

Reportage – A Way to Acquire and to Send Information

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Abstract

This article proposes to valorize the role of mass-media in the process of learning a foreign language at A1 level and the potential knowledge of this method of sending the information. The activity style is tandem and E-tandem. The members of the tandem will be the users of a new language and the native speakers of this language, students at the vocational schools. Users who have elementary linguistic and communicative competences can make reportages on the following topics: the user himself, the user and his family (house, garden, room, or different objects), the user and the society. Tandemists together with students from the vocational schools will realize short informative didactic materials on one of the above topics. Time given for collaboration will be correlated with the general project's objectives. The general project will contain reportages realized in collaboration with students from the Construction College, The College of Transports, The College of Physical Education and Sport, or students from the vocational schools (cooks, confectioners, bakers, shoemakers, hairdressers, electricians etc.). The realization of the reportages is based on a pre-established algorithm. According to the levels of autonomy in learning, users will have the possibility to modify, to complete, to exclude or to argue some elements of the proposed model. The style of collaboration is blended, both face to face and on-line. Chat, forum, e-mail consultation, writing of the diverse counselling messages will be some of the ways of realizing the proposed tasks at the diverse stages. Teachers can collaborate with their colleagues from other colleges or professional schools, as well as with specialists from mass-media domain. Users will acquire multiple competences: linguistic, communicative, persuasion, writing, ontological and metacognitive. Linguistic and communicative competences will be obtained through the creation of a discourse on the learned topic – a dialogue or a narration. The ontological competence will be acquired through the integration in a new social medium. The area of acquiring competences is pluridisciplinary and the benefits of the project of realizing a didactic material based on reportages are obvious for all project participants.

Keywords

tandem and E-tandem; autonomy in learning; project.

1. Introduction

The process of studying a foreign language from the perspective of constructivism paradigm of knowledge involves the formation of the disciplinary, pluri- and interdisciplinary competencies. A significant case study would be the learning of a foreign language through the valorization of the potential offered by the mass-media. Application of the video-reportages during the lessons is an original method to initiate students with the grammar and the structure of a discourse. Such didactic activities have the advantage to contribute to the formation of communicative and linguistic competencies; they also contribute to the formation of the ability of using the specialized language in diverse communicative situations, being a good opportunity of the integration in a new social group. An important role in the formation of the E-competencies, both for the user and for all actors involved is the process of learning, studying and knowledge.

This method can also develop the abilities to apply ontological competencies that will result in the user's self-perception from the perspective of a social entity and the perception of the user's personality, whose activities can contribute to the achievement of the individual axiological system. Tasks from the journalistic field will not be identical to those proposed for the student's specialization. These tasks will be the ways of opening the ontological and cultural horizon, they will constitute new methods of perception of the exterior reality, and they also will have the role of practicing the research activity which the user will realize during his professional activity. Teacher's working style will be in concordance with the user's individual learning style.

The harmonization of the didactic vision can be realized through the strategies based on the active and participative methods and didactic techniques. The role of these methods, as part of the project, is to build mental images of that fragment of reality that student knows and to deconstruct and reconstruct this reality.

2. The Subject of the Reportage – Algorithm of Identification

An essential element of the didactic activity is to emphasize/to reveal the research perspective that will use all the actors involved in the project. The process of studying a foreign language, both through the project elaboration and through the project realization is an integral part of knowledge that is perceived by users as a real element from his existence. Research project involves investigative activities. Principles specific for the investigative journalism can be adapted to the user's needs of realizing the reportage on a topic from his professional area. The learning space is flexible, due to the communication flow managed by the informative channels, synchronous and asynchronous to the ITC values.

The same principle can be applied to the temporal component of the unit of study. The institutionalized space of learning can be blended with the virtual space, while the application of the project tasks will be offered both, to the students from the study group and to the students from the virtual study group. Thus, will be elaborated some thematic lists in which will be exposed the most important aspects, specific for some general topics from the specialization field. Topics will

be mentioned from the perspective of diverse research aspects and can be realized using human resources from the group present in the classroom, as well as the advising of the virtual learning group using different didactic methods and informative communication channels. At this stage of identifying the subject of the investigative reportage the SMS, e-mail or chat will be used to receive or to send short messages with the informative values. The stage of identifying the subject can be blended with that of organizing the elaboration of one data base, referring to the specific topics from the professional area. Each general topic will contain an attached file with different subjects that will treat the general topic from multiple points of view. The user will permanently modify the content of the attached files, depending on information received by the rest of persons that participate in the project. The realization of the group project presumes the respecting of some behavioral principles that will increase the role of the didactic activities, as well as the utilization of some research principles and scientific investigations specific for the specialization field. Writing of an article necessary for the realization of the reportage will identify the fundamental principles, characteristic for the journalistic art in general, and for the modality of realizing the reportage, specially.

The reference work in the investigative journalism field „L'enquête par hypothèse: manuel du journaliste d'investigation” by Mark Lee Hunter, Nils Hanson, Rana Sabbagh, Luuk Sengers, Drew Sullivan and Pia Thorsen, mentions some principles specific for the writing of the reportage from the perspective of the investigative journalism: the attitude regarding the information is a responsible one, the information can not be distributed if it does not have a coherent aspect and is not presented in a complete manner. Introduction of one part of the reportage does not mean the exhaustive presentation of the theme, but offers new points to begin the investigation for other aspects of the problem. The credibility level of the information sent by the investigative reportage is always in direct dependence with the collected information completeness and of their verification and interpreting. [1]

3. Formation of the Abilities of Sources' Valorization

In the XXI century, learning is like a way of self – knowledge, knowledge of the family members, of the extended social group, of the existence vision, in general. Within the project of studying a language through the abilities of realizing investigative reportages will be proposed the realization of the adjacent project that has a very important informative value – the project of establishing the own library and the virtual library. Initially, users being advising by teachers and by specialists in the library science will realize their own vision regarding their library. Referring to medical language, the library or the virtual library headings can coincide with systems names: tegumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, circulatory, respiratory, immune, lymphatic, digestive, excretory, sensitive, reproductive (The Great Illustrated Atlas of the Human Body). Each thematic file can contain the following information: images drawing boards of the studied systems.

The virtual library will contain attached files with the proper information and a set of active exercises like: chromatic difference of organs, of functions, of tissues, the sounds accompanying the image that names structural elements of the human body. Association between the word and association of the sounds realized

by users and the model proposed by the teachers, the presentation of some didactic games have the goal to memorize the medical terminology and to apply the pluri- and transdisciplinary competencies. Another important element from the project – the user's own library or virtual library is to communicate and to persuade the field specialists, who can offer their works. The teacher, together with users, will identify fields of searching information according to the thematic area of the realized reportage, and with the subject researched by the user. The specialist in the field can offer his didactic materials, his integral or partial scientific material with the content that covers the exhaustive thematic area, referring to some special aspects of the studied subject. Users, in collaboration with teachers, will collect the necessary information and will select the bibliographical material according to the classification criteria (which he will know after a discussion with a specialist), will cooperate with the teacher to archive the information according to the principles of utility within the realized project. On the another axe of professional activity, the cooperating group of the philologist teachers will write texts according to the indicators of using linguistic and communicative abilities, according to the levels of competencies, accepted and implemented in the European educational institutions. A necessary heading for the medical student is the presentation of the national and international documents of the studied thematic area.

A useful activity within the project of establishing a virtual library is the observation of the concordance between the official documents at the national and international levels. An important heading is that referring to the official statistics and those of presentation in accordance with the criteria of the social group, of the space of manifestation (local, regional, international), and temporal period. Collaborating with the field specialists and with teachers, users will fill in the heading that contains different tables, schemes, diagrams which would expose the dynamic of changes in the studied field of activity. Another folder will contain bibliographical information with the reference sources and the list of useful links for a successful project realization. E-mails, SMS as asynchronous forms of communication can be used for sending informative messages to the educational institutions, hospitals or to specialists from the different departments, who are ready to have the role of consultant or partner/source of information during the period of realization the project of investigative reportage and with whom the user can cooperate for a successful realization of the project. The communication forms – skype and video-conference can be utilized as a way of presenting the result of one or some stages from the project or for the presentation of the conceptual vision of the project or for the presentation of the criteria and principles activity due to their synchronous character. Within the project, the user will have the possibility to develop his critical thinking through the activities of formation the selective vision referring to the source of information, especially in the case when sources contain contradictory information. Initially, the user will elaborate a list with the credibility criteria of one informative source, and ulterior, once with the obtaining of new experiences, these criteria can be modified or completed with other new criteria which the user could not foresee from the beginning. The user will need these criteria, especially, when he will make a conclusion regarding the multitude of the

on-line sources. Every user will need a strategy of sources examination that can be elaborated and applied using the criteria for the credibility of the informative source. In an investigative reportage, the journalist refuses to accept the world how it is and he tries to expose some aspects that can escape the observation or to present the positive models. Usually, the investigative reportage contains the expression of a value judgment and conclusions. The student will not present only facts and information, he also will realize activities of interpreting and commenting upon these facts.

4. Description of the Process of Expressing and Commenting upon the Hypothesis

Hypothesis is a history and a method that must be verified. The establishment of a questionnaire of verifying a hypothesis is an indispensable activity for the realization of a reportage that can be characterized through veracity and authenticity. Referring to the modality of formulation and verification of a hypothesis the used linguistic instrument has an important role. The reference work „Jurnalismul de investigație” by Constantin Marin, Petru Bogatu, Ion Bunduchi, Arcadie Gherasim, Igor Guzun, Georgeta Stepanov makes the following remark referring to the modality of using a language as an essential instrument of communication: „According to the theory of information, the literary and journalistic texts are defined by the language functions, such as they were described by Roman Jakobson. The poetical function, centered on the message, and the expressive function, centered on the sender are dominant for the literary creations, while the fatigue function of the language, axed on the communication channels, and the reference function, axed on the referent, are defining for journalistic texts. Hence the conclusion that the journalistic investigation is an individual mode of communication. The reference function of communication is characteristic for the investigative reportage, which the user can realize, and a good opportunity for the competencies of awareness, interpreting, commenting and socializing the information referring to the professional activities” [2].

Every user will describe his own vision regarding the research subject. Although the activity of elaborating an investigative reportage is a collective one and it implies close cooperation between the project partners, every user will have the possibility to contribute to the formation of the study competencies from the perspective of the autonomous study style. At the awareness level, the user will fill in the heading from his portfolio with his own opinions referring to the necessity of approach the subject, with the subject actuality and the impact of knowing this subject for the formation of the competencies of one real specialist. The user awareness the role of connections between the objectives formulated by himself and those accepted as a result of reconciliation with the rest of the members from the group which realize the project and contests that they will study. At the implication level, the user will identify the modality of an efficient realization of the project. Usually, we chose to elaborate an algorithm for the realization of the project or for the writing of the reportage. Using ITC, the user can diversify the informative sources both, for the cognitive necessity and for the metacognitive necessity. Members of the working group will utilise channels available to the sending of the

communication flow for realizing the simultaneous advising referring to the experience of learning a language by other colleagues or by their neighbours who have already achieved this experience. The user will use materials of the project that describes different linguistic experiences. Implication will be realized both, referring to the necessity of collecting, selecting and saving the information received from diverse bibliographical or human sources. Users will establish the individual learning style and the group working style, as well as the method of verification the source credibility and the strategies of correlating the reality to the referential space. At the intervention level, will be realised activities of changing the place of another task from the algorithm, or the motivated excluding of one task, or the modification of a task required by the new circumstances or by the user's experience. Forum is useful for the realization of the above mentioned activities.

The teacher will reveal his role of moderator due to the fact that he will monitor the frequency of the recorded returns, the rhythm of realizing the discussion, he also will propose topics for discussions regarding to the research subject, and he will maintain the corresponding motivation level. For the creation level are proposed such tasks that imply the creativity potential and will increase the experiential level of applying the competencies in different situations. Creative aspects are important at all stages of realising the project, because they help the user to formulate different items, to expose the tasks, to place tasks according to the strategies of realising the project, to correlate the tasks according to the didactic principles, to value the human potential and the opportunity of studying this subject, to present the final result, to correlate the theoretical information with the social reality. The project of writing an investigative reportage can constitute a didactic source for colleagues that want to realize similar activities. Also, users from the first project of writing an investigative reportage can guide the activity of their colleagues who want to realize a similar project. Thus, users, can test their capacity of autonomous studying through the application of the last level of transcendence.

5. Conclusion and Researches' perspectives

The possibility of consulting multiple informative sources is an advantage and at the same time a signal for the vigilance principle application and the passage of each source through the algorithm of credibility establishing. The interaction with human sources is a very useful experience, due to their contribution for creating contacts with other members of the social group, and due to the fact that every person has a vision about the world. The multitude of opinions offers to the user the possibility to develop his capacity to accept different points of view, to understand and to integrate himself in the general system of values. The fact that exist different opinions does not constitute a signal that some information must be excluded from user's data base, but it represents the opportunity to organise the work in such a manner that it will contribute to the formation of an attitude, specific for the opened societies. The user is conscious that the value of his ontological competencies is bigger when he possesses abilities to organise his

proper work and to monitor the efficiency level of his work. This attitude about himself will be reflected in the society, and his personal values will represent the beginning of his personal success within the social group.

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