

APPLICATION OF THE MOODLE LEARNING PLATFORM IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Abstract: The topic of using the Moodle learning platform in teaching foreign languages has become increasingly important in the context of the development of digital technologies in education and their integration into the learning process. The issue of teaching a foreign language lies in the effectiveness of learning activities by using verbal and non-verbal means of communication. The article aims to analyze the advantages and quality of using the Moodle learning platform for teaching a foreign language and the possibility of its further development in a dynamic educational environment. The research methodology is based on a critical analysis, evaluation of statistical information on using the digital learning platform, as well as the introduction of various deductive research methods on the prospects for further development. The paper analyzes theoretical approaches to foreign language teaching. The authors carried out a statistical analysis of the platform's global development and possible prospects for its further expansion. In addition, they outlined the factors of usage and spread of digital technologies as a plug-in for learning a foreign language. The study revealed the main benefits of using the Moodle digital learning platform as an interactive tool for teaching a foreign language. It also suggested key aspects of its improvement and possible ways of further development. The article focused on the issues of using digital platforms for remote communication between students and teachers to maintain the effectiveness of the educational process and the possibility of further improvement by introducing this platform into the educational process. The obtained research findings describe the current state of the platform's use along with its technological capabilities and advantages for teaching foreign languages.

Keywords: Distance education, Communication Channels, Interactive technologies, Moodle platform, Digital technologies, Foreign languages, Pedagogical activity.

1 Introduction

The implementation of relevant teaching technologies becomes crucial in the context of contemporary foreign language development and the proliferation of digital technologies. The latter can enhance both foreign language proficiency and the role of digital literacy. Specifically, in today's conditions, the improvement of the Moodle learning platform serves as a source of practical skills acquisition for both students and teachers, it contains a range of valuable materials for learning.

The trend of using digital learning platforms is also essential since the tuition fees for educational services are constantly growing all over the world. The possibility of implementing digital courses and accessing global platforms is a qualitative tool for acquiring high-level knowledge and enhancing professional skills. Due to the unstable socio-economic situation globally in 2022 and 2023, the demand for digital services related to learning foreign languages and using educational platforms such as Moodle has practically doubled compared to 2020 and 2021. This trend is driven by its simple accessibility and the ability to exchange information, as well as apply real-life foreign language learning best practices when interacting with international students or interacting with teachers.

The main advantage of modern learning platforms is the ability to disseminate scientific projects and use them to enhance professional competencies, as well as stimulate practical knowledge among students. Digital technologies are rapidly popularizing such platforms, and their worldwide expansion is forming a global educational network. Such technologies can create a database of courses, training materials, practical guides, and other helpful digital resources.

Another critical issue is the effectiveness of foreign language teaching and the possibility of using various interactive technologies during this process. In addition, this educational platform is aimed at improving students' knowledge. It can provide them with a range of valuable and practical tasks. For teachers, it can aid them in enhancing their own level of competence by interacting with both the instruction and learners audiences. Thus, the current practice of spreading Moodle is an essential tool for enhancing the level of teachers' qualifications and students' knowledge by using this learning platform.

2 Literature review

Teaching foreign languages is a subject of debate among scholars. The importance of learning a foreign language enables the exchange of experiences, enhances personal competence, and constitutes a significant aspect of international and diplomatic cooperation. Bondar (2021) believes that contemporary processes of globalization contribute to the spread and learning of languages from different cultures, efficiently improving international cooperation. According to Hontarenko (2022), the proliferation of languages from abroad in today's globalized society is driven by the redistribution of commodity markets and the need for their mastery.

Medina (2018) notes that information exchange and global digitalization influence modern practices of studying foreign languages in the academic environment. As Karkach (2023) mentioned, the Moodle platform is one of the most compelling examples of modern society's digitalization. According to Asieieva (2022), learning a foreign language is an effective tool for enhancing professional competence and competing in the educational environment.

Nalyvaiko (2021) believes that foreign language teaching should include grammar study, listening skills, and vocabulary acquisition. Safonov (2021) agrees with this view but emphasizes the importance of applying practical knowledge to specific situations and incorporating new vocabulary during language learning. Huzairin (2020) asserts that the application of quality technologies is crucial in modern development. It improves both the teacher's professional competence and students' knowledge.

According to Poláková (2021), this process requires the application of several interactive technologies, team projects, and opportunities for their dissemination based on the most popular foreign language teaching practices. As per Vojtovych (2019), teaching a foreign language involves a range of verbal and non-verbal communication tools. Therefore, when using digital learning platforms, it is essential to configure them to maximize learning efficiency according to traditional methods.

Usov (2020) suggests that the use of digital platforms and tools in education will continue to expand as it reduces the cost of educational services, making education more accessible. According to Oleksienko (2020), among the countries that digital education technologies, the largest number are those with either the highest level of development or those that are still developing.

Kalimullina (2021) argues that this practice confirms the issue of education accessibility and the possibility of learning a foreign language. It requires qualitative improvement in the modern world. Wang (2021) conducted analytical research, identifying that after 2019, due to the global pandemic, the trend of education globalization and the use of digital tools increased significantly, creating favorable conditions for teaching.

However, Yurieva (2021) believes that modern educational institutions need more clarity regarding the quality of such education, the possibility of its further development. Kononchuk

(2022) suggests that future research prospects in using educational platforms in the context of teaching foreign languages should be based on adding additional functionality and the ability to improve the level of students' professional knowledge and teachers' competencies. Thus, scholars' perspectives indicate the need for analytical research on the use of digital platforms in teaching foreign languages and possible ways to improve them.

3 Aims

The article aims to analyze the current features of using the Moodle learning platform in teaching foreign languages. Besides, the paper provides an overview of the possibilities for further improvement of technological solutions for both teachers and students. An important research area is to offer key factors for improving the level of foreign language proficiency by using digital platforms and possible integration of digital technologies most closely related to the Moodle learning platform. The main goals of the study include:

- to outline the current state of use of the Moodle platform;
- to identify opportunities for improvement in foreign language learning;
- to highlight the main problematic aspects of distance teaching;
- to provide suggestions for their solution.

The research findings can have practical value for modern foreign language teachers from the perspective of effective use of the Moodle platform, as well as courses and workshops.

4 Materials and Methods

During the research on using the Moodle learning platform in teaching foreign languages, theoretical and practical methods of analysis were employed. The theoretical methodology involved an exploration of contemporary perspectives on foreign language instruction, as well as the utilization of various methods and techniques. The authors examined different scholarly views on implementing problem-based learning methods and interactive technologies. Based on the methodological analysis of the modern development of foreign language teaching, the popular trends in the educational services market were analyzed, and further development prospects were identified. The methodology of applied analytical research relied on the use of graphical and statistical research methods, leveraging the database of the Moodle learning platform. An analytical method was employed to analyze the dynamics of the platform's usage among registered sites worldwide. The authors determined a cause-and-effect relationship between the utilization of the learning platform in the studied countries and the prospects for their further development.

While using a graphical method, the evolution of the Moodle plugin was analyzed, showing its potential as an effective educational tool that can be integrated into a broad spectrum of learning sites. Implementing this research method allowed for creating a diagram outlining the formation and utilization of the plugin in the context of promoting the learning of foreign languages.

An essential focus of the study involved the analysis of current practices and peculiarities in teaching foreign languages that align with the contemporary digital environment. Also, it may offer advantages over traditional teaching methods. Through the analysis of these aspects, the authors identified further prospects for the development of the Moodle learning platform's usage. The research methodology is rooted in a critical analysis of contemporary scientific sources regarding the opportunities of foreign language use in varied digital learning platforms, outlining their advantages and drawbacks. The proposed research methodology enables the presentation of a series of obtained results.

5 Results

The trend towards distance education and the rapid development of digital technologies in the field of education occurred during 2019 and 2020. It was driven by the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, and it is expected to persist in the future. According to researchers' estimates, the trend of digitizing education will continue to grow each year. It will require an innovative approach from educational institutions and instructors in organizing the learning process. The use of educational platforms is one of the outcomes of such initiatives. They were created to enhance and strengthen the role of digital education in the face of geopolitical challenges.

In particular, the creation of the Moodle platform did not gain such popularity until 2019. However, its usage has attracted many visitors and users in contemporary times. A range of technological innovations is actively implemented, such as a plugin that can be utilized to integrate the site with the educational platform. This plugin is often used in the context of teaching foreign languages, providing capabilities for inputting information into the platform, performing translations, etc.

Let us take a closer look at the features of using this plugin in Figure 1.

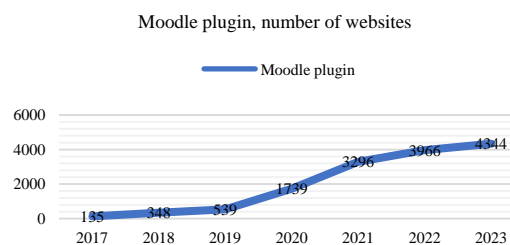


Figure 1. The dynamics of implementing a plugin from Moodle
Source: compiled by the authors based on stats.moodle.org

Based on the chart, we can see active popularization of this technological solution from 2019 to 2020, which actually increased from 539 to 1739 installations. Such a trend indicates the rapid spread of distance education and demand among the population. The importance of further development can be analyzed with the continuously growing dynamics in 2021 - 2023, where the peak usage of this plugin reaches 4344 sites connected to it.

Teaching foreign languages is a complex process that involves enhancing lexical, grammatical, and verbal communication skills. Therefore, the use of the Moodle platform should be based on the following aspects:

- the ability to obtain the most optimal information;
- the presence of digital technologies in the form of interactive tools;
- constant communication between the teacher and the student.

The proliferation of such an educational platform in the modern world is happening quite rapidly, as it is budget-friendly and can be applied to achieve various educational goals among teachers and students. Additionally, the educational platform offers options for creating custom courses and uploading various methodological and practical materials for use in the learning process. The digital platform facilitates experience exchange and allows discussions on different pedagogical teaching methods and their improvement.

The implementation of the educational platform in general access has several competitive advantages, such as efficiency, interactivity, and innovation. Furthermore, the necessity distance learning has become a key factor in popularizing this platform. However, even after the pandemic receded in 2019-2020, a

combined education system, including traditional and remote learning has been embraced globally to spread and improve digital skills. Employing this blended approach can assist students in mastering their chosen field by leveraging modern technologies and accessing high-quality education. Learning a foreign language is a multifaceted endeavor that entails the integration of the cultural and mental values of a nation. Moreover, any foreign language contains complex semantic and lexical phrases that require exploration and can pose difficulties in learning. Interactive technologies are commonly used to solve

these issues. The Moodle learning platform offers various services aimed at using such technologies. Moreover, they can qualitatively improve the current state of foreign language learning among students. Additionally, the creation of such a service is also beneficial for teachers. A significant amount of material can be employed to reinforce knowledge. The main features of using the Moodle learning platform are depicted in Figure 2.

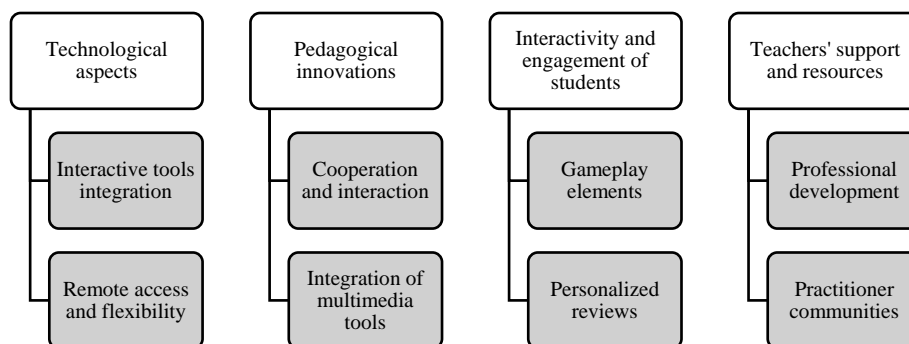


Figure 2. Specifics of using the Moodle platform in teaching foreign languages
Source: compiled by the authors

Referring to the structural-logical diagram in Figure 2, it's possible to assert that the Moodle platform is effective for learning a foreign language. It encompasses the following advantage blocks:

- Technological aspects.
- Pedagogical innovations.
- Interactivity.
- Teachers' support.

Each of these aspects can be subcategorized into a series of structured elements containing competitive advantages that align with traditional educational practices. Sometimes, they offer significantly greater benefits due to globalization.

A key factor contributing to Moodle's advantages is its popularity in the educational services market, accessibility in the most developed countries worldwide. This allows the platform to be combined with academic and pedagogical experiences and be popular among representatives of different cultures. Currently, Moodle is implemented and operates in 237 countries worldwide, continuously evolving and updating, which can be advantageous in relation to its effectiveness (Pidubna et al., 2022).

The graphical scheme regarding the features of using the educational platform in teaching foreign languages includes a list of technological capabilities. They include the use of media resources, automated solutions for conducting classes, a range of archival practical documents and courses that can serve as valuable aids for teachers.

Let us examine the countries where the Moodle platform is most integrated, based on the quantity of sites that use it. More details shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Implementation of the Moodle platform in 2023

Country	Registered websites
Spain	13,601
United States	12,999
Germany	10,186
Mexico	8,925
Brazil	8,176
France	6,289

Indonesia	6,257
India	5,259
Colombia	4,816

Source: compiled by the authors based on stats.moodle.org

The data in Table 1 characterize the educational platform's implementation level and the potential market for learning foreign languages among students. It is important to note that the leaders include countries with the most developed economies, such as the aforementioned United States, Germany, and France. However, a significant integration of the platform is present in Mexico, Brazil, Indonesia, and Colombia. Such a practice indicates the potential for education development in economically developing countries. It provides the chance to improve their understanding of the acquisition of foreign languages. The prospects of implementing the Moodle platform will have strategic significance in the education services market. It provides practical tools for conducting and organizing the learning process for educators, along with enhancing their professional competence. The improvement of professional competence remains a crucial factor for pedagogical activities. Languages are constantly evolving, and the ability to exchange experiences and knowledge among teachers, in addition to the creation of their own community, will be an effective means of conducting educational activities.

For students, the platform serves as a means of obtaining quality education. It offers a range of elective courses and the chance to exchange experiences with other students. The practice of using the Moodle educational platform will continue to grow steadily because of the increased demand and widespread use of distance learning services.

6 Discussion

Drawing conclusions from the conducted research, it can be inferred that using modern digital tools in education is an effective means of enhancing professional competence, acquiring new skills, and attracting new students. The research findings (Shalatska, 2020) indicate a growing global demand for the use of digital tools and platforms in education. They can help streamline the learning process and automate many processes, which is a crucial priority for educational institutions in the era of globalization. In this context, the development of additional features in educational platforms remains a debated issue, including services such as automated testing, analysis of

homework performance, etc. The implementation of computerized technologies in education is a widely discussed topic among researchers. It requires a comprehensive examination of both the advantages and drawbacks.

While the Moodle learning platform is effective and beneficial for studying foreign languages, its optimization requires considerable resources, leading to technical challenges (Semigina, 2023). According to Semigina, learning foreign languages necessitates knowledge of grammar, vocabulary proficiency, empathy, and the ability to understand a conversation partner.

Although modern platforms often include listening, testing, and grammar problem-solving elements, they may lack features for additional tutoring sessions or addressing specific language issues. Further research should be conducted analysis of current technological capabilities for incorporating additional functions into educational platforms like Moodle or others. The development of such platforms has the potential to improve professional competence and enhance the level of education digitization in a globalized context.

An essential factor in teaching foreign languages, regardless of platforms, methods, and implementation specifics, is the use of interactive technologies. Therefore, it is crucial to conduct research on the specifics of teaching foreign languages that will be most effective. Scholars often discuss issues related to problem-based learning, using varied methodologies and tools for word memorization, improving grammatical skills, etc.

The evolution of such practices stimulates the creation of an effective learning platform that can include these practices in their more modern digital form. Therefore, an essential task for further research and discussion should be the possibility of digitizing the already acquired technologies of interactive foreign language classes that are really successful and can be beneficial for learning.

7 Conclusion

Overall, using modern learning platforms is a prerequisite for the efficiency and digitalization of education globally. The Moodle platform has numerous applications and has been implemented in most developed countries worldwide. In recent years, the platform has been integrated into more than 210 countries and can provide an effective educational tool for users. Essentially, it is a distance communication channel to achieve academic goals for both students and teachers. Utilizing this platform can enhance digital skills, provide more effective control over the learning process, and stimulate the development of fresh skills.

Moreover, employing the learning platform in the globalized world opens up the possibility to gain access to educational materials with high intellectual value among educators. The availability of certain interactive technologies, lesson delivery tools, and archives of specific disciplines adds to its appeal. Such a platform is highly relevant in a dynamic educational environment. A crucial factor in the development of modern learning platforms is the construction of suitable digital infrastructure and the presence of software supported both globally and at the level of educational institutions using this platform (schools, universities, colleges, private educational institutions, and any other educational entities).

The continued development of digital technologies must also be considered. Besides, a unified, integrated platform aiming to improve the quality of teaching disciplines can ensure a high level of competence. Teaching foreign languages through the Moodle learning platform has several undeniable advantages, including speed, quality, accessibility, and adaptability.

The further development of this platform will continue as the processes of digitization in education are ongoing. This will influence the continued expansion of the functionality of this platform and the creation of new tools for learners, teachers of

foreign languages. Therefore, the emergence of the modern digital Moodle platform contributes to the improvement and development of professional competence in foreign languages. Moreover, its widespread adoption worldwide can facilitate the exchange of educational experience and the enhancement of current teaching methodologies.

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