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Internet resources in learning English for specific purposes

Usage of technical means for training has occupied the common part in the  
structure of educational process in modern higher education. Currently, introduction  
of innovative teaching methods, digital technologies, application of Internet resources  
in learning and teaching foreign language in the universities, including the  
postgraduate stage, is becoming relevant [1, 2. 4-7].

Education now involves digital media, perfectly reflecting large volume of new  
information, telecommunication technologies, media technologies, etc. [1, 5-7].  
Modern Internet technologies offer wide opportunities both for teachers and for those  
who are studying. Using video in the classroom and video as a task is a possibility for  
the learners to access the lesson content extending the program time. Such creative  
tasks free more classroom time for practising and acquiring cognitive skills.  
 The authors emphasize that virtual environment, and electronic  
communication, as well as, has become “a certain thing in daily life, its relation to  
foreign language learning being natural and facilitative” [7]. At the third level of  
education, the students have to solve the demanding tasks of reading enormous  
quantity of professional materials in English. “Writing various assignments is another  
challenging part of higher education” [6]. Therefore it proves some online activities  
to become the priority in university level of learning English for specific purposes  
(ESP).  
 The university uses such forms of environment activities as sharing blogs,  
websites, social media, etc. Specificity of the object of study – foreign language for  
specific purposes – plays a certain decisive role in the choice of means, forms and  
methods of teaching, especially for preparation the development material [8].  
In the field of non-language higher education, while the foreign language is not  
a specialty, but one of the program disciplines, the purpose of studying this foreign  
language is the development of linguistic, communicative and socio-cultural  
competence [3], which allows the learners to use various methods of obtaining  
professional information from the foreign sources in professional activities, including  
those from the Internet resources, to participate in English medium professional  
communication [2, 4-7].

It should be noted that the Internet is most appropriate to be used on the  
stage of improving linguistic skills [6]. Such kind of learners as postgraduates,  
working on their Philosophy Doctor (PhD) scientific degree, support the importance  
of writing and reading skills for their ESP course tasks. Those resources are the most  
helpful for them: world library databases, scholar articles, reference materials, or  
multimedia resources, etc.

It should be considered, that the ESP students are adult, motivated learners,  
mastering English for the purposes of their professional activity. They are completely  
agree to express certain independence in looking for reading professional materials,  
which should be useful namely for them and their research work. Improving reading  
and writing skills with implemented extensive reading is used mostly in the English  
for specific purposes program [4; 250].

Reading and writing are interrelated skills in ESP approach and they should be  
exercised together. Information and communication technologies are applied in  
ongoing online reading of the professional materials at postgraduates’ own pace and  
during their convenient time. They practice active target search really topical and  
relevant in their situation.

It is emphasized that informational content of Internet sources is one of their  
most valuable features and stimulates motivation to study. Creating the conditions in  
which students use educational materials, find tasks, perform them, generally  
improves the success in foreign language acquiring.  
Fundamental role of information and rapid development of information  
technologies explains the need for creation of special information culture both of the  
learner and the teacher [7].

At present, the amount of knowledge accumulated by the  
humanity is growing at an incomparably fast pace with other historical periods, and  
this requires new approaches to organization of the learning process.  
Within this approach, the process of information link to education implies, in  
particular, the development of a special thinking either of teachers or listeners [2].  
 Therefore it is important to improve the program and methodological support of educational process. It is important to develop methods for applying technical and  
didactic capabilities of information technology aiming at increase creativity,  
formation of creative strategies in the search of educational and professional tasks.  
In view of this, teachers must be able to select and apply technologies that fully  
correspond to the content and purpose of the course of ESP particular field (medicine,  
mathematics, technology, aviation, agriculture, etc.), in particular with the aid of the  
Internet resources, and thus contribute to the achievement of the postgraduates’  
learning objectives, taking into account their individual characteristics.

Internet has significant effects on communicating, teaching and learning. Thus,  
both teachers and learners should have an access to the Internet, become experts with  
its functioning and facilities for education. Taking into account the psychological and  
perception abilities of the students, it is an important precondition for successful  
foreign language course [1]. The proper use of new technologies allows a more  
systematic, integrated language, content and culture approach, enhances more  
autonomous learning. E-communication helps teachers and learners to exceed  
barriers, to build bridges between native and foreign language programs [7] and  
realities, especially in their professional area.

In order to achieve successful language training, teachers must review their  
thinking and language classes planning in order to incorporate the new capabilities  
available daily on the virtual environment. Students, on the other hand, also need to  
develop skills required for adequate functioning within a society mainly driven by  
electronic communication [7].

Foreign language for specific purposes represents a tool which allows  
professionals to function in the society and to communicate with colleagues  
throughout the world, making available the means to connect with the achievements  
of the other cultures. In the increasingly global environment, the need to know global  
language is vital in order to function effectively. Such communication will build  
“virtual space”, which is being designed through the use of various ways of relevant  
access to information.

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