

## SECTION 9.

### PEDAGOGY AND EDUCATION

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## SELF-STUDY IN DISTANCE FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

The establishment of English as a lingua franca and use as the main language of international communication has predetermined its importance in the working environment and everyday life.

The rapid development of streaming platforms, YouTube, and podcast services has opened up more opportunities to understand and interact with different content, to watch films and programs, and to engage in lively interaction.

It is not always possible to learn in the classroom, and often, limited by circumstances or time, students resort to self-study. American educator Marc Prensky [1] introduced the concept of "digital native", speaking about the natural ability of young people to navigate in digital space, so computer-mediated communication can be an effective tool for distance learning. «Our society has become global and digital. Institutions of higher education are trying to make the most of the opportunities afforded to them through technology» [2, 68]

Distance learning involves a large amount of independent work. The learner can use video, voice or offline consultations to complete assignments and receive feedback in the same way. Independent translation work builds skills in working with reference materials. Reproductive exercises are more preferable at the first stage of independent work while the student is preparing for more complex tasks. Independent work with texts involves exercises related to choosing the right answer or filling in the gaps in the sentences, determining the truthfulness of a statement or choosing an appropriate title, working with synonymic series, practicing pronunciation.

The next, more challenging stage could be assignments to independently create mind maps, writing quizzes or polls, critically analyze a text or improvise on the topic of the text.

Of course, such work can be done at any time convenient for the learner, however, the risk of procrastination and losing motivation increases significantly. In this regard, instructor's feedback is of particular importance. It is good if it is in audio, video or offline form, as multimodal communication affects more perception centers.

The use of visual presentation of material in distance learning helps the student to form a coherent image of the material being learnt. Colored tables, graphs, interactive images attract and retain attention. «At the same time, it should be remembered that unnecessary decoration can distract from the learning content» [3, 203].

Online tests and quizzes with questions of varying difficulty can be created on modular learning platforms and social media. They can be in-depth or very short ongoing quizzes.

It is important to consider the course objectives, the level of the students and the nature of the independent work when choosing assessment methods. A variety of assessment methods and formats can contribute to a more objective and complete assessment of student learning.

**References:**

1. Prensky, M. (2001). Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants Part 1. *On the Horizon*, Vol. 9(5). P.1–5.
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