

**ONLINE ESP TEACHING:
IS COMMUNICATIVE APPROACH STILL VIABLE**

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For Ukrainian teachers and students, online teaching and learning – first due to the Covid lockdown and currently due to the war – has caused a lot of challenges in various aspects. Constant stress, electricity outages, disintegration with relatives and friends, uncertainty of the nearest and further future could discourage and demotivate both students and teachers. Nevertheless, flexible approach to teaching [1] may provide conditions for effective online language learning. Communicative approach has proven to be one of the most productive ways of mastering a language [2] and was widely used in ESP teaching during face-to-face education before the war. The question is whether it might as well be successful online. The application of the key educational principles of communicative teaching methodology in distant ESP learning is analyzed.

Stimulation of learners' cognitive processes can be provided, similar to traditional classes, through various creative tasks like giving own definitions, devising a new function or a new name for a known object, solving puzzles etc.

Students' active involvement in the learning process might vary depending on their ability to be present in class and motivation.

Students are encouraged to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings based on their learning, working (if any) or life experience.

Participation in learning activities that simulate or create real or realistic situations are a key part of ESP classes, whether face-to-face or online.

Working online in pairs or groups is technically possible thanks to web applications like Google Teams and makes ESP classes more diverse and dynamic.

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning especially those who for objective reasons miss regular classes. Home tasks should be designed to involve and receive feedback from everyone.

The teacher's role as informer, resource consultant, motivator, monitor in online education has become even more pronounced and requires significantly more time and effort.

From above we can conclude that effective application of communicative approach in online ESP classes is quite feasible should the external circumstances be overcome.

References:

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