

LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES THROUGH THE TELETANDEM PROJECT

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ABSTRACT

In learning a foreign language, it is important to have the learners' interest in learning the language and the learners' desire to learn the language, as well as to motivate, inspire and motivate the learners to learn the language. In this article, we want to share a Teletandem language learning project between a group of Japanese students and students of our institute. Teletandem is an effective and efficient way to learn a foreign language, which allows participants to gain self-confidence, time management, deepen the study of the language culture through language learning and free thinking. Teletandem is one of the most effective motivational methods that serves to develop expressiveness.

Keywords: Independent learning, motivation, project work, Teletandem

INTRODUCTION

In teletandem, our students were able to apply their English speaking skills and gain a thorough knowledge of the Japanese language, culture, education system, as well as the Uzbek language, culture, customs and traditions and also had the opportunity to use their English language knowledge and skills in practice by introducing our values to a representative of another nation and exchanging ideas. This project also helped to improve the participants' skills of using social networks. Indeed, Clements and Sarama (2003) point out in their research that the proper use of technical aids further enhances students' interest in the language.

In organizing the teletandem, first of all, coordinators were appointed from teachers on both sides, and with the help of coordinators, a pair of Japanese and Uzbek students was formed based on the interests of students. Harmer (2007) also noted in his research that computer-assisted learning is a good way for students to work together. The students agreed on Teletandem video chat times according to their schedule. Accordingly, the students conducted Teletandem conversations in pairs. In Teletandem dialogues, we encouraged students to follow the Teletandem Netiket - the important rules for participating in Teletandem, which are effective in communicating.

Teletandem Netiket

- Try to respond to all of your partner's emails within 48 hours.
- Give your partners time to see the message and schedule your appointments 48 hours in advance.
- Try to speak English in half and Japanese and Uzbek in half.
- Be responsible! You are an ambassador for your university, so treat your partner with respect and tolerance. Remember that you belong to two different cultures.
- If you have the opportunity and need to cancel a meeting, report it to WhatsApp, Line or Facebook to have a more effective way of notifying your partner.
- If possible, try to cancel your video call 12 hours in advance.

The advantage of learning teletandem includes the following as Grabe and Stoller point out, bringing language learning to the level of developing international relations. (Grabe & Stoller, 2002). We can also bring the following benefits of Teletandem:

-Students can choose the content and method of education. They can also decide on the pace of learning.

-Students can learn the language wherever they have access to the Internet. Classes can be scheduled at a time convenient to a pair of students.

-Teletandem is a method of learning that allows students to benefit equally from their own learning.

-There is always an opportunity for the coordinator to give advice to students so that they can help each other effectively.

-Students can make friends and communicate live with people who speak a foreign language. We would like to quote our Teletandem participants ideas such as: "I talked to Sayanara Nokura, a Japanese master's student, in this project. The project was scheduled to run from October to the last week of December, and then voluntarily continue or complete it. At the same time, I told my Japanese friend about our language and culture. These conversations helped me to learn English independently in a new, fun and exciting way. "

As for the advantages of the project, Teletandem teaches to follow a video call time, pre-selection of topics according to interests and seasons, taking into account cultural and inter-regional differences, and mutual respect. In addition, face-to-face conversations are intended to overcome excitement, increase English language literacy, and make effective use of modern information technology. Based on our own experience, the Teletandem project is a very good motivation for students to learn a foreign language, and given that they can learn the language in a non-traditional way, independently and conveniently, and can also recommend their skills to independent learners.

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