

INDEPENDENT LEARNING AS AN EFFECTIVE TEACHING METHOD FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Abstract: *Foreign language study has become an inseparable part of the professional training of specialists of various profiles in modern society, and the quality of their language training is often dependent on the successful resolution of issues of professional growth and expansion of contacts with foreign partners. This article discusses the importance and role of independent learning as well as effective methods for teachers and language learners.*

INTRODUCTION

Independent learning is a form of education where students take responsibility for their learning, including setting goals and objectives, planning their study activities, managing their progress, and evaluating results. Students are free to pursue topics that interest them and work at their own pace. Independent learning is often associated with self-directed learning and can happen anywhere, including school or at home.

The aim of teaching independent learning in Foreign Language Teaching (FLT) is to enable learners to become more self-reliant and autonomous language users. This involves encouraging them to be more creative, critical, and reflective in their language use as well as allowing them to become more aware of their learning processes and develop strategies for learning on their own. This can help them build confidence in using the language outside the classroom setting and enable them to become lifelong independent language learners.

Distance learning can be a powerful tool in helping students develop their English language abilities. Through distance learning, students have access to a range of materials and activities designed to teach them the fundamentals of the language and how to apply it in everyday life. For example, online courses usually include video lectures, podcasts, interactive exercises, quizzes, and other activities that help reinforce the concepts being taught. In addition, many programs offer feedback on assignments or exams via email or live chat with instructors. This allows students to ask questions or receive guidance without having to attend an on-campus class. Moreover, distance learning programs often provide a wide range of resources that would not be available elsewhere such as audio recordings of native speakers or specialized courses about a particular regional dialect. Ultimately, distance education has great potential for boosting independent learning in the

English language by encouraging critical thinking and providing materials that are otherwise difficult to obtain.

Moreover, there are more effective methods to teach a foreign language. 1. Total Physical Response (TPR): TPR is an interactive method of language teaching that uses physical movements to help students relate language to physical actions and understand vocabulary and concepts.

2. Task-Based Learning (TBL): This approach emphasizes activities and tasks directed at helping students achieve a specific goal or purpose with the language.

3. Content-Based Instruction (CBI): This approach combines language instruction with other subject matter topics to create meaningful learning contexts for language learners.

4. Cooperative Learning: Cooperative learning is a teaching strategy used to engage students in collaborative problem-solving, dialogue, and review of concepts. It typically involves small groups working together on a task or activity where each person has unique roles and responsibilities that contribute to the task completion and success of others in the group.

5. Scaffolding: Scaffolding provides support during a learning process while gradually releasing responsibility to the learner as they gain more confidence in their abilities, develop fluency in the language, and begin to take initiative when presented with new tasks or challenges.

6. Storytelling: Stories can be used effectively for teaching languages because they provide context for language use and are highly engaging for most students of all ages. Stories also allow teachers to provide background information on specific cultural norms, customs, values, beliefs, etc., as part of their instruction without appearing too didactic or overtly educational in nature.

Modern methods of teaching a foreign language are characterized by technologies and multimedia tools that empower both the teacher and the student. Instead of simply relying on textbooks, teachers now have access to a wide range of digital resources at their fingertips. This means lessons can be more creative, engaging, and interactive for students of all abilities. Examples of modern methods for teaching foreign languages include the use of resources such as:

Online Language Learning Platforms/Apps - Many platforms exist for language learning, from basic vocabulary teaching apps like Duolingo to advanced tools like When2Meet, which allow learners to practice conversational skills in real time with native speakers.

Audio & Video Recordings - Listening to audio or watching videos can be an effective way to learn foreign language pronunciation and get a sense of proper intonation.

Multimedia & Technology Integration - Follow-along activities that combine real-world tasks (such as gathering items around the classroom) with online elements such as digital quizzes that review learned material can help students retain knowledge and understand the context better. Gamification - Incorporating game-like elements into

language lessons is another effective tool for improving engagement and enthusiasm among students as they're immersed in fun learning activities designed to help them remember new words and phrases better. Cooperative Learning Opportunities - By allowing small groups or pairs of learners to work together during a lesson, teachers can encourage student engagement by providing opportunities for communication, collaboration, and problem-solving using the target language — all important skills that will benefit them in the long run.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, considering all the above mentioned, Independent learning is an effective method of teaching foreign language because it encourages learners to take ownership of their own learning. Instead of relying on an instructor to spoon-feed them information, students become more active and engaged when they are given the opportunity to make informed decisions about their own education. With independent learning, there is a greater potential for knowledge retention as learners immerse themselves in the difficulty being addressed by completing tasks that focus on highlighting specific concepts or skills. Additionally, independent studying offers learners the flexibility and freedom to study whenever, wherever possible - meaning students can work around their own schedule and still get the most out of their language.

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