

Technologies of distance education in teaching English for specific purposes for university students

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Current university academic practice, including those courses taught with the English for specific purposes (ESP) methodology, is impacted by the distance learning environment of teaching that has become the commonplace context of education. Technology leaves its mark on the nuances of the educational process.

Technology leaves its mark on the nuances of the educational process. The acquirement of knowledge about the achievements of the world's pedagogical science in the methods and means of distance education [7] is one of the topical issues in the modern practice of teaching foreign languages in higher education, e.g., at the medical university.

This work is aimed to reflecting the main aspects of the development of distance learning and the application of technologies to support the global study of the English language in the teaching of foreign languages in medical universities.

English for Specific Purposes (Dudley-Evans T., St John M. J., Bhatia, V. K., Hutchinson T., Waters A.) is considered as a methodological approach to teaching English as a foreign language, used to teach English in academic and professional contexts, distinguishing it from teaching general English [4, p. 2].

The medical university programs cover various disciplines and medical specialties (Medicine, Dentistry, Pediatrics, Laboratory Diagnosis, etc.). Each of these programs refers to various ESP disciplines depending on these profiles, their

purpose, year of study, and type of training. Their implementation is currently connected with distance learning.

As distance learning was implemented in higher education institutions, terms and definitions related to this aspect appeared in critical articles that described the process to varying degrees [2]. Various methodological sources [1] define this type of education as distance education, distance learning, online learning, online classes, online courses, e-learning, etc.

Methodologists worldwide have developed appropriate descriptions of different forms of online learning, such as synchronous (taking place in real-time) and asynchronous (instructor and students engaged in the content of the e-course at various times, from different settings) online courses.

The teaching staff of the Department of Foreign Languages is interested, firstly, in getting to know the recent achievements of methodical science regarding English for specific purposes, and at the same time, secondly, in understanding the peculiarities of using distance learning tools and methods for this purpose.

Concerning space and educational discourse, the courses are classified as hybrid courses (mix in-person and remote participation), blended learning (integrates face-to-face and online delivery of a course, i.e. onsite and remote, fully online participation) (Clark C., Strudler N., Grove K., Mahoney J., Hall C. A., Sistik-Chandler C. M., Moore M. G., et al.).

Every course of English for Specific Purposes at the medical university provides contact (online/offline) hours in practical classes and lectures; in addition, a significant part of the study time is devoted to the independent work of students. In this case, distance education tools come in handy to provide basic support for such asynchronous learning activity and our teaching staff have a division of duties regarding responsibility for different ESP courses, and work on asynchronous material design at the University Moodle platform.

One of the principal ideas in providing distance education is to choose a proper learning management system (LMS), i.e., a platform (typically web-based for

creating online classes to share with learners for distant teaching ESP). Principally, LMS should be suitable for the type of course provided. Some offered LMS and platforms are more popular, such as Google Classroom (which integrates with other Google tools), Moodle Open Source, and Microsoft Teams (a platform involving other Microsoft Tools). Also, numerous invented instruments are at the disposal of the ESP teachers, ready for designing distance classwork (Blackboard, Off2Class, TalentLMS, LearnUpon, Udemy, Canvas, etc.).

Teaching philosophies should be adequate to the values and goals teachers adhere to when teaching a foreign language, and resemble advice for trainers. These are personal statements that introduce you as a teacher to your reader. As such, they are written in the first person and convey a confident, professional tone. It is crucial to choose strategies for designing an e-course, creating digital ESP content, developing various e-tests, etc.

The current distance learning methodology considers feedback as a weighty component of the course [6]. Scholars and practitioners have proven that feedback supports and provides scaffolding of the learning process.

For an efficient e-course, it is clear that either teachers or students should be good at technological and digital literacy for online tools [3].

Training various skills should also be considered for distance courses, using the opportunities of the available digital tools. Gamification is very popular and is applied in distance courses to motivate students in such a way (quizzes, tests to assess understanding, etc.) [7].

Conclusions. It can be concluded that teaching English for specific purposes under the conditions of distance education should have good foundations and reflect the world's professional resources on the issue. Adequate pedagogical tools correlate with the effectiveness of teaching English for specific purposes in the proper learning management system. Distance learning requires regular interaction and constructive feedback. It is also necessary to provide students with resources for independent

practice, available online in asynchronous courses, to meet the requirements of student-centered learning.

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Компетентність в аудіюванні як складова іншомовної комунікативної

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Вдосконалення іншомовної підготовки майбутніх фахівців будь-якої спеціалізації є актуальним напрямом розвитку освіти в Україні. Головними