

Formation of Lexical Competence in Applicants for Education at Distance Learning (Experience of Foreign Scientists)

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Abstract

The modern peculiarities of the formation of lexical competence in students in distance education are quite acute due to the alternative organization of the scientific process and the possibility of its improvement in modern educational programs. The use of digital technologies in the learning process can be useful from the point of view of forming lexical competence and their further development in the context of strengthening the role of distance education in the modern educational program. The purpose of the article is to study the formation of lexical competence in students in distance learning, as well as the use of effective digital platforms and information technologies that can improve the components of lexical competence, such as terminology, word formation, the ability to build lexical and semantic constructions, etc. The main objective of the study is to analyze the theoretical and methodological aspects of lexical competence development in students in the context of global digitalization. The article focuses on current trends in the development of distance education and its role in the further educational process. The key prospects for development and possible ways to improve the formation of lexical competence of students studying in a distance format are outlined. Useful means of development and features of lexical competence formation are proposed, its theoretical concept is studied and its structural components are characterized. The obtained results of the study can be useful for improving the quality of the educational process in educational institutions and can be used for further development of education in the modern world.

Keywords: lexical and semantic groups, terminology, vocabulary, lexical competence, distance education, digital technologies, digitalization

1. Introduction

In the 21st century, distance learning has become increasingly prevalent, thanks to advancements in technology. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) have made it possible for anyone with an internet connection to take courses from prestigious universities around the world. In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic has also accelerated the growth of distance learning, as schools and universities have been forced to shift to online instruction to ensure the safety of students and faculty. Today, distance learning is a rapidly growing field that offers many opportunities for students and educators. With the help of technology, students can access high-quality education from anywhere in the world, and educators can reach a wider audience than ever before.

Nowadays, the development of distance education is a key product of global digitalization affecting all spheres of human activity. Such an important factor as the organization of a high-quality educational process with the help of available digital technologies is no exception. The use of such tools can improve the development of students' learning abilities and practical skills and provide some competitive advantages in the labor market. Many scholars pay attention to the issue of developing lexical competence. It is worth noting that due to the emergence of digital materials and the ability to use video or audio materials, the communication component and, as a result, lexical competence can be significantly reduced for learners. Scientists have conducted studies showing that lexical competence is formed based on the use of vocabulary and comprehension of new material. Through the use of innovative means of education, students can either significantly improve their competencies or worsen them. It depends on the methodology of organizing distance education. Building an effective model of distance education is a priority for modern educational institutions. This is because most of these institutions will be working in the distance education sector in the future or will use a blended learning approach. Therefore, the issue of forming lexical competence is quite acute in the modern scientific environment from the point of view of ensuring and improving the quality of the organization of the distance learning process. Moreover, it is important to use and implement up-to-date means of creating and developing lexical competence in students of different fields of study. Equally important are the opportunities to improve their communication component, even in the context of global distance education. The use of interactive lessons and discussions of creative projects or any socially useful scientific issues will be useful for students in terms of the quality of lexical competence formation. Given this, it is important to determine the vector of development of distance education and outline the key principles of creating its components and

further optimizing the learning material to learn it.

Modern research on the peculiarities of forming students' lexical competence in distance learning is aimed at analyzing the quality of implementation of effective pedagogical methods of teaching educational material and searching for digital tools to ensure its further development. According to Onishchuk (2020), lexical competence is a complex of lexical and semantic groups, terminology, and the possibility of using it in a language discourse regardless of its purpose. The advantage of such use is the ability to communicate in any social environment and achieve the communicative goal. Burgos (2020) notes that lexical competence is formed as a result of the regular use of certain lexical constructions, which are formed from the individual knowledge of the person and identified from the personal social environment. Given these aspects of the concept of lexical competence, scholars pay attention to possible means of its development. Din (2018) notes that the issue of developing lexical competence should be formed during secondary education and transformed into scientific and professional education in higher education institutions. These provisions are supported by Kotlovsky (2017), who defines the importance of forming lexical competence as a basic unit of the ability to use modern means of the information environment and implement them in practice. Moreover, there is a discussion among scholars about the impact of distance education on lexical competence. According to Sheremet (2019), lexical competence is at a low level in the context of continuous distance education. The learner's verbal communication skills are suppressed, which causes psychological discomfort in further communication. According to Dziuba (2020), distance education partially reduces the real ability of learners to use their vocabulary and operate in different environments. However, he believes that the prospects for distance education are still positive, as most digital technologies can be implemented in favor of the development and creation of online communication platforms. After the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, Solomko (2018) argues that the use of distance education is a key advantage for educational institutions, as it creates effective conditions for the educational process and ensures its effective development in an unstable environment. According to Romanovskiy (2019), lexical competence can be developed in a mixed format, where the distance learning process will focus on digital literacy and discussion of the key principles of creative projects, and in the traditional format - on performing and explaining learning tasks and conducting interactive lessons. In general, the issue of developing lexical competence is controversial, as a large number of studies conducted by scientists have mixed results. According to Hamdamova (2018), the use of an effective model of distance education can improve the quality of learning, provide an opportunity to obtain more information, and promote the development of a specialized discourse for students. This will serve as their competitive advantage as future professionals. Vitiuk (2019) believes that lexical competence in students can be formed as a result of continuous improvement of their intellectual abilities, ability to analyze and process information, as well as to discuss the knowledge gained. Thus, the modern issue of lexical competence is relevant in the scientific environment and requires certain theoretical and methodological clarifications, especially in the context of distance education.

The purpose of the article is to determine the peculiarities of forming lexical competence of secondary and higher education students in the context of the educational process of distance education. The main objective of the study is to outline the theoretical and methodological foundations of lexical competence formation, as well as the impact of distance education on this process. In the context of the modern development of digital technologies, the issue of using the most effective pedagogical methodology and organization of the educational process, which can help improve the quality of lexical competence formation, is becoming important. In addition, the introduction of lexical competence as a means of forming learning should be implemented in the context of improving the quality of distance education, as they are used mainly to improve the quality of learning and possible improvement of students' practical skills in the future. The article focuses on finding effective means of developing all the structural components of lexical competence and their possible development through the spread of the practice of using digital tools in the educational process.

2. Method

In the course of the study, the article uses theoretical materials of modern scientific research and many analytical reports on the quality of distance education implementation and its impact on the academic performance of secondary and higher education students. To outline the key theoretical provisions and structural components of lexical competence, the synthesis method and the search method were used to determine the basic principles of the formation and development of lexical competence in students. With the help of synthesis, the basic principles of formation and possible development of lexical competence are analyzed. The means of improving the educational process, as well as its possible impact on the future scientific environment, have been identified. The characteristic features of distance education, its advantages, and disadvantages are determined using the methods of deduction and induction, which are characterized by the modern practice of blended learning. The pedagogical practice of forming lexical competence for students is used as analytical material and examples of lectures, seminars, and school lessons in European countries. The search method is used to analyze the modern information platforms of main universities, which allow for open-access lectures. The method of abstraction was used to outline the key advantages of distance education and its disadvantages in terms of lexical competence formation. Ensuring the development of lexical competence is a priority area of pedagogical activity of the scientific community and requires increased attention from scientists. The importance of using scientific methods lies in the study of the development of verbal and non-verbal communication skills and the impact of information technologies on their timely development in secondary and higher education students. In addition, the article pays attention to the prospects for further development of lexical competence formation and the search for ways to improve it. Through the analysis of modern scientific materials, the article outlines the problems of digital technologies and possible further challenges for the global scientific environment in ensuring effective communications, and the ability to use both specialized and everyday discourse. The use of the methodology makes it possible to present modern logical results arising from the theoretical and practical study of the quality of lexical

competence formation in students in distance education.

3. Results

In the context of the modern development of digital technologies and the proliferation of information platforms that provide access to some specialized applications that can improve professional activities and contribute to the organization of learning, it is important to consider distance education. The theoretical concept of distance education implies the use of information technology without a physical presence in an educational institution, the possibility of communication with teachers, and continuing education through the use of special digital applications. The popularity of distance education began in late 2019 due to the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. The global lockdown in the EU countries has created a need to find effective ways to continue the educational process and to provide it with all the necessary technologies for the further implementation of the educational process. The use of digital technologies in education is a key basis for building effective teaching methods and the possible introduction of innovative assessment and communication tools. The formation of distance education was reflected through a gradual transformation in the bulk process and had a significant impact on the corporate sector, which gradually integrated into distance work. It has become less financially costly and, in some cases, much more efficient. A key issue in distance education is the use of high-quality teaching tools and proper assessment of student knowledge. These issues are receiving the most attention. In addition, distance education can be beneficial for the quality of lexical competence development. By using lexical competence in the distance learning process, it is possible to improve the acquired knowledge as much as possible. Lexical competence in distance communication can be improved through mutual communication and by enhancing the quality of lexical term development and the ability to use the language in a business environment.

The key advantage of distance learning is the ability to save time and conduct classes promptly, which allows students to communicate with teachers and improve their knowledge in the course of the study. For students studying foreign languages, distance learning can be useful in terms of using communication tools when communicating with a native speaker, which will significantly improve the student's grammatical skills and ability to express their own opinions. Moreover, modern information platforms provide a whole range of online lectures and seminars that can be useful in the learning process and are aimed at improving the quality of assessment and possible activities. In the EU, it is a popular practice to organize mass conferences using digital platforms provided by the university or using special applications from Google and Microsoft. Among them are cloud technologies such as Google Cloud and Azure, which allow storing of recorded video materials of educational institutions, which contain some useful information about the peculiarities of communication and can describe in detail the key principles of the correctness of semantic and lexical groups and grammatical rules. Moreover, the use of video materials for the development of lexical competence is a leading means of improving students' cognitive abilities to perceive educational material. Modern features of the development of cognitive abilities are perceived much better by students when communicating with a foreign language speaker. Therefore, the use of digital platforms for communication activities can be useful from the point of view of using high-quality digital tools that will improve not only the student's grammatical skills but also expand his/her lexical competence.

In general, the concept of lexical competence is the ability to use one's vocabulary on the chosen topic. For students of technical specialties, the formation of lexical competence will be based on the use of professional terminology and the quality of its operation. This can be useful in professional activities. Moreover, the modern development of digital technologies has created some innovative tools and words that should be used in professional activities. Therefore, to improve their use, it is necessary to implement distance education measures, which already involve the use of special technologies that will be used in professional activities in the future. Most employees of technical specialties currently work remotely or traditionally in engineering institutions. However, to perform their activities, they need to be able to use special digital tools that allow them to design, modernize and optimize a project. In addition, consultations and meetings often take place through the use of digital technologies that have an appropriate lexical style. The introduction of distance learning makes it possible to develop real practical skills for the student that will be used in practice. Therefore, it is impossible to imagine modern features of the development of lexical competence without the use of distance education.

For students of philological specialties, the use of distance education has certain advantages. They can find a representative of a foreign culture who knows all the details of the language, its semantic groups, and dialectical or regional features, and can explain the difference between a particular form of usage. Therefore, in such conditions, it will be a good way for students to expand their lexical competence and ensure that it is at a high level. The issue of vocabulary expansion is also relevant for students of any specialty. Therefore, when using distance learning, software applications, and digital dictionaries are offered that can improve the quality of learning material and understanding of terminology. Moreover, after 2019, each university created a free or closed library with educational materials that students can use to improve their lexical competence and specialized knowledge and skills. In the context of modern global development, students who want not only to improve the specifics of their academic knowledge and skills but also to put them into practice need to be able to conduct business communication with representatives of another corporate sector. This approach can improve the quality of the educational process and its dissemination following the key conditions of the modern corporate market, which requires future specialists to know how to use professional tools and terminology and conduct business communication with representatives of other cultures.

The importance of developing lexical competence is driven by the globalization of commodity markets and increasing integration into the international community. Therefore, the use of high-quality lexical competence, broad terminology, the ability to navigate several deep subtopics of the language, and conduct high-quality communication activities is the basis for building a career. In the scientific environment, the study of lexical competence can be divided into a philological approach, which involves the study of word formation,

the use of semantic groups, and the study of the origin of certain terms introduced through historical cultural development. The second approach is the acquisition of lexical knowledge for the ability to negotiate both at the domestic and business level, which consists of the formation of various discourses. The concept of discourse means the ability to use special vocabulary and formulate expressions that will be used in a particular situation and a special social community. The distinction between every day, educational and business discourse is a key principle in learning a foreign language and the possibility of using it in professional activities for a student.

Despite the advantages of distance education, it also has key disadvantages that can harm the development of lexical competence. Most of the material is presented in written form, and few universities have video materials for seminars or lectures. Given this, students are more able to perform practical and written tasks in a digital format, whereas real listening performance is significantly worse. Therefore, the use of special technologies in the distance learning process will become an important practice. They can improve the quality of teaching and learning, and create the prerequisites for improving live communication to expand professional lexical competence. Let us consider the key principles of lexical competence development in Table 1.

Table 1. Elements of lexical competence formation

Component	Content
Vocabulary	Ability to expand vocabulary for further use in communication.
Knowledge of the lexical meaning of a word	Ability to use the expediency of semantic and lexical units, and identify them by origin.
Knowledge of words in speech	Ability to use phrases effectively and use words appropriately to design a communication goal.
Imagery of speech	Ability to convey an oral message with an accurate reproduction of its content.
Linguistic and aesthetic features	Use of lexical constructions that consider the peculiarities of the cultural development of a particular community.
Word formation	Ability to construct sentences and phrases that are grammatically correct and appropriate.
Verbal associations	Search for synonyms, phraseological expressions, rare expressions, making associations, etc.

Source: compiled by the author

Thus, based on the above elements of lexical competence formation and the peculiarities of their use in modern pedagogical practice, it is important to develop high-quality means and tools for the implementation of training students who want to improve their knowledge both in the chosen specialty and in the communication arts. The importance of the ability to express one's thoughts lies in the achievement of the communication goal and in the conduct of professional activities to share available information and experience. Modern universities do not pay enough attention to holding discussions and implementing creative projects that could improve the quality of lexical competence development. Therefore, the priority for today's distance learning students is to carry out creative projects that can be socially useful and discussed at scientific conferences. This approach will be the most effective, as it will strengthen the skills of a student studying a professional specialty and be useful for his or her communication skills. The advantages of distance learning in the development of lexical competence lie in the possibility of using assessment tools that are implemented using automated technologies. Such tools reduce the possibility of cheating and improve the quality of preparation for lectures or seminars. To identify the level of a student's lexical competence, it is worth using listening and active listening to a student who is responsible for a particular area. Such a creative approach provides many competitive abilities for further activities. The peculiarities of developing the effectiveness of distance education in the formation of lexical competence are shown in Figure 1.

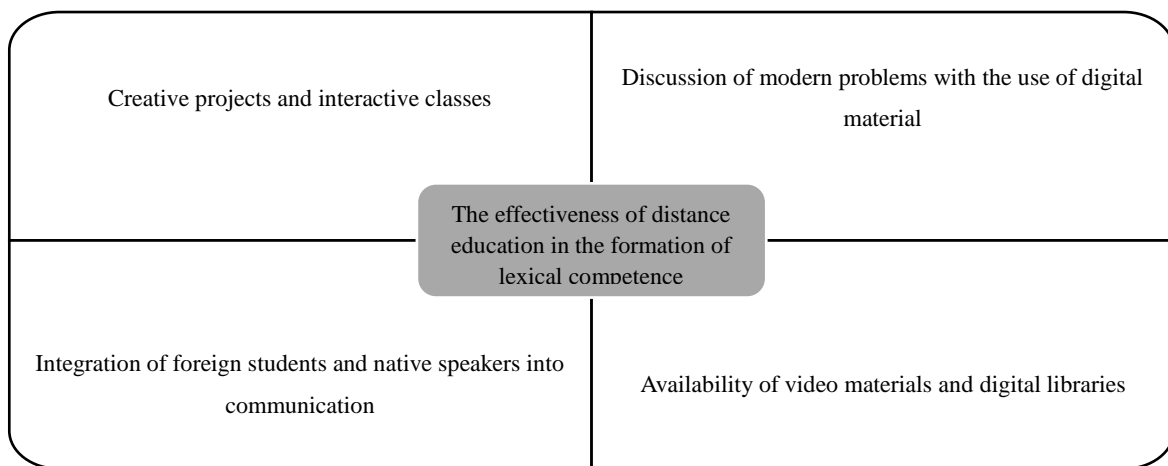


Figure 1. The effectiveness[s of distance education in the formation of lexical competence

Source: compiled by the author

Based on Figure 1, it can be seen that the current peculiarities of lexical competence formation are based on the use of some digital tools and platforms in distance education. Currently, the global digitalization of the educational process is underway, as most universities are implementing blended learning programs that allow not only traditional learning but also full distance learning. According to analytical studies by the World Bank, by 2030, through the use of artificial intelligence and the development of digitalization platform technologies, the quality of education may be transformed towards the use of fully automated systems and innovative educational institutions. To maintain a high-quality level of communication between students and the ability to hold discussions on certain issues and scientific problems, universities need to prepare for the development of their digital platforms that will facilitate live communication and the ability to exchange information with each other. This approach will not only improve the quality of education but also help to develop lexical competence and expand the possibilities of students' discourse in professional and everyday life. Today's technologies make it possible to communicate with online platforms that play audio or video materials and have voice recognition functions. In the future, such technologies may completely replace communication, but the advantage is that they can be customized for the qualitative development of students' vocabulary.

The prospect of forming lexical competence in higher education students lies in the possibility of using modern technologies and key aspects of interactive activities aimed at improving communication, semantic, cultural, and ethical skills. An important factor in the development of lexical competence is the understanding of the cultural segment of the environment in which the communication process takes place, as various phrases are most appropriate to use in a particular society. Modern means of distance education are an important factor for the further development of professional qualifications of secondary and higher education students. Therefore, to improve such foundations, it is necessary to stimulate the use of digital education tools qualitatively to introduce them to the principles of organizing the educational process and use all available applications and platforms that can improve students' lexical abilities.

Quality tools can provide several advantages that can promote the development and organization of lexical competence for university students. Some of these advantages include:

1. **Improved Vocabulary Acquisition:** Quality tools such as flashcards, word lists, and interactive quizzes can help students expand their vocabulary by introducing them to new words and helping them retain those words in their memory.
2. **Enhanced Reading Comprehension:** Having a strong lexical competence can help students better comprehend reading materials. Quality tools such as online dictionaries and thesauruses can aid in the comprehension of unfamiliar words, which can help students better understand the overall meaning of the text.
3. **More Effective Writing:** Good lexical competence is essential for effective writing. Quality tools such as spell checkers, grammar checkers, and writing software can help students write more coherently and concisely, and avoid errors that may detract from the quality of their writing.
4. **Improved Speaking Skills:** Quality tools such as pronunciation guides and speech recognition software can help students improve their speaking skills by allowing them to practice their pronunciation and receive feedback on their speech.
5. **Better Test Scores:** Quality tools can help students prepare for tests that assess lexical competence, such as standardized tests like TOEFL, GRE, and GMAT. By using quality tools to improve their vocabulary, grammar, and overall linguistic proficiency, students can increase their scores and improve their chances of academic success.

So, quality tools can be an invaluable resource for university students looking to develop and organize their lexical competence. By providing a wide range of learning aids and assessment tools, these tools can help students acquire new vocabulary, improve reading comprehension, enhance writing skills, and boost their overall linguistic proficiency.

In general, the issues of students' lexical competence should include some completed tasks and opportunities to implement public speaking during seminar classes. This will help to develop analytical skills, improve professional discourse and improve the quality of lexical and semantic group selection in the scientific environment and business speech. Distance education makes it possible to quickly prepare creative projects and has advantages in terms of the ease of organizing special conferences, which is a key factor in improving the quality of the processes discussed, etc. The importance of such class formats will help improve and develop lexical competence, the ability to speak on scientific topics, and logically express one's thoughts. Further principles of distance education are increasingly becoming a mixed format, as the culture of traditional education, although partly conservative, can be useful in some issues: namely, explaining scientific material, and sharing live information. Under such conditions, an important task of modern universities of any orientation is to distribute the material in distance education by the type of its nature, as well as to conduct public speaking and opportunities to discuss scientific topics for study to improve not only the student's professional abilities but also to develop his or her vocabulary, improve the breadth of discourse and public speaking skills. Thus, modern education is increasingly transforming towards distance learning, where finding effective solutions to improve the quality of students' lexical competence remains an important issue.

4. Discussion

The results of the study indicate that the peculiarities of forming lexical competence in distance learning can have both positive and negative factors of influence depending on the quality of the educational process organization. Under such conditions, it is important to use high-quality means of organizing students' lexical competence that can form during distance learning and to ensure a productive learning process. The development of digital technologies can be useful to any student who wants to improve their knowledge, as the use of special tools and applications is implemented mainly to gain practical skills that will serve to improve student activity. In the current

conditions of digital technology development, the quality of research into the peculiarities of creating linguistic constructions, the use of lexical and semantic, and other means that will affect the cultural aspect of speech, is becoming increasingly important. Achievement of the communicative goal is possible only if the presentation of a particular material is appropriate. Moreover, to improve communication, students need to use the most modern means of business communication, which can be implemented not only in educational activities but also applied to most areas of everyday discourse. Prospects for further research should be the peculiarities of using digital tools to improve the quality of lexical competence formation, its possible assessment, as well as the creation of some software applications that affect the organization of training.

The results obtained can serve as a basis for further research on the impact of distance education on the level of lexical competence of both pupils and students, as it is important to analyze the level of practice of conducting classes in a live format. The problem with this approach is that most students can discuss the learning material both during the lesson and during breaks or after classes. This factor is very important in traditional education, as it is implemented as a key element of the advantage that is formed in traditional education, and usually, in distance education, the role of the addressee is played only by the audience of the teacher who provides the information. To conduct effective communication between students or schoolchildren, it is necessary to use the discussed creative projects, which can be used to form ethical competence during scientific classes or other types of scientific activities. In the context of modern technology development, to improve the quality of business negotiations, it is crucial to create a basic framework for the development of specialized skills and abilities to conduct business discourse and have a vocabulary to support it.

Thus, modern learners have faced the problems of distance education, for instance, how to ensure its effectiveness in the context of global instability and create the most effective basis for further development. Therefore, the current peculiarities of lexical competence formation should be studied in the context of the quality of its further development through the digitalization of education and the spread of distance education.

5. Conclusion

Thus, the study suggests that modern features of lexical competence formation include the development of vocabulary, the ability to build lexical and semantic constructions, and the introduction of tools for improving speech. The key structural components of lexical competence are word formation, terminology, and understanding of sentence structure. For further development in today's digitized learning environment, it is necessary to use innovative solutions and practices that can help students improve their professional and linguistic abilities. Moreover, the development of lexical competence improves the quality of business communication and the achievement of professional goals. In today's world, which is focused mainly on international commodity markets, the key factor for the development of the country's human capital is the implementation of an educational process with elements of using high-quality lexical competence.

Distance education has many advantages. According to the current forecasts of European research think tanks, most educational institutions will gradually transform into digital education. In addition, the proliferation of private educational institutions affects the quality of education and the format of its delivery, as they provide effective educational services that meet labor market standards and are more affordable. To improve education, schools, and universities need to use up-to-date teaching tools and teach digital literacy to students to remain competitive in the education market. The theoretical concept of distance education is a product of the development of digital technologies, which have created possible information platforms for information exchange and provided some automated assessment tools for students. The practice of using distance education as the main learning format is increasingly developing. Its advantages in today's unstable world are much higher than traditional education. This process is gradual but tends to grow. The key challenge in such conditions is the decline in the potential of lexical literacy and general competence of students who need high-quality pedagogical methods to master the material and the ability to conduct business and subject communication.

Thus, the study on lexical competence development plays an important role in the current policy of educational institutions and needs to be modernized towards integration into distance education, which will have key advantages over traditional education. Implementation of a lexical competence training program will have advantages for students who want to improve their communication, research, and professional skills.

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