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В. Б. Балабанов

*преподаватель кафедры социально-гуманитарных дисциплин
Могилевского института МВД (Беларусь)*

А. В. Перунова

*преподаватель кафедры социально-гуманитарных дисциплин
Могилевского института МВД (Беларусь)*

ON THE ISSUE OF CREATING ELECTRONIC MEANS OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Introduction of computer technologies in higher educational institutes leads to the need of revision of methodical and technical features of creation of e-teaching materials. The use of interactive multimedia textbooks is directed significantly to increase students' motivation, and it will have positive impact on effectiveness of the professionally orientated foreign language teaching.

К вопросу создания электронных средств обучения иностранным языкам

Внедрение компьютерных технологий в высшие учебные заведения приводит к необходимости пересмотра методических и технических особенностей создания электронных учебных материалов. Использование интерактивных мультимедийных учебников направлено на повышение мотивации студентов, и это окажет положительное влияние на эффективность профессионально ориентированного обучения иностранному языку.

The gradual process of transition from traditional printed didactic editions to electronic ones is caused by objective factors of modern tendencies of intensive informatization. Of course, the process of teaching foreign languages is one of the most favorable sphere for the introduction of new achievements in the field of computerized teaching and methodological editions created to increase significantly the level of students' motivation and the effectiveness of the teaching process itself.

The professionally oriented foreign languages teaching is becoming more and more important in the context of the existing world trends of globalization, broadening of international cooperation and intensive development of «collective mind» in the form of the world computer network Internet. The foreign language of professional communication is necessary for modern specialists as an effective tool for their professional activity, sharing of experience and broaden the mind. Therefore, the effective foreign languages teaching is extremely important in the process of preparing modern highly qualified specialists in various branches. It is impossible to talk about the modernization of approaches to teaching and on the actualization of teaching and

methodological materials ignoring the processes of informatization within modern society.

IT penetration in the process of teaching foreign languages cannot be limited to the mechanical transfer of textual and graphic information from printed textbooks to electronic ones. Such a transfer has a positive impact on the ergonomics of teaching, but it will not allow using all range of interactive opportunities provided by modern computer technologies. So accordingly, the creation of electronic teaching materials should be treated as an innovative process where the previously existing methodological principles need significant revision from the perspective of new technical possibilities and pedagogical prospects. It is also necessary to revise traditional author's approaches to the development of educational materials. In other words, the author of a modern educational edition needs to be an assured user of the PC in order to take into consideration the possibility of using methodological materials as elements of educational computer programs with multimedia and interactive function in the process of compiling teaching materials on their subject matter. Nowadays students believe that work with the traditional printed textbook is a boring necessity than an entertaining and useful pastime.

Of course, it is impossible to cultivate the IT penetration in the process of teaching foreign languages, since the rapid mass process of transition from a printed textbook to an electronic one will be organized poorly and uncontrolled. It will lead to a violation of the systemic teaching principle, and, consequently, an effective methodological strategy for teaching foreign languages can be under the threat of destruction. As a result, the process of the creation of new high-quality teaching and methodological materials on the foreign language for the needs of the education system should be organized well thought-out in order to avoid the mass introduction of ineffective electronic textbooks.

As mentioned before, a modern electronic textbook on a foreign language should be interactive and information-intensive, containing the necessary amount of text and multimedia information in reasonable proportions. «Key factor» of control the program material learning with the possibility of mechanical verification of result should be provided, broadening the possibilities of organization of controlled self-study work of students.

Ideally, the author of teaching and methodological materials on a foreign language should have sufficient skills in the process of using computer technology in his professional activity. It will allow him to plan his work more carefully and implement methodical techniques in the electronic form of a computer-based teaching program created by him. Otherwise, the author of the teaching and methodological part should invite programmers to take part in the work on the electronic textbook. Their mission will consist in the digital realization of the author's creative intention of the textbook.

Such an authors` tandem can be very effective under favorable circumstances. However, the work will require significant financial investments and take the risk being longer for objective reasons, due to the stages of development of the textbook elements and the interaction between the «methodical» and «computer» authors.

There is another scenario: the author of teaching and methodological materials creates computer-based program, achieving independently the goals. He should take into consideration the specific of the educational process and the features of the material and technical base in the context of planned introduction of a new electronic educational edition. The second scenario is often optimal; the result of the work will correspond to the requirements of particular institute of higher education, faculty, specialty and even discipline. Today each institute of higher education builds its own educational and methodological strategy depending on the specific objective, subjective circumstances and it allows obtaining the most positive result of teaching.

The intensive development of computer technologies and network communications makes much more accessible and «friendly» the complex and professional sectors of IT-specialists for less experienced users. In the software market, there is a huge variety of means of visual programming and web technologies that a person will be able to use without special skills. There are various kinds of site designers, graphic and video and text editors, means of organization and management of local networks, and so on. Moreover, in all this variety of both proprietary and freely distributed software, we have an opportunity to choose the tool that will allow us to implement the educational and methodological goals.

The modern variety of software and system platforms limit the possibilities of creating a universal electronic cross-platform educational and methodological edition, which could be used regardless of the operating system, the screen size, the RAM memory space, etc. Web technologies, used to create Internet sites of various complexity, come to the rescue solving such a difficult task. That does not mean the new educational computer product should be presented in the form of a website, as the possibilities of using computer programs based on HTML language with the use of JavaScript, flash-animation, etc., are much broader. They make it possible to organize the structure of the electronic educational and methodological edition in the most flexible and efficient way in such a way as to make the document navigation more comfortable and easier. An electronic teaching edition, created with web technologies, can be used on any device on which an Internet browser is installed. Moreover, the access to such an electronic textbook can be organized both via the local network of an educational institute and remotely via the Internet (if necessary, the access can be closed with a password).

The use of web technologies provides a wide field for the activity of the author's electronic educational edition. The functions of integrating authentic audio and

video materials, selected competently exercises and interactive tests, can be more valuable towards foreign languages. Moreover, you can «design» easily tasks aimed at developing the reading, writing skills, learning and practicing grammar rules. A number of problems can occur in the process of developing tasks for improving speech skills and pronunciation, since digital technologies do not allow using the computer as a real interlocutor in a dialogue. Nevertheless, there are certain possibilities for solving this problem. For example, it is possible to integrate the audio / video recording function of the student's speech in the electronic educational edition for checking up and putting down marks by the teacher. Having recorded the reading aloud the extract of the text, the student can compare it with the «standard» speech of the same extract of the text read by a competent native speaker. Student can identify without assistance the inaccuracy of his pronunciation, hearing his own speech with the help of this comparative analysis. In addition, the author of an electronic educational edition on a foreign language can provide the possibility of using special software modules to organize online audio dialogue or video conversations with a real native speaker.

Each author has the right to choose the software for the creation of an electronic educational edition, depending on the goals and tasks, and his experience as a user of the PC. We point out that «eXe Elearning XHTML Editor», «Moodle» are the most popular programs among free specialized software for visual design of educational programs.

We should remember the introduction of electronic teaching materials on a foreign language is complex process and it cannot be limited to updating the material and technical base of educational institute or equipping language laboratories with modern computers. The computer is only a machine that needs to be filled with valuable didactic content. That content will contribute to noticeable increase of the students' motivation and, as a result, the training of more well-qualified specialists, who have a high chance in the labor market, with knowledge of a foreign language.