PROJECT WORK TYPES IN LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

This article aims at identifying different types of project work, which is the most essential part of project-based learning. The project-based learning is one of the teaching technologies that affects all components of the education system and the entire teaching and educational process in general. It enables creating a positive environment for education and upbringing, especially for foreign language learning. This method promotes the development of certain intellectual, creative and communicative skills such as, the ability to work with information, generating ideas, problem solving, good communication skills etc.

Key words: project based learning, education, project work, skills, foreign languages.

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Introduction

Before the introduction of project-based learning types, it is necessary to understand its emergence and development. Project-based learning is not entirely new in the world pedagogy. It originated at the beginning of this century in the United States. It is also called task-based learning and it relates to the ideas of humanistic trends in philosophy and education, developed by the American philosopher and educator John Dewey and his disciple V.H. Kilpatrikom. John Dewey offered teaching on an active basis, through the practical activities, in accordance with student’s personal interest in particular knowledge (Dewey, 1938: 21-23). Hence, it is extremely important to show the children their personal interest in the acquired knowledge that can be useful for them in their lives. This requires problem taken from real life, familiar and meaningful to the child, to solve which it is necessary to apply new knowledge that has yet to obtain. In the agricultural and industrial era, the purpose of general learning is limited to the mastery of cultural knowledge. The traditional learning is to extract the knowledge from the specific life scene, textbooks and teachers to teach in the most convenient way. After human beings enter the information society, with the rise of knowledge economy, learning and mastering the purpose of knowledge is more important to create more knowledge and solve practical problems. Moreover, project-based learning is a creative way to solve practical problems; it can promote people from all levels of comprehensive development. In addition, today’s information technology, the rapid development of communication technology, textbooks and teachers are hardly enough. At the same time, in today’s society, the boundaries between disciplines are no longer so strict; there is a trend towards a higher level of integration. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out an interdisciplinary, research-based project-based learning.

The main objective of the contemporary education approach is not to teach the students from a source but to teach them how to access the information. This can only happen at a higher level of mental process skills. Therefore, information memorized in a new situation can not help the individual effectively. Possible solutions to the new problems encountered can be found only through problem solving abilities and scientific process skills. Therefore, it can be deduced that educating creative people who can easily access the information and have good critical thinking skills can contribute to the future of countries and nations in a positive way. A project-based learning approach is one of the methods that students can use to transfer their knowledge and skills to everyday life and to solve new problems they face each day (Diffily, 2002).

This learning method is widely used in the west, from kindergarten to university, which I think is the most fundamental difference between the two hemisphere teaching methods. Two examples of projects held today are kindergartens and primary schools, and we will continue to introduce examples of senior projects. The traditional classroom maintained this pattern: students face the blackboard, listen to the teacher lectures. Then take notes, go home to complete the homework, recite enough knowledge to cope with the exam. In this process, students and teachers are greatly lack of passion for investment. This system does not necessarily include all the learning skills, and even a lot of important aspects are excluded, such as how to learn, how to solve the problem creatively, how to maintain attention, how to cultivate team spirit, how to use others to understand the way to organize themselves. Project-based learning can just fill this flaw.

What is project-based learning?

Project-based learning is a programmatic or instructional approach that utilizes multifaceted projects as a central organizing strategy for educating students. Project-based learning grabbed attention and become topic of discussions in education area; it is considered a passive learning and mechanical recitation outside of a way of learning. If the traditional education is “classical music”, then the project based learning is “jazz”. In the project based learning classroom, the student team must solve the teacher’s question. Students do not need to recite the knowledge points and then keep them in memory. Teachers will provide students with the resources they need to explore concepts and apply them to the actual process. In the course of learning, students are allowed to make mistakes. As a result, they become active learners, and develop some field skills. Of course, in order to achieve all this there should be an organized plan, enough flexibility and a team which can cooperate in the environment.

Four principles of project organization:

1. Set up a good learning space

One of the main features of the project based learning classroom is the emphasis on groupwork: the students form a group to solve the problem. That is to say, the classroom space environment must have the conditions to carry out team cooperation - so it can no longer be the same as before (the desk in a few rows). In the primary classroom, portable
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The teacher should still stand in the center, let the students gather around him, but the space should be big enough to carry out the group activities. In addition, usually need to prepare a large workstations and comfortable chairs. A large round table or square table is the ideal choice, but if the budget is limited, the teacher can gather around small desks together.

One of the key points, keep in mind the scope of the content and the type of project. The small desk is acceptable to the English class, but the science class requires a larger desk. Electronic product projects also require some technology and equipment, and communication programs can use local newspapers, social media and blogging tools, and even need to prepare students to meet face to face with the community members of the conditions. Classroom technology tools are very useful for classroom design.

2. The conditions for obtaining the information
For project-based learning, a large amount of paper material is not required. Students need chalk, whiteboard, reference books and other art or display tools. Adult students usually learn through space and touch, so it is a good idea to divide the classroom into different themes. Adult students are more likely to be divided by subjects, so teachers can provide a range of areas to provide the necessary materials for specific subjects. No matter what grade the student is in, what subjects are like, what is unpredictable in the classroom of the project and, to a certain extent, the student should be dominant. You may not know what direction a project will be developed, so you should be prepared to support a large number of materials to support students, and should not limit their creativity.

3. The purposeful use of technology
Most of the American classrooms are equipped with electronic equipment, project based learning should make full use of these educational technology. One of the main objectives of project based learning is to help students develop practical skills - modern professionals are conducting research online, using spreadsheets or databases to collate information, and use video editing and display software to spread ideas. However, please remember that technology is also very easy to distract students. Therefore, the network should be monitored, and IT experts need to monitor computer problems, so that students can not be distracted by these problems. In addition, the teacher should include to the project objectives technical guidance.

4. The teacher sees himself as the ultimate resource
Perhaps the most important element in the classroom of the project is the teacher. In the traditional classroom, the teacher will follow the set curriculum, and in the project-based classroom, many cases are unpredictable, and more or less should be led by the students. The teacher must have some flexibility to support and integrate into the process of learning. The teacher should introduce the subject and objectives of the project to ensure that the student is able to obtain the resources and materials; they need to make the student’s learning in an orderly manner. They also need to know when to teach, when should be observed, when the students should be limited, and when they should let them make mistakes.

The transformation of a traditional classroom into a project-based classroom, even a temporary transformation, is a challenge for the teacher, especially for teachers who have never been exposed to the project. As the attractiveness of project learning is growing, it is expected to be a part of teacher training. Until now, most of the project learning teachers are through continuing education, meetings, books or online resources to understand the relevant knowledge. In any case, you can experiment with the project as a course you need to study, and use your own teaching principles to guide yourself. That is, you need to plan carefully, stay flexible, and perhaps most importantly, expect and allow students to make mistakes.

The importance of project work will be better understood if it is remembered that project work is an opportunity for the student to do independent work, creativity, multi-faceted thinking skills and an opportunity for the development of these skills. Gifted (capable) students are at a higher level in their schools than other peers in terms of certain skills. Flexible project work should allow individual development. This flexible project work will lead the student to reflect the skills in the learning environment. For this reason, the stage of independent study (project preparation) is an indispensable part of the education models of gifted students. In these models, the students are subjected to the preliminary training stages and then independent study is carried out under the supervision of the teacher, aiming to improve the talent potential in the student (Bayraktar, 2015: 711).

Project work types
Currently, there are many classifications of projects. British expert’s language teaching methodology T. and M. Bloor St. John are three types of projects (Bloor, 1995: 233):
1. Group project in which the study is conducted as a group and each student is studying a particular aspect of the chosen theme.

2. Mini-study was to conduct a poll of the individual using questionnaires and interviews.

3. The project is based on the work of literature that involves selective reading on the topic of student interest and suitable for individual work (Jordan, 1997: 67-68).

Researchers believe the latter type of the easiest for practical use and therefore the most popular. However, they described the structure of this project and found out that it only involves the development of the skills needed to work with literature: a careful reading and viewing, the ability to work with directories and library catalogs. In this regard, it seems fair view of R. Jordan, who believes that the project is based on the work of literature, is suitable mainly for learning a foreign language for specific purposes. At the same time, a “mini-survey” and “work of literature” can be viewed as a kind of group project, which is the most important for the procedure.

Projects carried out in the framework of the educational process, can be classified on several grounds.

By type of product, which is the result of project activities, projects can be divided into technological, research, productivity, network, service, complex.

Projects based on the dominant activity of the students, are divided into practice-oriented, creative, role information.

For the duration of the projects are mini-projects, short-term, weekly, and long-term. However, we will focus our attention on considering the point of view of the doctor of pedagogical sciences, known researcher in the field of modern technologies of training of pupils E.S. Polat. He defines the method of projects as “definitely organized retrieval, research students, individual or group, which includes not only the achievement of a particular result, issued in the form of concrete practical way, but also the organization of the process to achieve this result” (Polat, 1999: 78-79).

In the works of the author, we see the most elaborated typology of projects in accordance with their characteristics:

1. The dominant method in the project: research, creativity, role-playing, familiarization indicative.

2. Subject-content areas: mono-projects (within the same field of knowledge) and interdisciplinary project.

3. The nature of the coordination of the project itself (hard, floppy), hidden (implicit simulating project participant).

4. The nature of the contacts (among the participants of a school class city, teaching in the region, the country, around the world).

5. The number of participants in the project.

According to a first feature of E.S. Polat identifies the following types of projects:

1. Research. This type of system requires a well thought-out project, clearly defined before the start of the project objectives, the interest of each participant, social significance, thought-experimental methods and experimental work, the methods of processing the results.

2. Art. Creative projects are not of detailed structures; they are only planned and developed. Subject to the scheme adopted by the students themselves. However, before you begin to develop such a project should agree in advance on the desired planned results. It can be essays, wall newspapers, videos, etc.

3. Role-playing. In projects such as the structure and only planned to remain open until the end of the project. Each participant chooses a role for itself due to the nature and content of the project. It can be fictional characters, heroes, imitating the social and business relations, complicate situations invented parties. The results of such projects may be agreed in advance, and may emerge toward the end of work.

4. Practice-oriented. This style features clearly marked from the outset objective of the project participants, which, in turn, should be focused on the social interests of the participants. The results can be a newspaper, a document video, sound recording, performance, action program, a draft law, etc. The project of this kind requires a well thought-out structure, perhaps even a script of all the activities of its members, which determines the function of each, each part in the processing and registration of foreign-language media. While working on such projects is particularly important good organization of discussion, adjustment, presentation of the results and possible ways of their application in the foreign practice (Polat, 1999: 78-79).

According to the second feature of the projects could be:

1. Mono-projects. These projects are best done on the most complex topics related to regional geographic, social themes. They require clear structuring better with lesson planning, with a clear indication of the ultimate goals and objectives, as well as the knowledge and skills acquired by students during the development of the project. Pre-designated and shape.

2. Interdisciplinary projects. Such projects are carried out outside normal working hours. They can
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...combine several objects and solve quite complex problems, for example, the problem of preservation of the environment, the study of creativity of writers working in the same genre, etc. Such projects require the coordination of all subject teachers, well-designed shape of the intermediate monitoring and final presentation.

The third feature - the nature of coordination - projects can be:

1. With an open coordination. In such projects, the coordinator (teacher) is directly involved in the work of organizing and directing it, as well as coordinating the activities of all participants.

2. With the hidden coordination. The teacher does not interfere with the work on the project, but by studying the diaries and reports of students, talking to members of the group, he is closely watching the process and can act as an advisor or assistant.

By characteristics of the contact projects are:

1. Domestic or regional (within a school classes, schools, districts, cities).

2. International. They can occur in school exchanges. In addition, the opportunity to develop international projects together with students from different countries and continents are the teacher of modern information technology. Such projects are relatively new and are referred to telecommunication projects.

3. Telecommunication. Cognitive joint creative and cognitive activities of students play, partners located at a considerable distance from each other, based on computer and telecommunications with a common goal: the study of any problem using agreed methods, modes of activity, aimed at the presentation of the cat to the overall result. Participation in telecommunication project helps the student to engage in a particular environment: informational, social, language and etc. It contributes to a global mindset, awareness of himself as a citizen of the world, instilling a sense of social responsibility and expanding horizons. It also helps to express their attitude to the problem, bearing in mind the rules of writing a letter, report, both available from the point of view of people living in other geographical conditions, perhaps, to take another look at your world, tolerant to treat the point of view of the project partner.

Work on the project - is, primarily, independent work of the student to address a problem that requires the ability to put the issue to outline ways to solve it, to plan the work, to pick up the necessary material, etc.

Thus, in the course of this activity students develop their intellectual skills, character traits such as dedication, perseverance, diligence, acquires certain study skills and learning through the acquisition of knowledge, skills, provides social and professional adaptation in the society, which is important in today’s ever-changing world. Summing up, we can see the most elaborated typology of projects, E.S. Polat, in accordance with their characteristics:

1. The dominant method in the project: research, creativity, role-playing, familiarization only approximate;

2. Subject-content areas: mono-projects, interdisciplinary;

3. The nature of the coordination of the project: the direct, hidden;

4. The nature of the contacts: the participants of one school, class, city, region, country, around the world;

5. The number of participants in the project.

Conclusion

New methods of teaching that revive the achievements of experimental pedagogy of the past century, which are built on the principle of self-development and active personality are being introduced to the contemporary educational system. PBL method is considered to be one of these new teaching methods. Project-based learning helps to form the so-called project style of thinking, which connects theoretical and practical components of human activity into a single system, allows expanding, developing, and realizing the creative potential of the individual. However, despite many advantages of this method, it is not very widespread in the local modern schools. It is just beginning to be introduced into the educational process and, as a rule; it is used in optional classes and after-hours activities.

The project-based learning method is one of the student-oriented technologies, the way of organizing the independent activity of the students, aimed at solving the task of the educational project, integrating the problem approach, group methods, reflexive, presentation, research, and other techniques.

The ability to use the PBL method is an indicator of the teacher’s high qualification, his progressive method of teaching. E.S. Polat’s project work types are very useful and can be used in practice by language teachers. It is not for nothing that this method is referred to the technologies of the 21st century, which, first, provide the ability to adapt to the rapidly changing human condition of a postindustrial society.
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