ІНФОРМАЦІЙНО-КОМУНІКАЦІЙНІ ТЕХНОЛОГІЇ В ОСВІТІ

USING MODERN ONLINE RESOURCES FOR THE FORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF SPEAKING COMPETENCE WHILE READING IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES DURING DISTANCE LEARNING

ВИКОРИСТАННЯ ОНЛАЙН РЕСУРСІВ ДЛЯ ФОРМУВАННЯ ТА РОЗВИТКУ МОВЛЕННЄВОЇ КОМПЕТЕНТНОСТІ ЧЕРЕЗ ЧИТАННЯ НА ЗАНЯТТЯХ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ ПІД ЧАС ДИСТАНЦІЙНОГО НАВЧАННЯ

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ABSTRACT
The article examines the importance of reading in developing language competence in learning foreign languages, particularly in the context of students' professional training. It emphasizes that reading not only promotes the development of language skills but also provides an opportunity for a deeper understanding of the culture and context in which the foreign language is used. The authors discuss methods to help teachers motivate students to read, such as integrating modern technologies and creating an interactive learning environment. Significant attention is also given to how reading fosters the development of creative abilities, helping students express their thoughts and ideas more effectively and to platforms offering free access to e-books, audiobooks, and various educational materials facilitating self-development. Both domestic and foreign resources are considered, including notable ones such as Perlego, Scribd, Open Library, Libby, Nook, Bookmate, and others.

Additionally, the authors emphasize that with the advancement of digital technologies, reading becomes more accessible, and new learning formats provide opportunities for developing critical thinking and information analysis skills. Thus, reading serves as a source of knowledge and an effective tool for self-development, which is particularly relevant in the current conditions of distance learning. The article contains practical recommendations for teachers and students seeking to improve their language skills through reading. As a result, reading emerges not only as a source of knowledge but also as a powerful tool for self-development, which is especially pertinent in distance learning.

Key words: online resources, educational technologies, distance learning, innovative teaching methods, language competence, self-development.

Introduction. The active expansion of international relations and profound changes in all spheres of public life characterize the modern development of Ukraine. Ukraine's integration into the world community requires a high level of foreign language proficiency. In the transition period to an open democratic society, a foreign language becomes a vital tool in many areas of activity. Today, it is essential for a person to know not one but several languages, as it is an integral part of intercultural communication.

A lot of foreign languages are taught in Ukraine, with English playing a leading role. Learning contributes significantly to the comprehensive development of a personality, as it provides an opportunity to communicate freely and opens access to the world's cultural heritage.

Research Methods. A wide range of research methods were used by the authors in the article, which helped to generalize the research results, explain scientific hypotheses, and identify certain patterns, namely analysis and synthesis, comparative method, classification method, and content analysis.

Results and Discussions. Most researchers (K. Alderson, Abby Beale, I. Danylovych, T. Dudkevych, N. Hryniaieva, I. Zuieva, T. Khorolets, H. Rohova, O. Tynkalyuk, I. Yeremenko, L. Urobkova) agree that reading in English is one of the most important communicative skills. It is the primary tool for developing communication skills and an essential part of learning and mastering the English language, as with this competence, all others retain their meaning.

N. Hryniaieva and I. Zuieva argue that «reading in a foreign language as a communicative skill and a means of communication, alongside speaking, is an important type of speech activity and the most common way of foreign language communication, which students must necessarily master. Reading has much in common with listening and writing. The functioning of the speech-motor analyzer in internal speech characterizes these three types of speech activity» [2, c. 29]. However, the personal-oriented approach in selecting literature and tasks is no less critical. It is also essential to consider the students' communicative and cognitive abilities, focusing on the individual's personality and taking into account their characteristics, capabilities, and abilities.

It is also essential to distinguish between different types of reading. For example, in foreign English-language methodology, «skimming» is used to identify a text's main topic and ideas. The following method is «scanning», which refers to searching for specific information in the text. Another foreign reading technique is «reading for detail». This refers to a detailed understanding of the text, not only at the level of content but also its meaning [7]. This is precisely the classification emphasized by Abby Marks Beale (an expert in «speed» reading and the author of the work «Success Skills» [4]).

The nature of the texts plays a significant role in developing adequate reading skills: their content, informativeness, engaging plot, etc. The quality of the textual material influences the motivation for students' reading activities. The content of the texts shapes students' attitude toward reading and the ability to solve the educational and developmental tasks set by the foreign language as a subject. On the other hand, the structural-semantic and linguistic features of the texts determine the nature of the reading process itself.

N. Hryniaieva and I. Zuiieva note that certain requirements are imposed on foreign language texts for reading, namely:

1. *Ideological and educational value of the texts.* Such texts should contribute to forming the reader's moral and ethical qualities.

2. *Cognitive value and scientific accuracy of the texts' content.* Texts should be based on factual material about the country and its people, whose language is being studied, and include information from a wide range of fields of human knowledge (scientific-popular texts). The text serves two main functions: cognitive and educational. This factor must be considered when selecting reading materials, as it plays a crucial role in shaping an individual's personality.

The main objective of this work is to analyze and select the most relevant online resources and platforms for reading to develop and enhance skills in various types of reading, such as skimming, scanning, and inferring information. This applies to students and preschool and school-aged children, as the article's authors work with students at a pedagogical higher education institution that trains educators. Therefore, the task is to teach students how to effectively use reading to learn English for their development and how to apply this knowledge and skills in their future work as teachers.

In today's world of modern technology, new websites and platforms offering a vast amount of materials for reading and improving this competence emerge almost daily, complete with tasks and practice materials. In order not to get 'lost' in this flow of information, we have attempted to analyze and organize the information in our work for more efficient use.

Thus, the website moyo.ua (https://www.moyo.ua/ua/news/top_10_prilozheniy_dlya_izucheniya_angliyskogo.html) offers a wide range of apps available for various gadgets. Among the most popular for those who aim to learn or improve their reading skills, they recommend BBC Learning English, developed by the British Broadcasting Corporation. It is effective for mastering English at all levels, as it offers educational material in the format of actual events (news, life videos, history, etc.). The materials provided by this app are designed for learners of different levels. The integrated lessons, filled with quizzes, tests, audio materials, and transcripts, will undoubtedly help users improve their listening and reading skills and expand their knowledge of British culture and history. The app also offers a user guide and is updated daily with fresh content. A significant advantage is that the app is free, though it requires some time to familiarize with it.

Another helpful resource is *Duolingo*, which will significantly benefit younger and middle school students. Through its game-like interface, it offers regular practice and encourages students to earn points, receive rewards, and track their progress. With the help of this app, students will be able to develop reading skills and writing and communication competence. An advantage is that a significant portion of the material is also free.

Another app offered by moyo.ua is *Babbel*. Each lesson in this app begins with dialogues (spoken by native speakers), which users can listen to and read. They can then reinforce new vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation

through additional exercises. The app operates on a subscription basis, but as long as the war continues in Ukraine, it remains free for Ukrainian users.

Memrise and *Rosetta Stone* are apps that do not focus solely on reading but cover grammar, listening, pronunciation, and vocabulary, making them helpful in learning English overall.

HelloEnglish, offered on the moyo.ua website, will help improve reading skills, expand vocabulary, and develop writing and listening skills. The app provides 475 lessons through games, quizzes, and conversations. It offers many free features, but there are also paid services, such as real-time interaction with a teacher.

Busuu, in turn, offers a prominent and structured program that, like Memrise and Rosetta Stone, covers everything from vocabulary, grammar, writing, and listening to reading. This program provides students with a personalized learning plan based on their desires, goals, and objectives. For Ukrainians, the platform offers 90 days of premium subscription, but due to the war in Ukraine, this period has been extended. The app is highly relevant for those who want to learn English and offers Polish, German, Spanish, French, Italian, and other languages. An essential feature of this app is that Busuu provides certificates upon course completion.

Numerous online platforms and websites offer quality, meaningful materials for learning English through reading. For instance, https://lviv.logos-english.com/top-6-bezkoshtovnyh-resursiv-dlya-chytannya-anglijskoyu highlights the following websites. First, the site http://www.short-stories.co.uk/ offers collections of excellent short stories for those who have already mastered reading adapted literature and wish to try reading in the original. The genre selection helps readers find literature to suit any taste and age. The reader rating system helps choose the most popular and exciting works. Notably, the site also offers exercises that allow readers to reinforce new vocabulary.

Another helpful website is undoubtedly http://neboutrom.livejournal.com/. In this journal, readers can find fragments of unadapted articles (the full version is also available via a link). Complex words in these fragments are highlighted in bold; students must hover over the cursor to see their translation.

The site http://www.usingenglish.com/comprehension/ is also popular among teachers and students. Here, students can find collections of materials categorized by different levels: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. After reading the texts, students can complete comprehension tasks and check their answers. Most of the texts on the site are based on tasks for popular exams like Cambridge ESOL, TOEFL, IELTS, and others.

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/ offers around 2000 lessons based on news articles, allowing users to choose their level. The site provides audio

recordings and exercises for each text. Additionally, students can download a mini-lesson with exercises specifically designed for that text to review and solidify specific vocabulary and grammar structures. For more advanced users, the site offers links to news sources.

http://www.imsdb.com/ is an excellent find for movie lovers, where students can find numerous scripts for well-known and favorite films. Students can also print the text to reinforce new vocabulary, grammar structures, and more.

The website http://www.esldesk.com/reading/esl-reader offers the *ESL Reader* – a handy tool for anyone looking to improve their English skills through reading. The highlight of this tool is that students can copy a fragment of any text and paste it into the program's window. It will turn each word into a clickable link, allowing users to view the word's meaning in any dictionary from the provided list (which can be selected from the options).

In her article "Self Development Through Reading! Resources for Reading English Online," [3] Tetiana Khorolets offers practical resources for improving English proficiency through reading. For example, *Amazon Kindle* is a free application with an electronic library and convenient reading features. By downloading it, students can access a vast array of books, newspapers, and magazines across various genres and topics. The expert also emphasizes the user-friendly interface with interactive features that allow users to highlight and copy important fragments, synchronize read books across all devices, choose the font style, size, and color, and even includes a built-in search function for Wikipedia and the ability to take notes while reading. The application itself is free, but unfortunately, books must be purchased.

Another practical application is *BookFunnel.* It offers books for reading and the opportunity to share one's own works. The application also has a wide range of features for convenient use: changing the font and size and creating notes and bookmarks. Users can download audiobooks with options for speeding up, slowing down, rewinding, and more. This application is free.

On the other hand, *Perlego* is an excellent option for students and researchers, as it is an extensive online library offering over 1 million books, academic papers, and other texts for creativity, learning, work, and self-improvement. This site is particularly worth considering for those engaged in scientific research, as its advantages include the generation of fully formatted citations for a bibliography or reference list directly from the book with a single click, the ability to download books and read them offline, access from any device, from PCs to smartphones and a convenient and stylish design with intuitive search and categorization. However, the free trial lasts only one week, after which users must pay a fixed monthly or annual fee.

Another suggested site is *Scribd*: Audiobooks & Ebooks, where users can find over 1 million books (including audiobooks), podcasts, sheet music,

articles, magazines, and various types of documents (government reports, case studies, study guides, theses, medical literature). However, the site is also subscription-based.

Open Library is the next online library that will be useful for learning English. The developers established the project on a non-profit basis, providing users access to more than a million books, academic articles, magazines, and research studies. However, users can only read the materials online in PDF format.

Tetiana Khorolets also recommends *Libby.* This app is helpful for those who only have access to a smartphone, offering both online and offline reading options. The books are organized like a library, but users will only have access to a demo version in this case. The positive aspects include the ability to download literature and read works without internet access at any convenient time, synchronize books across multiple devices, search for works by quotes and phrases, create notes, bookmarks, comments, and highlight text, as well as customize the reading mode to suit individual needs. The application is free.

The American app *Nook* is a good alternative, designed for reading and listening to literature. It offers free access to 75,000 eBooks and 10,000 audiobooks for users. If there is a desire to expand the list of works, a paid version offers several times more literature. A unique feature of the app is the so-called family access, which allows all family members to share the books they have read with one another. The other functions are similar to Libby's, including interface customization, animations, convenient search for works by words, quotes, or phrases, creating a personal bookshelf, bookmarks, notes, highlights, etc. Access to most books is free, although there are also paid works.

A paid resource is *Bookmate*, where users can find books based on their tastes and genres and connect with online friends who share similar interests. Users can share impressions of the books they have read, recommend works they liked, discuss, and give advice, among other things.

In her blog, Anastasia Kh. [8] emphasizes that children should be encouraged to read from an early age, and a crucial task for parents and teachers during this time is to instill a love for books and reading. The best way to master the English language is, of course, by reading works in the original language, and even for young children, there are excellent websites with a selection of exciting and valuable books. Most sites offering children's books are paid, but Ms. Anastasia suggests websites with online books available for free.

Yes, the website FreeChildrenStories.com offers not only books for reading but also includes a large number of videos of favorite stories. The books must be categorized by age group, which makes it easier for parents and

teachers to find the correct and interesting work. All books are illustrated, which will encourage children to read even more.

Another helpful website could be Magic Keys, which, in addition to stories, features puzzles and cartoons that help children not only master correct pronunciation but also reinforce new vocabulary and basic grammatical structures. Additionally, the site has a section called Children's Story Books Online, where users can find many books for different age groups and literature for adult audiences.

In her blog, Ms. Anastasia also recommends Read.gov, where it is possible to find free books. This site is a government website of the Library of Congress, whose primary goal is to promote literature and reading. The content of the "bookshelves" is not only aimed at a children's audience; literature is also available for adults of all tastes.

Another excellent website for finding exciting children's books is Project Gutenberg, which contains around 60,000 works of various genres and themes. Equally convenient and very useful is the platform for free books, FreeKidsBooks, which also features lots of books sorted by age categories and genres. Importantly, this site offers the ability to download materials in PDF format, allowing readers to enjoy reading at any convenient time. The illustrated material accompanying each work will make reading more engaging and enjoyable.

Conclusions. Thus, reading is one of the most important means of obtaining information and occupies a significant place in the life of a modern educated person. In real life, reading acts as a separate, independent type of communicative activity motivated by the need for information contained in the text. Reading serves various functions: it is a practical tool for mastering a foreign language, a means of learning about language and culture, a medium for informational and educational activities, and a means of self-education.

Reading contributes to developing other types of communicative activities, as it provides the most significant opportunities for fostering students' education and all-round development through a foreign language. During distance learning, this is made possible through valuable platforms and websites, which, competing in their variety, provide an excellent opportunity for students and teachers to choose the most effective and convenient resources depending on age, goals, accessibility, preferences, and so on.

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АНОТАЦІЯ

У статті розглядається важливість читання як засобу формування мовленнєвої компетенції у процесі вивчення іноземних мов, зокрема в контексті професійної підготовки студентів. Акцентується на тому, що читання не лише сприяє розвитку мовленнєвих навичок, але й забезпечує можливість глибшого розуміння культури та контексту, в якому використовується іноземна мова, а також увага концентрується на впливі читання на мотивацію студентів, підкреслюючи, що залучення до цікавої літератури може стимулювати інтерес до вивчення мови. Автори обговорюють методи, які можуть допомогти вчителям мотивувати учнів до читання, такі як інтеграція сучасних технологій і створення інтерактивного навчального середовища. Значну увагу приділено й тому, як читання сприяє розвитку творчих здібностей, допомагаючи студентам краще виражати свої думки

та ідеї. Використання різноманітних жанрів і формату навчальних матеріалів дозволяє адаптувати процес навчання до індивідуальних потреб кожного учня, а також різноманітним платформам, які пропонують безкоштовний доступ до електронних книг, аудіокниг, а також різних навчальних матеріалів, що допомагають у самостійному розвитку. Розглядаються як вітчизняні, так і зарубіжні ресурси, серед яких виділяються такі, як Perlego, Scribd, Open Library, Libby, Nook, Bookmate та інші.

Окрім цього, автори підкреслюють, що з розвитком цифрових технологій читання стає доступнішим, а нові формати навчання забезпечують можливості для розвитку навичок критичного мислення та аналізу інформації. Таким чином, читання виступає не лише як джерело знань, але і як ефективний інструмент для саморозвитку, що особливо актуально у сучасних умовах дистанційного навчання.

Ключові слова: *онлайн-ресурси, освітні технології, дистанційне навчання, інноваційні методи навчання, мовленнєва компетенція, саморозвиток.*