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# Virtual Excursions In Education: A Modern Approach To Optimizing The Learning Process

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## ABSTRACT

The article discusses the use of virtual excursions as an effective means of improving the communicative training of future teachers of Russian as a foreign language (RFL). Particular attention is paid to the role of virtual excursions in the formation of language competence, cultural awareness and pedagogical skills. Examples of the successful use of such technologies in the educational process, as well as prospects for their further development, are considered.

## Keywords:

virtual excursions, digital technologies, communicative competence, sociocultural knowledge, distance learning, intercultural competence

The development of information technology opens up new opportunities for learning and teaching. In particular, virtual excursions are becoming an important tool in teaching Russian as a foreign language, promoting the formation of communication skills in an authentic language environment without the need for physical travel. They help students immerse themselves in a cultural context, expanding their knowledge of Russian culture and traditions, as well as developing intercultural competence and critical thinking. The main task of teaching Russian as a foreign language within the framework of vocational education is to form and develop the professional communicative competence of students, ensuring their ability to practically use the Russian language. Mastering communicative competence without immersion in the language environment is a difficult task. In this regard, one of the key tasks of the teacher is to demonstrate to students various ways of modeling the language environment using

modern technologies [3]. One of these innovative methods is the use of virtual excursions and tours [1]. This method is based on traditional didactic principles of clarity, accessibility and scientificity.

In the process of learning Russian as a foreign language, students' motivation plays an important role. Virtual excursions to museums in the countries of the target language have a pronounced motivational effect. Familiarity with museum exhibits allows you to apply previously acquired knowledge in a practical context, which contributes to the successful use of a foreign language outside the classroom. Such interaction with the culture of another country promotes a deep understanding of its way of life and thinking, creating a sense of belonging and encouraging students to further study the language as a tool for professional development.

Virtual tours include various types of information perception, such as audio, graphics, animation, video and text. This promotes faster

and better assimilation of the material. Virtual tours create the illusion of complete presence and immersion in the language environment, allowing the student to independently manage the learning process. The ability to interact with objects, change the angle and viewing sequence makes learning more personalized.

The communicative competence of a RFL teacher includes not only mastery of language norms, but also the ability to effectively transfer knowledge, adapt to the needs of students and use a variety of methodological approaches. Virtual excursions allow you to:

- create a realistic language environment;
- improve intercultural communication skills;
- develop the ability to use language in various communication situations;
- stimulate cognitive activity of students;
- integrate modern digital technologies into the educational process;
- increase students' motivation to learn the language.

Since the early 90s of the last century, the number of virtual museums on the Internet has been growing rapidly, which makes virtual excursions increasingly accessible and in demand. Researchers are actively studying this method: K.E. Gribanova analyzes models of virtual excursions, E.V. Alexandrova considers their use in literature classes, and A.V. Derevyakina assesses their potential in teaching a foreign language.

Virtual museums are especially relevant in conditions of distance learning, when traditional trips and visits become unavailable. Thanks to modern digital technologies, students can visit museums, exhibitions and even restaurants around the world, access high-resolution exhibits and explore them at their own pace [4]. Thus, virtual excursions provide a high level of involvement and emotional perception, which contributes to long-term retention of information. In addition, virtual tours have several advantages, such as accessibility and time saving.

Students can visit museums without travel or accommodation costs, and return to the material an unlimited number of times. This makes virtual field trips a versatile learning tool.

Conducting classes using virtual excursions involves several stages: the introduction of new vocabulary and information, direct participation in the virtual tour and subsequent monitoring of the learned material. Tasks may include filling in gaps in text, writing reports and presentations, describing exhibits, and expressing opinions.

Virtual excursions became especially effective during the period of self-isolation, when students completed most of their academic assignments on their own. It is important for the teacher to take into account the principles of teaching, such as multi-level competence, dosing of information and managing students' independent work.

For students, virtual gastronomic tours are an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the national cuisines of different countries [2]. They allow you to study ingredients, cooking technology and kitchen equipment. Virtual tours give students the opportunity to learn from renowned chefs.

Thus, virtual excursions become an integral part of the educational process, increasing students' motivation, developing their sociocultural competencies and promoting professional growth. They are an innovative teaching method that integrates modern technologies into the educational process, making it more effective and fun. Virtual excursions are a powerful tool for teaching Russian as a foreign language. They allow students not only to improve their language skills, but also to gain a deeper understanding of the culture of the country of the language they are learning, which is an integral part of successful teaching. The inclusion of such technologies in the educational process contributes to the formation of highly qualified specialists who are ready to work effectively in a globalized environment.

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