

LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE THROUGH THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY ACCOMPANIED WITH THE INTERCULTURAL ELEMENTS

Daniela Tamo

English Department, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Tirana University, Tiranë
E mail: danielatamo@gmail.com

Abstract

The paper “Learning a foreign language through the information and communication technology accompanied with the intercultural elements” deals with the significant contribution that ICT can provide to teaching and learning in English foreign language classrooms. The study tries to reveal the extent that ICT can be used by teachers and students and which are the positive effects on students’ learning and teachers’ teaching. The students and teachers are asked to answer to some questions and to list the benefits of using ICT in their classes. It is found out that ICT use has resulted to be an effective means because it helps to increase the flexibility in the class, to suit the teaching process to the students’ needs and preferences. ICT use increases the students’ motivation and provides broader access to learning. It can also motivate and engage more the students. The increase of students’ participation and satisfaction is a very important factor in the mastery of the necessary specific skills. Satisfaction in the class leads also to higher attendance and interest by the students. The students can work together, can cooperate and do more difficult work. They can establish contacts with other students, foreign ones too, far away from them, thus being able to carry out joint projects. In such a way, the students are able to learn more about the culture of their peers from other countries. Integration of the cultural elements is one of the most important benefits of the ICT use by the students and teachers. On the other hand, some teachers are sometimes hesitant in using ICTs because of the lack of expertise and confidence, time limits, curriculum restrictions, etc. Despite all these obstacles, ICT has become a valuable and functioning instructional tool. The success of ICT when implemented in the foreign language classroom depends on the teacher and the students. The main proposal provided is that nowadays ICT can be considered a very important complementary element and tool in foreign language teaching and learning. Furthermore, ICT does not replace the teachers, but if it is used in a correct way, it becomes a great help in the EFL classroom.

Keywords: *intercultural elements, motivation, new techniques, participation, skills, teaching and learning process.*