

How to achieve optimal teaching and learning experience in distance teaching

The evaluation of three distance teaching methods in German in primary school

Kristina Malgaj, *Grammar school Vida Pregarc, Slovenia*

Introduction: Distance teaching and learning have become increasingly used teaching tools in primary education due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to achieve successful teaching results, various teaching methods are utilized, however, objective assessment of the effect of these methods is needed.

Purpose: The purpose of the following study is to optimize a distance teaching experience of German in primary school with the objective to evaluate three different teaching methods: (1) video conferencing, (2) preprepared videos including a lecture and instructions for additional work and (3) prepared instructions including worksheets for pupils' individual work.

Subjects and method: Pupils at two different levels were included in the study: pupils from 4.-6. grade with German as a facultative elective school subject and pupils from 7.-9. grade with German as a compulsory elective school subject. To assess the quality of experience of the three teaching methods a questionnaire regarding time efficiency, understanding of the topic, and motivation level was given to the pupils and their parents. The effect of different learning methods was evaluated by a teacher through an oral examination. A chi-squared test was used to assess statistically significant differences among the methods.

Main findings: The quality of experience differed between the three teaching methods. The questionnaire showed that a presence of a teacher in a teaching process played an important role in a learning experience. Further, the effect of different teaching methods varied significantly, whereas a combination of two or more methods proved to be the most effective. However, each of the teaching methods exhibited certain limitations in respect to lack of computer equipment, lack of a teacher presence, necessary parental involvement, etc.

Conclusions: Within the limitations of the study the combination of two or more teaching methods provides optimal teaching and learning experience leading to successful educational results.

Keywords: distance teaching, distance teaching methods, German, primary school