EXPERIENCE OF USING PLATFORM ZOOM WHILE DISTANCE LEARNING
OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN THE CONDITIONS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Introductions. This thesis investigates the questions of the effective usage of platform Zoom in an educational process as the main part of distance learning. Transition to distance learning format of higher education institutions in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic set a number of difficult tasks for the teaching staff. Many teachers of educational institutions are faced with new distance learning formats that needed to be mastered as soon as possible. One of these formats are various online platforms.

The use of "these platforms for distance learning is due to the global interest of universities and the current situation with the coronavirus pandemic infections, in connection with which there was a need to improve the quality of the educational process, expand opportunities of the educational environment and improve the efficiency of student learning" [4].

Aim. The article deals with the issue of the using Zoom platform in learnig a foreign language while a pandemic. The main advantages and disadvantages of this technology are emphasized. The opinion of teachers and students about the experience of using Zoom in learning a foreign language is also given.

Materials and methods. In recent years, the number of works in which the growth of educational and educational effectiveness is investigated process based on the use of Zoom in a higher educational institution. Special interest are the works of both domestic and foreign scientists, devoted to the content, development, and organizational principles of remote training.

Results and discussion. In the "conditions of a viral pandemic, self-isolation citizens (trainees and teachers) and the accompanying economic crisis throughout around the world, traditional classroom education in teaching students has been replaced by various forms of distance, electronic and network learning" [1].

Zoom Video Communications, Inc. is an American communications technology company with headquartered in San Jose, California, which provides remote conferencing services using cloud computing"[6].

In Ukraine, Zoom has become the fastest growing video conferencing service. This platform allows you to communicate in the mode real time, which is the main factor when choosing a distance form of education for students foreign language. Thanks to its functional features, Zoom gives teachers the opportunity to conduct classes in the most effective way, as far as possible with a remote format learning. "The Zoom platform offers communication software, which is one of the main advantages of this system, combining video conferencing, chat and collaboration students and teachers through the use of various functions. The main goal of learning foreign language is the development of communicative competence, which, in turn, implies formation and development of communication skills students in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing in a foreign language" [3].

Therefore, for the development of the above skills the most promising for teaching foreign languages in universities are the possibilities of online Zoom platforms.

When we started working with this platform, then experienced some difficulties, as they previously did not have experience and relevant skills with this service.

Consider the main advantages and disadvantages of working with this platform.

It is known that in the process of learning foreign languages students and teachers are involved in communication in various forms. Zoom online platform helps to realize these conditions, so as a teacher-organizer provides opportunities for oral and written communication, using numerous functions that this system offers. For example, it can organize audio and video comprehension for learners who are present at the conference and thus contribute to the development of listening and reading skills.

One of the benefits of Zoom platform is class recording function. Teacher in this way is able to replay previous lessons that students missed. Or students can view the missed lesson on their own at a convenient time for them.

Another big plus of Zoom is the screen sharing feature. The organizer shows on the screen information materials necessary for the lesson (audio and video files, presentations, electronic versions of teaching aids and visual materials) which are displayed on students' digital devices.

An interesting feature of Zoom platform is chat. The teacher has the ability to send links for study materials, quizzes, tests, and comments and remarks both to the group and to a particular student. It is very convenient to use a function of how to schedule a conference and quickly send the desired link to conference participants. At this entry can be edited and modified, and the reminder popup won't let the organizer forget about the upcoming event. Online platform Zoom also has such a necessary function as transferring the host role to another conference participant. Some interactive applications are not synchronized between the teacher and students, i.e. by sending a link to a specific task, the organizer does not see all the actions of those present at the conferences. Using the specified function, the teacher starts the task on his gadget, sends mouse control to the student and monitors the execution process [5].

Among other advantages of the online platform Zoom can be distinguished as follows:

 - requires less RAM computer;

- screencasting from mobile devices is available devices (however, this turns off the camera);

– the platform is generally stable, despite the heavy load due to the large number of users;

- the ability to turn off the camera and microphone when necessary.

Despite its clear and obvious advantages, Zoom platform has some disadvantages.

The most important of these is the restriction sessions are 40 minutes. This is quite enough for a traditional lesson in high school, but not enough for students of higher educational institutions. Necessary re-enter the link, which requires a certain time in the context of its constant shortage. Can activate the paid version, but unfortunately not all educational organizations can allocate it. It should be noted that sometimes in our university for inexplicable or incomprehensible to ordinary users reasons the Zoom platform is not "kicked us out" with the group after 40 minutes.

Working with this platform, we made sure that Zoom requires high-speed Internet and quality digital device.

The platform also receives a lot of criticism due to security issues. Intruders use fake Zoom domains to spread malware and gaining access to other people's video conferences. "The program has vulnerabilities that can lead to leaks of users' personal data."[2] Although from personal experience we do not deal with such problems.

At the same time, many "experts agree in the opinion that at the moment the service simply does not have alternatives, so we need to create a domestic application with similar characteristics" [5].

In this situation, we are all faced with that the opinions of both teachers and students regarding the use of the Zoom platform and, in general, distance learning in Ukraine universities divided. In this regard, I would like to share experience of colleagues and students regarding the use Zoom platforms in a pandemic and self-isolation. Mostly teachers and students believe that it is a good platform for distance learning and online conferences, which has simple and intuitive interface, works on various gadgets: smartphone, computer, tablet and others devices. However,

colleagues often complain about the fact that the use of Zoom platform requires a lot of time for the technical organization of the lesson, and therefore students receive less volume of material. Many teachers faced with the fact that often students went to class without a webcam, simply unwillingness to show their image. Some also lacked a microphone on their gadget. Such moments often caused negative emotions among teachers and made the process difficult.

Also, when working in Zoom, there were difficulties with the involvement of all group members in the work on the material, since not all those present took an active participation in the lesson. Many students complained on the lack of "live" contact with each other and the teacher. According to them, distance learning deprives them of the opportunity to fully communicate. Some students experienced difficulties in communicating with the teacher online and did not receive comprehensive answers to their questions. On the one hand, the absence control seems to be a big advantage of distance learning. but in fact requires self-discipline, motivation and responsibility from students [7].

Most of today's young people have data qualities are missing, which prevents them from being better participate in the learning process. There were times when students generally stopped attending Zoom classes, explaining this by the lack of technical capabilities, and also for some unconvincing personal reasons.

Some students and teachers expressed the opinion that it is very difficult for them to spend behind the gadget screen 3-4 pairs that they easily withstood in full-time training. We also encountered situations where students were unable to fully participate in class due to the lack of normal conditions for remote learning. Some contacted dormitories, where they simultaneously studied in Zoom roommates, or there were cases when the apartment students did not have the opportunity to fully engage due to the presence of relatives who also worked remotely.

Nevertheless, most students and teachers consider Zoom platform and the distance learning format in general a very convenient solution in current pandemic situation. Many were happy not having to get up early and go to class and to work,

thinking about being late. Some are very pleased that they have more free time with distance learning nor on self-education, communication with loved ones and hobbies.

It is important that students with disabilities opportunities, there are more chances to engage in more fully. Also, many consider plus that Zoom app is free, although with time restrictions. In general, most users respond positively to the extensive service functionality, as mentioned earlier. However, almost everyone expressed the opinion that the distance format will never replace face-to-face education, only when absolutely necessary, when there is a real threat to health in the conditions we are facing.

Conclusions. Thus, Zoom platform, like any other form of distance learning has its advantages and disadvantages. However, it appears most effective for conducting foreign language classes in a pandemic, because it allows you to save such an important and fundamental success factor in acquiring basic skills and skills as communication, without which it is impossible to master language competence, which is the main result of teaching a foreign language.

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