



# Online Testing as an Effective Method of Assessing the Quality of Students ' Knowledge of the Russian Language in the Multilingual Academic Space

Anastasiya Mubarakshina<sup>1</sup>, Nailya Fattahova<sup>1</sup>, Naylya Faizullina<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

*The problem of choice of methods of monitoring and evaluation of students ' knowledge is important during executing programs educational standard of higher education. Nowadays the diverse quality management system in education becomes very relevant, as it involves the use of methods of subjective and objective evaluation. The choice of method is consistent with the validation object: knowledge, abilities and skills acquired by the student in the learning process; identification of creative abilities, original thinking; holistic personal development of the individual and its potential. Subjective assessment methods are the best for revealing creative abilities and emotional attitude of students towards the studied subjects. They do not require the precision required for rendering the results of learning, the mark depends on the personality of the examiner, so the scope of such methods of control knowledge is quite limited (mostly Humanities). Objective evaluation methods, on the contrary, verify the accuracy and full repeatability of acquired knowledge and skills; personal qualities of the examiner in this case do not affect the outcome of the monitoring. The effective tool of this review is an online test that can be applied in the academic field with almost no restrictions. On the one hand, the online test is an indicator of the quality of teaching, a means of objectively determining the progress of the student, on the other hand, it is the indicator of the effectiveness of the teaching system and a method which helps to structure the educational process and enhance students ' level of skills with computer technologies. Based on the practical application of online testing in the educational process, the authors describe the advantages of using this method of control of students ' knowledge of the Russian language in the multilingual spaces.*

## 1. Introduction

Currently, Russia is building a new education system focused on occurrence in world educational space. This process is accompanied by significant changes in pedagogical theory and practice of the educational process. There is a change of educational paradigm: there are different content, different approaches, different right, different attitude, different behavior, a different pedagogical mindset.

The combination of tradition and innovation relevant today and requires close attention. In Russian education today declared the principle of variability, which enables teachers to choose and design a pedagogical process for any model, research to develop and to substantiate new ideas and technologies. Questions of new educational technologies in the academic environment of Higher school are raised in the works of famous scientists around the world ([1], [2], [3]), including in the study of Russian language ([4], [5]).

The Russian educational space is a multicultural and polylingualism because to get higher education in Russia, students come from different countries of the world. In this regard, close attention is paid to the teaching of the Russian language as an integrative language which performs communicative and cognitive function. The development of e-learning is one of the major trends in education throughout the world. Among the variety of forms, methods, tools, e-learning, undoubtedly, occupies the leading position in the Learning management System (Learning Management Systems, LMS) [5]. Currently in the world there are several dozens LMS. In the academic environment of High school online test is one of the most effective and relevant forms of control of students ' knowledge of the Russian language. Online testing refers to objective assessment methods.

## 2. Theoretical justification

Online testing on the Russian language has three major interrelated functions: diagnostic, training and educational [6].

Diagnostic function helps to assess the students ' knowledge of the Russian language. This feature is the most important in the learning process and it determines the choice of this method of control

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<sup>1</sup> Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Russian Federation



because of the objectivity, breadth of testing knowledge and the speed of getting testing results. Immediate results - dignity online testing, because the student instantly receives a score and sees all his mistakes. This possibility, of course, saves time of the teacher to check and allows him to pay more attention for the analysis of errors. The most successful online testing is applied in a multilingual environment, as the online testing is a universal means of control of knowledge of students around the world, and the skills of working with computer are a fundamental competence of each student, regardless of language background.

The training function motivates the student to learn the Russian language. Preparing for online testing suggests that student has to work independently, as the preparation for testing involves the repetition of material and appeal to additional scientific literature and fiction. Thus, using the online testing as a means of control of knowledge of Russian language increases the level of learning and develops the skills of independent work of students.

The educational function is realized in frequency of using the online testing in the classroom for the Russian language. The periodic checks will help to discipline students, to systematize their activities and allows identifying and correcting incorrect knowledge.

### 3. The advantages and disadvantages of online testing

The process of online testing can be accompanied by both positive and negative aspects.

Positive side of online testing includes the following components:

- Testing increases the objectivity of the assessment of students' knowledge compared to an oral examination. Objectivity is achieved through the standardization of the test indicators of the quality of the assignment solutions. Testing allows you to make the evaluation process uniformed.
- Testing allows you to assess the knowledge on all modules of traversed course in general or on each module separately. For comparison, the oral examination allows you to examine only 2-4 modules as a rule.
- Online testing is an effective means of control of knowledge from an economic point of view. The drafting of e-tools takes most of the time, however these time costs are one-off.
- The possibilities of e-technologies help students to be tested remotely, which is especially convenient for the part-time training.
- Online testing allows you to test the quality of students' knowledge in the system of inclusive education, for example, to test students with impaired hearing and speech. This became possible due to the fact that "with global infiltration of the Internet and its related technologies, the learning world has become more connected and more "open" [7] than before" [8].
- Testing for knowledge of Russian grammar is effectively to conduct among students for whom Russian is not their native language. This verification increases the chances of foreign students to successfully pass the test, as it eliminates wrong understanding of the tasks during the oral survey. It is well known, that "globalization has caused population mobility, which in turn has caused linguistic, cultural, racial and religious diversity" [9] within University.

Along with benefits, online testing has several disadvantages. First of all, the test does not allow the teacher to fully develop the skills of consistent presentation of ideas, build the logical reasoning, to solve non-standard questions. Besides, the test results do not eliminate the knowledge gaps of students, sometimes it might need an extra work, which is not included in the curriculum. In testing there is always the element of chance: the student who could not answer a simple question can give the correct answer to more complex question.

### 4. The results of the experiment

In general, tests motivate students for learning. According to the authors, the attendance with the introduction of the test forms has increased in 3-4 times in 2015 compared to 2014. Students with poor health have had the opportunity to perform the test tasks being outside of the Institute, thereby they excluded debts on missed classes. The academic performance of students-bilinguals for the year increased by 12%. Thanks to innovative issues on the course "Russian language" increased interest to the subject. Foreign students have begun to demonstrate research ability, increased the number of scientific publications and research projects. The overall effect of the introduction of the online tests on set of the indicators was: the increase in the quality of the educational process at 18.8 times. All this is achieved along with the obvious efficiency of the test method itself.



## 5. Conclusion

The most important requirement is adequately drawn up a comprehensive (relatively complex) tests for students with lots of options. It should be noted that the principle of expediency of use of different forms and methods of training must be used in the educational process of higher educational institutions. Using of computer technologies in teaching Russian language could be effective in situations where control of knowledge by other methods is impossible or quite difficult to organize. We have listed the positive and negative aspects of online testing in the Russian language in the multicultural educational space and came to the conclusion that the combination of online testing and the classical control methods is the best way of assessing students' knowledge.

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