

MODERN TRENDS IN ELT THROUGH E-LEARNING PLATFORMS

СУЧАСНІ ТЕНДЕНЦІЇ В НАВЧАННІ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ
З ДОПОМОГОЮ ПЛАТФОРМ ДЛЯ ОНЛАЙН ОСВІТИ

This article provides an overview of the modern trends in online learning and the use of e-learning tools since the field of English Language Teaching (ELT) has seen a significant shift in recent years with the introduction of e-learning platforms. The study aims to examine the range of tools and the flexibility these platforms provide to learn English. However, technical students face unique challenges when using these platforms. These students require specialized language instruction that caters to their specific field of study, making it difficult to find suitable content on e-learning platforms. Additionally, balancing the combination of synchronous and asynchronous teaching can be challenging, as technical students may have other commitments that require flexibility in their learning schedule.

The study is aimed to consider individual student's needs when designing e-learning platforms for ELT. Students have different learning styles and requirements that must be met for an optimal learning experience. Personalized learning options, such as self-paced modules and interactive exercises, can help students to achieve their learning goals while catering to their individual needs. Despite these challenges, e-learning platforms offer exciting new opportunities for ELT. The latest trends in ELT through e-learning platforms include gamification, virtual reality simulations, and artificial intelligence-based language assessment tools. These technologies provide students with engaging and immersive learning experiences, enabling them to develop their English language skills in a fun and engaging way.

This article aims to explore these latest trends in ELT through e-learning platforms and offer strategies for addressing the challenges faced by technical students. By doing so, we can ensure that technical students receive the best possible English language instruction through e-learning platforms.

Key words: distance education, online learning tools, ESL teaching, distance learning platforms, synchronous and asynchronous teaching.

Дана стаття містить огляд сучасних тенденцій в онлайн-освіті та використанні засобів електронного навчання, оскільки сфера викладання англійської мови зазнала значних змін за останні роки з впроваджен-

ням платформ для електронного навчання. Дослідження має на меті вивчити доступні інструменти та гнучкість, яку надають ці платформи для вивчення англійської мови. Проте студенти технічних факультетів стикаються з різними проблемами під час використання цих платформ. Студентам потрібне спеціальне підхід до вивчення мови відповідно до напрямку їх навчання, що ускладнює пошук відповідного контенту на платформах для електронного навчання. Крім того, важливою задачею є збалансувати використання синхронного та асинхронного викладання.

Дослідження спрямоване на врахування індивідуальних потреб учнів при розробці платформ для електронного навчання студентів немовних спеціальностей. Різним студентам підходять різні стилі навчання. Персоналізовані варіанти навчання, такі як самостійні завдання та інтерактивні вправи, можуть допомогти студентам досягти їхніх навчальних цілей, задовольняючи їх індивідуальні потреби. Незважаючи на ці проблеми, платформи електронного навчання пропонують нові захоплюючі можливості для вивчення англійської. Останні тенденції в навчанні іноземних мов через платформи електронного навчання включають гейміфікацію, моделювання віртуальної реальності та інструменти оцінювання мови на основі штучного інтелекту. Ці технології забезпечують студентів захоплюючим навчальним досвідом, що дозволяє їм розвивати свої навички англійської мови весело та з задоволенням.

Ця стаття має на меті вивчити останні тенденції в навчанні англійської мови через платформи для дистанційної освіти та запропонувати стратегії для вирішення проблем, з якими стикаються студенти технічних спеціальностей. Таким чином, ми можемо гарантувати, що студенти технічних факультетів отримають найкраще навчання англійської мови з допомогою таких платформ.

Ключові слова: дистанційна освіта, засоби онлайн-навчання, ESL, платформи дистанційного навчання, синхронне та асинхронне навчання.

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Sokyrka O.S.,

PhD in Philology,
Senior Lecturer at the Department
of English for Engineering № 2
National Technical University of Ukraine
“Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”

Buha S.Yu.,

Lecturer at the Department of English
for Engineering № 2
National Technical University of Ukraine
“Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”

Kolisnyk M.P.,

PhD in Philology,
Associate Professor at the Department
of English for Humanities
National Technical University of Ukraine
“Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”

Kornyska Y.A.,

PhD in Philology,
Associate Professor at the Department
of English for Humanities
National Technical University of Ukraine
“Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”

Problem statement. English language teaching has always been an important field of study, especially with the widespread use of English as a global language. Over the years, language teaching methodologies have evolved and adapted to the changing needs of learners, and the digital age has brought about a revolution in language teaching. E-learning platforms have transformed the way language teaching is carried out, and modern trends in English language teaching are increasingly being influenced by digital technologies.

The current pandemic has further accelerated the adoption of e-learning platforms in language

teaching, as traditional face-to-face methods have been disrupted due to social distancing measures. As a result, e-learning platforms have become more **relevant** than ever before. They offer a flexible and interactive learning experience, allowing learners to study at their own pace and from any location. Additionally, e-learning platforms provide a wide range of tools and resources that facilitate language learning, such as multimedia content, virtual classrooms, and social networking features.

Moreover, the advantages of e-learning platforms in language teaching go beyond just flexibility and

convenience. They also provide opportunities for personalized learning and assessment, enabling teachers to tailor their teaching methods to individual student needs. Furthermore, e-learning platforms can enhance learner motivation and engagement through gamification and interactive activities.

However, as with any technological advancement, e-learning platforms also pose certain challenges for English language teaching. Teachers need to be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively utilize these platforms, and there is a need for continuous professional development to keep up with the evolving technology. Additionally, there are concerns about the quality and reliability of online resources, and the potential for distractions and lack of discipline among learners.

Analysis of the recent research and publications. The concept of distance learning has been a topic of research for many years, focusing on its technical, methodological, pedagogical, and psychological aspects and the importance of this issue is still growing significantly [1; 2; 3; 5; 6; 8]. It has led to the increased interest in online certificate programs by large companies such as Google, LinkedIn Learning, EdX, Coursera, Khan Academy, Udemy which are recognized by employers. *They have developed e-learning platforms that provide a wide range of courses, including computer science, business, engineering, humanities, and many more. These platforms are accessible to anyone with an internet connection and can be used at a pace and schedule that suits individual learners.*

To keep up with the current trends the largest technical university, Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute created the "Sikorsky" Distance Learning Platform [4] which helps to cope with the sudden shift to online instruction. This platform facilitates an online learning processes, promotes teacher-student interaction, and provides access to numerous resources developed by teachers of Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute.

Thus, **the purpose** of this study is to evaluate the e-learning platforms currently in use for supporting the teaching of foreign languages. The review will involve examining the various opportunities and tools provided by these platforms, as well as assessing how they can be integrated with traditional classroom instruction.

Presentation of the main material. Among the key factors which caused the increasing popularity of an online instruction was the COVID-19 pandemic which has brought about a significant shift in the field of education, forcing institutions to quickly adapt to the new reality of remote teaching and learning. While this has been a challenging transition for many educators and students, the need to transfer to distance learning has become increasingly important, given the current state of the world.

One of the key reasons why distance learning has become so crucial is that it offers a safe and effective way for students to continue their education during a pandemic. With the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, in-person classes can put both students and teachers at risk. Distance learning provides a way to continue learning without the need for physical contact, minimizing the spread of the virus.

Moreover, distance learning offers flexibility and accessibility that traditional classroom learning may not be able to provide. Learners can access course materials and resources at any time and from any location with an internet connection. This makes education more accessible to individuals who may not be able to attend traditional classes due to geographic, financial, or personal constraints. The flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and promotion of independent learning are key reasons why online learning is likely to remain popular after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sudden shift to online instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant challenges for both students and educators. While online instruction offers many benefits, it also comes with its own unique set of challenges.

One of the primary challenges of online instruction is technological issues. Students and educators may not have access to reliable internet or the necessary devices, such as computers or webcams, to participate in online classes. Technical issues can also arise during classes, such as poor video quality or connectivity problems, which can disrupt the learning process.

Another challenge is the lack of face-to-face interaction. Online instruction can feel impersonal and isolating, particularly for students who thrive in social learning environments. This lack of interaction can also make it difficult for educators to gauge student understanding and provide feedback in real-time.

The shift to online instruction has also highlighted issues with equity and accessibility. Students from marginalized communities may not have access to the necessary technology or internet access to participate in online instruction, leading to further disparities in education. Additionally, students with disabilities may face additional challenges in accessing online instruction that is not designed with their needs in mind.

Another challenge of online instruction is maintaining student engagement and motivation. It can be challenging for students to stay focused and motivated in a remote learning environment, particularly when faced with distractions from their home environment. Educators must find creative ways to keep students engaged and motivated to learn, such as incorporating interactive activities or gamification techniques into their instruction.

Finally, the shift to online instruction has highlighted the importance of effective communication

and time management. In an online learning environment, communication between students and educators must be clear and timely to ensure that students receive the support they need. Additionally, students must be able to manage their time effectively to balance their coursework with other responsibilities and maintain their academic progress.

Teaching different language aspects online offers many possibilities for both teachers and learners. Online teaching allows for flexibility, accessibility, and personalized learning, which can be beneficial for language learners. Online teaching offers various tools and platforms that can make lessons interactive and engaging. Teachers can use videos, images, quizzes, and games to make the lessons more engaging and appealing to learners. It also offers flexibility for both teachers and learners. Teachers can record lessons and upload them for learners to watch later, and learners can access the materials and complete the assignments at their own pace. What's important is that online instruction allows personalized learning, which means teachers can tailor the lessons and materials to meet the individual needs and goals of learners. Teachers can provide feedback and support to learners individually, which can help them improve their language skills faster. Another important aspect is that learners from all over the world can access the lessons and materials from anywhere at any time. This makes it easier for learners to access language learning materials and connect with teachers and other learners from different cultures and backgrounds. Technology has advanced significantly in recent years, and this has made online teaching more effective and efficient. Teachers can use various platforms and tools to deliver high-quality lessons and materials that are engaging and interactive.

Teaching writing online. Teaching writing online can be a challenging task for teachers, but it is also an opportunity to explore new approaches to teaching and learning. It is important to provide clear instructions for writing assignments to avoid confusion and ensure that learners understand the task. This includes specifying the purpose, audience, format, and criteria for assessment. It's worth mentioning that collaborative tools such as Google Docs, Microsoft Teams, and Padlet can facilitate collaboration among learners and provide opportunities for peer feedback and review. These tools also enable learners to work on the same document simultaneously and see each other's work in real-time. Also, self-reflection is an essential component of the writing process. Teachers can encourage learners to reflect on their writing by asking them to keep a journal, write reflective essays, or participate in group discussions.

The use of such multimedia as videos, images, and audio can help learners develop their writing skills by providing them with new perspectives and inspiration. Teachers can use multimedia to provide

examples of different writing styles, genres, and formats.

Offering feedback and support is very important. Online teaching requires active and regular feedback and support. Teachers can use comments, rubrics, and feedback forms to provide learners with detailed feedback on their writing. They can also schedule one-on-one meetings with learners to discuss their progress and address their questions and concerns. Teaching writing online requires careful planning, clear instructions, regular feedback and support, and the use of collaborative tools and multimedia. By following these tips, teachers can create a supportive and engaging online writing environment that promotes learners' creativity and development.

Teaching vocabulary and grammar online. Teaching vocabulary and grammar online requires a combination of interactive activities, examples and context, multimedia, learner autonomy, regular feedback, and a supportive learning environment. Interactive activities such as quizzes, games, and online exercises can help learners to engage with vocabulary and grammar in a fun and interactive way. These activities can also provide learners with immediate feedback, allowing them to see their progress and identify areas for improvement. Providing examples and context can help learners to understand and remember new vocabulary and grammar structures. Teachers can use authentic materials such as news articles, videos, and podcasts to provide learners with relevant and engaging examples.

Encouraging learner autonomy can help learners to take ownership of their learning and develop their vocabulary and grammar skills outside of the classroom. Teachers can provide learners with online resources such as dictionaries, grammar guides, and online courses.

The final and inevitable stage is giving feedback. Providing regular feedback on learners' vocabulary and grammar can help them to identify areas for improvement and track their progress. Teachers can use online tools such as quizzes and online exercises to provide immediate feedback to learners. By following these tips, teachers can create engaging and effective online vocabulary and grammar lessons that help learners to improve their language skills.

Teaching speaking and pronunciation online. Teaching speaking and pronunciation online can be a challenge, as learners may have limited opportunities to practice in real-life situations [7, p115]. However, with the right approach and tools, it is possible to improve learners' speaking and pronunciation skills online. Video conferencing platforms such as Zoom or Skype can provide learners with an opportunity to practice speaking and pronunciation in real-time with their teacher and classmates.

Providing speaking activities such as role plays, debates, and discussions can help learners to

practice speaking and pronunciation in a more natural and engaging way. These activities can also provide learners with the opportunity to use new vocabulary and grammar structures in context. Pronunciation exercises such as tongue twisters, minimal pairs, and intonation drills can help learners to improve their pronunciation skills. These exercises can be done individually or in groups, and can be easily adapted to online learning environments.

Providing regular feedback on learners' speaking and pronunciation can help them to identify areas for improvement and track their progress. Teachers can use video or audio recordings to provide feedback on learners' pronunciation, stress, and intonation.

One more way to get a feedback while learning distantly is the use of speech recognition tools. Speech recognition tools such as Google Voice Typing or Speechnotes can provide learners with immediate feedback on their pronunciation accuracy. These tools can also help learners to practice speaking independently and at their own pace.

Conclusion. While the transition to distance learning may present challenges, the benefits it offers are undeniable. It provides a safe and accessible way for students to continue their education, offers flexibility and convenience, and helps individuals develop essential digital skills. Therefore, it is important for institutions and educators to continue adapting to this new reality and embrace distance learning as a vital component of modern education.

Technological issues, lack of face-to-face interaction, issues with equity and accessibility, maintaining student engagement and motivation, and effective communication and time management are just a few of the challenges that must be addressed.

Online teaching offers many possibilities for teaching different language aspects, including interactive and engaging lessons, flexibility, personalized learning, accessibility, and improved technology. By leveraging these possibilities, teachers can help learners develop their language skills effectively in an online environment.

E-learning platforms have the potential to provide students with more accessibility and interactivity than traditional classroom-based instruction. They can also help to overcome geographical barriers and provide access to high-quality language instruction to learners in remote areas. In addition, online learning

tools can be tailored to meet the individual needs and preferences of learners, allowing them to learn at their own pace and in their own way. As the technology continues to improve and evolve, it is likely that online learning tools will become even more sophisticated and effective, providing learners with an even greater range of options and opportunities for language learning.

The use of online learning tools in the English language teaching will remain popular and we can expect to see continued growth and innovation in this field in the years to come.

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