educational globalization space.

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