THE CURRENT SITUATION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING SOME SUBJECTS (GENERAL EDUCATION KNOWLEDGE BLOCKS) FOR THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FIELD FOR DISTANCE TRAINING (E-LEARNING) OF THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

English language major is a nascent branch in the distance learning system (E-Learning) of distance learning center - Thai Nguyen University. E-Learning is a new teaching method based on information and communication technology. With E-Learning, learning is open and flexible. Learners can study anytime, anywhere, with anyone, learn the issues they are interested in, in accordance with their abilities and interests, with job requirements... All they need is a computer and an internet connection. The article proposes some effective methods of teaching and learning some basic subjects of the English language branch.

Keywords: *Teaching methods, learning methods, English language*

INTRODUCTION

Distance Learning Center - Thai Nguyen University was established under Decision No. 446/QD - DHTN dated May 21, 2012 of the Director of Thai Nguyen University. English language major is one of the training branches of Distance Learning Center. Before learning the specialized knowledge block, learners need to study the general education knowledge block (also known as the basic modules).

E-Learning (short for Electronic Learning) is the new term. Currently, according to different points of view and in different forms, there are many ways to understand E-Learning. In a broad sense, E-Learning is a term used to describe learning and training based on information technology (IT) and communication, especially information technology… through a computer or television; Teachers and learners can communicate with each other through the network in the form of: electronic mail (e-mail), online discussion (chat), forum (forum), conference, video…

RESEARCH METHODS

Advantages and disadvantages of teaching basic subjects (such as Introduction to Linguistics, Vietnamese, Vietnamese Culture, Text Analysis) for English language majors according to E-learning.

ADVANTAGES

Not limited by space and time: Because of the widespread popularity of the internet, learners can actively download lectures, learning videos and discussions anytime and anywhere. Learners self-test their understanding of knowledge through online multiple-choice exercises

Attractiveness: With the support of multimedia technology, lecturers have built lectures that

integrate text, illustrations, and sound to increase the attractiveness of the lesson.
Flexibility: Learners can self-regulate the learning process, choosing the learning method that best suits their circumstances.

Collaborative learning: Learners can easily exchange information with each other, with teachers through forums (forums), conversations, online (chat), letters (e-mail)...
Psychological comfort: All barriers of communication psychology of both teachers and learners are gradually removed, people are more confident in exchanging views.

DISADVANTAGES

Necessary communication between the teacher and the learner is broken. Learners will not be trained in social communication skills, especially presentation skills.
Some difficulties when teaching basic subjects for English language major according to E-learning.

On the teacher's side: Due to the lack of face-to-face interaction, much of the knowledge the lecturers cannot describe in writing. The teacher does not grasp the ability of the learners to understand the content of the lesson.

On the learner's side: E-learning requires learners to be self-taught. Due to the influence of traditional passive learning, psychology must have a teacher (no teacher you make up), overloaded content at the school... leading to participating in e-learning has not become a motivation for learning. Many students have not actively exchanged knowledge content with teachers.

About assessing qualifications through subjects: Learners must use their knowledge to practice (writing and speaking practice) in some contents of Vietnamese, Text analysis. This is difficult to do in the form of E-learning.

PROPOSING SOLUTIONS

Strengthen interaction between teachers and learners. Teachers need to create a ROOM online so that teachers and all students can interact directly (chat, voice chat multiple people).
Strengthen group learning, group discussions, teamwork, and group learning projects (Introduction to Linguistics and Vietnamese Culture).

A combined solution is to use E-Learning and traditional teaching methods in parallel. Learners can perform all possible learning activities on E-Learning, participating as if they are learning on a real course. In addition, it is possible to meet lecturers through online chat and voice in some sessions to discuss, exchange and solve some problems for the purpose of practicing social communication skills.

CONCLUSION

Thus, in the process of teaching basic subjects for the English language major in the form of E-learning, there are many advantages compared to traditional teaching methods. This is a very good environment for interactive and personalized teaching methods. However, with the above disadvantages, E-Learning is not a perfect solution and cannot completely replace traditional

learning methods.

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