

INNOVATIVE METHODS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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ABSTRACT: This article examines the role of innovative methods and technologies in foreign language teaching, their integration into the educational process, and their impact on improving learning outcomes. Through the use of modern approaches such as multimedia tools, ICT, distance and blended learning, gamification, project-based instruction, and interactive strategies, students' motivation, engagement, and independent thinking are enhanced. The paper analyzes how innovation fosters creativity and develops communicative competence in language learning.

KEY WORDS: Innovative technologies, foreign language education, interactive methods, ICT, multimedia, gamification, distance learning, project-based approach, virtual environment, learner engagement.

The modern education system demands the organization of learning that considers the individual capabilities of each student. In particular, relying solely on theoretical approaches in language teaching can reduce students' interest in learning languages. Therefore, integrating innovative technologies into the educational process is of great importance. These technologies activate learners, increase motivation for learning, and contribute to the reinforcement of practical knowledge. Lessons based on innovative methods stand out for their interactivity, relevance to real life, and creative approach. First and foremost, the role of multimedia tools deserves special attention. The use of audio, video, animation materials, English-language films, music, or interactive slides enlivens the language learning process. Audiovisual tools are especially effective in developing phonetic and listening comprehension skills. Through listening activities, students naturally acquire pronunciation, intonation, stress, and grammatical structures.

Additionally, information and communication technologies (ICT) have ushered in a new stage in foreign language teaching. Interactive lessons conducted via online platforms such as Kahoot, Padlet, Moodle, Zoom, and Quizlet, as well as online tests and video conferences, encourage students to continue learning even outside the classroom. These lessons eliminate the constraints of time and space, creating a learner-centered environment. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, remote forms of education—both synchronous and asynchronous—were widely implemented, and today they are becoming a stable form of learning. Among innovative methods, gamification—teaching through games—plays a crucial role. Tasks like “Chain story,” “Find the mistake,” “Warm-up games,” “Who am I?,” “Picture description,” “Merry Riddles,” “Translator’s duel,” and “Quiz battle” foster a healthy competitive environment, enabling students to work in teams, think quickly and clearly, and learn new words and expressions in a practical context. Learning a language through games fosters a positive psychological attitude toward lessons. Project-based learning, as an innovative method, serves to develop students' independent research skills. Language learners create travel brochures, presentations, articles in English, interviews, or vlogs, which helps them perceive the language not just through grammar rules, but as a real means of communication. This process enhances their creativity, social activity, and ability to

expressthemselves freely.

Innovative technologies also demand a high level of preparedness from teachers. Teachers must continually familiarize themselves with new platforms, applications, and methods, and integrate them appropriately into the learning process. At the same time, it is crucial to select each innovative tool in accordance with didactic goals. After all, technology is a means, while effective teaching is the goal. A learner-centered approach, the opportunity to learn at an individual pace, differentiated tasks, and communication possibilities in both real and virtual environments are among the main advantages of innovative technologies.

Moreover, virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies offer vast opportunities in foreign language teaching. For instance, through VR, a student can take virtual tours of foreign cities or gain experience communicating with foreign clients. This allows language learning not only within the classroom setting but also based on real-life situations.

In recent decades, the use of innovative technologies in teaching foreign languages has become particularly relevant. This is due to the improvement of technical infrastructure and a methodological shift toward finding the most effective, convenient, and comprehensible teaching strategies. Such an approach demands the development of educational methods aimed at “achieving maximum mutual understanding in a multipolar world.” In today's labor market, a specialist's demand and competitiveness largely depend on their speech competence (oral and written), ability to communicate effectively, and mastery of persuasive and impactful communication strategies. K.D. Ushinsky once said: “A child enters the spiritual life of the people around them only through their mother tongue...”

Foreign language is an academic subject with extremely high cognitive value. Such lessons develop thinking skills, foster love for the native language, promote the understanding of universal human values through language, educate the individual, and ensure intellectual development through language. They also make it easier to learn other subjects. Teaching language reflects the humanistic nature of society — it represents the pursuit of expanding knowledge and enhancing students' intellectual development.

Traditional education somewhat lags behind the needs of society. The concept of modern education has defined the main goal of a teacher's professional activity — forming students' skills for successful socialization and active adaptation to the labor market. This, in turn, has created the need to develop innovative technologies in education. Innovative methods stand out with their methodological approaches in organizing students' learning and cognitive activities.

In general, strategies can be divided into two groups: strategies that directly affect learning and those that support learning. The first group includes cognitive strategies used by learners to understand material, memorization strategies for retaining information, and compensatory strategies to overcome difficulties in communication. The second group involves creating the necessary conditions for learning and overcoming psychological barriers in language acquisition.

In conclusion, teaching languages through innovative methods and technologies is not just a technical innovation, but also signifies a fundamental shift in pedagogical thinking. These methods enable students to acquire knowledge through independent exploration, rather than in a ready-made form. Each learner studies the language at their own pace and according to their own interests, ¹⁴² becoming an active participant in the

educational process. Innovative approaches in education are the foundation of future learning and a key tool in shaping competitive, knowledgeable, and proactive individuals.

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