

USING PADLET IN LANGUAGE LEARNING:AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO LEARNING

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Abstract

With the development of digital technologies and the increasing introduction of information and communication technologies in the educational process, traditional methods of teaching foreign languages are undergoing significant changes. Modern educational technologies, such as online learning platforms, provide teachers and students with new opportunities for a more interactive and engaging learning experience. One such tool is Padlet, an online platform for creating virtual whiteboards on which text, images, videos, audio files and other materials can be placed. This makes Padlet a powerful tool for learning, especially when learning foreign languages. The article discusses the application of Padlet in foreign language teaching as a tool for activating the learning process, as well as investigating the pedagogical advantages arising from its use.

Keywords: Padlet, online learning, foreign languages, interactive teaching methods, multimedia technologies.

Introduction

Learning foreign languages is a multifaceted process that includes the development of various skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Modern approaches to teaching emphasize the use of interactive technologies, which contribute to a more effective mastering of the material and increase student motivation. In recent years, considerable attention has been paid to the integration of online platforms such as Padlet, which create a space for collaboration, discussion, knowledge sharing and self-assessment. Padlet allows for an environment where students can not only acquire knowledge, but also actively apply it by interacting with the instructor and classmates.

Literature Review

Many studies on the use of digital technologies in foreign language teaching have shown that such technologies are an effective way to increase the interest of foreign language learners in the language being studied.

Dewitt, Alias and Siraj conducted a study that indicated that the Padlet application is a suitable tool for learning that enables students to learn, create and exchange new ideas through cooperation and participation among themselves, as it allows students to see their colleagues' comments and ideas and participate on the Padlet platform, which increases their ability to understand and comprehend.

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According to Fisher, Padlet can improve student learning by replacing traditional whiteboards, allowing students to interact with each other and with teachers, ask questions and receive feedback that can be used by teachers during and after class for activities such as debriefing. Additionally, the app strengthens the teacher-student relationship and helps ensure ongoing communication between the two.

Al-Zahrani conducted a quasi-experimental study aimed at investigating the effectiveness of electronic walls (Padlet) in developing skills in reading and writing during English courses.

Methodology

Padlet (www.padlet.com) is a free multimedia wall that allows real-time interaction both among students and between the students and the teacher and that facilitates whole-class participation. It is an electronic board with various functions that can be implemented in the learning process at various stages of learning and for various purposes: educational, business, personal, etc. Turning to the question of the history of the development of this technology, it is worth noting that initially this Padlet Internet technology was called Wallwisher, but over time it was renamed Padlet, while the interface was updated and more functions were introduced.

The Padlet Internet technology can be used within two tariffs: free and paid (Padlet Pro). Within the free tariff, no more than five boards can be created. In the Padlet Pro tariff, the user can create an unlimited number of boards. In addition, it is worth noting that this service is also presented in a mobile application, which can significantly simplify the learning process, given the fact that students often have a phone at their disposal rather than a computer, and, accordingly, the likelihood of completing the task increases. The mobile application provides all the same functions as the computer version.

In terms of technological aspect, Padlet has a set of features that distinguish it from similar online whiteboards used in the educational process:

- to start working on the board, learners or students only need to send an invitation via a link. In other words, learners do not need to register on this board;
- thanks to the availability of a mobile application for this board, it can be used on any device, without logging in to the site, while retaining all the functionality that is available when logging in from an Internet search engine. This, in turn, greatly simplifies and speeds up the learning process;
- it is possible to integrate Padlet online boards with educational platforms, such as Google Classroom, which significantly simplifies the process of working with educational material, since it does not involve clicking on separate links to third-party sites.

Results and Discussion

One of the main elements in learning a foreign language is mastering vocabulary. Padlet gives teachers the opportunity to organize interactive exercises to learn new words and expressions. On the board, students can add words, their translations, examples of their use in sentences, and images, which helps them remember better. For example, a teacher can create a board with new words and phrases on a specific topic (for example, "Job interview"). Students can add

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their own example sentences, attach images or audio recordings, which helps them consolidate the material.

Padlet is actively used for grammar exercises, where students can correct errors, fill in the blanks and participate in discussions. The teacher can post blank or error correction tasks on the board, and students must respond to them in real time. One of the key benefits is the ability to receive instant feedback from the teacher and other students. This approach promotes a deep understanding of grammar rules and improves their application in practice.

To develop listening skills, Padlet provides the ability to host videos and audio files. Teachers can upload audio or video materials in the language of instruction, which students will listen to or watch, and then discuss the content. This approach allows students to develop listening skills and critical perception of foreign speech. For example, a teacher can post a video of a dialogue in the target language, and students must answer questions or comment on what they heard.

Padlet provides opportunities for organizing role plays and discussions. The teacher can offer students different communication scenarios, such as a restaurant assignment or a job interview. Students can contribute their lines, ask questions and answer, which allows them to develop their communicative skills in a foreign language. Role-plays encourage students to actively use the language in real-life situations, which not only helps to improve speaking skills but also increases motivation to learn.

One of the most important features of Padlet is the ability for students to collaborate on projects. The teacher can create a board for group work, where students can add information on a specific topic, comment on the work of others, and share their results. This format of work promotes the development of critical thinking, teamwork skills, and allows each student to contribute to the overall project, developing various aspects of the language.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is worth noting that in the age of digitalization of the educational process of the overwhelming majority of disciplines, the involvement of various online tools in training, in particular in the process of learning foreign languages, contributes to the creation of greater opportunities for visualizing the content of the learning process, the emergence of various new ways of practicing educational material, working on language skills and speech abilities. Padlet is a powerful tool that significantly improves the process of teaching foreign languages. The platform allows the implementation of many pedagogical approaches, such as interactive and project-based learning, and actively develops skills in all aspects of the language: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The use of Padlet in teaching contributes to the creation of a dynamic and motivating learning environment in which students actively interact, receive feedback and develop the skills necessary for real communication in a foreign language.

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