

TRENDS IN ESP TEACHING: 21st CENTURY SKILLS

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The trends in English language teaching can be described from the crucial point of view: the nature of work will be reshaped in the next five years. In fact, shifts in communication, business (both B2B and B2C), and the expectations of both employers and employees are on track to bring about bigger changes than the freelance economy can on its own.

The employee has to be ready for continuous education and re-education, which can be easily turned into a repeated cycle (learn – work – learn – work). The skills, that are necessary for constant growth and steady professional development in a competitive environment are nowadays referred to as so-called 21st-century skills (such as critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration).

There are more and more attempts today to teach these kinds of skills as well as the language. Dennis Van Roekel, the President of the National Education Association (NEA) believes, that the education should be based on the 'four Cs' (critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity) [1]. He states, that teaching critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity and innovation are not new concepts for educators. Moreover, these skills are now thought to be basic, survival skills. The inevitable way of developing these skills is enable students to learn in relevant, real world 21st century contexts (e.g., through project-based or other applied work) [2].

Developing the idea of 21st century skills, Chris Dede of the Harvard Graduate School of Education developed a framework based on new digital literacies entitled Neomillennial Learning Styles:

- Fluency in multiple media

- Active learning based on collectively seeking, sieving, and synthesizing experiences.
- Expression through non-linear, associational webs of representations.
- Co-design by teachers and students of personalized learning experiences [3]

The above mentioned framework was developed into the ultimate list of 3 basic learning skills, vital for general education as well as for language learning:

- Sharing (communal bookmarking, photo/video sharing, social networking, writers' workshops/fanfiction)
- Thinking (blogs, podcasts, online discussion fora)
- Co-Creating (wikis/collaborative file creation, mashups/collective media creation, collaborative social change communities)

In conclusion, it's necessary to create learning practices, human support and physical environments that will support the teaching and learning of 21st century skill outcomes.

References:

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3. Dede C. Comparing Frameworks for "21st Century Skills" // [Електронний ресурс]. Режим доступу: [http://sttechnology.pbworks.com/f/Dede_\(2010\)_Comparing%20Frameworks%20for%2021st%20Century%20Skills.pdf](http://sttechnology.pbworks.com/f/Dede_(2010)_Comparing%20Frameworks%20for%2021st%20Century%20Skills.pdf)