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Media technologies in foreign language teaching and learning

Media pedagogy includes all issues concerning the pedagogical importance of media in education, leisure and work. According to the definition of UNESCO media education 'deals with all communication media and includes the printed word and graphics, the sound, the still as well as the moving image, delivered on any kind of technology'. Media education is the process through which individuals become media literate. One of the goals of media education is not only to provide the future specialists with a desired capacity of knowledge but also teach them think, analyze, evaluate and produce media. We consider the usage of innovation technologies at education as a part of media education. But the effectiveness of the technology depends on how it is used. There are two ways to use media technologies in language teaching: integrating the new technologies into a lesson or explaining how students can use them for self-study. Computers and other techniques must complement each other. Without any doubt, new technologies including CD-ROMs, CDs, hypertext cards, laser disks and the Internet have changed the way that people learn foreign languages. They help students synthesize information from a variety of sources, analyze issues, reduce time of their preparation to lessons. Thanks to the Internet students have an access to bilingual electronic dictionaries, translation software, language learning games or instructional programs, vocabulary trainers, pronunciation assistance with speech-recognition technology. New technologies and the Internet provide better communication between students and teachers, and further students communicate with other foreign students orally through the World Wide Web. The most popular kinds of activities media technologies offer to students are: e-mail, discussion, chat; web page creation; on-line conference; video conference; games; current events: news, sports, leisure activities. The new technologies are not only a technical helping tool but an educationally rich source for the teachers and their students.