

Constructivism and Instructivism – Opposition or Unity

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Abstract

Contemporary pedagogy and didactics apply a lot of new technologies and methods of teaching. The dominating approach to the educational environment is based on the principles of constructivism. Constructivism theory and its application can be found in a number of fields of social life such as science and art. In philosophy constructivism is closely connected with the idea of a person's active participation in cognition, in creating a personally significant model of the world. In pedagogy constructivism is studied as a theory of perception, learning and teaching. Pedagogical constructivism examines the process of knowledge acquiring as an active process when its participants create their knowledge on the basis of their own cognitive and social experience.

But to develop the cognitive process independently any learner should get some instructions what to do and how to realize this or that task. So the opposite approach i.e. Instructivism or Instructional theory cannot be avoided completely. Basic information as well as the rules of any subject from the curriculum can be obtained only with the instructor's assistance. So the interconnection of constructivism and instructivism approaches is supposed to be essential. The interdependency of these theories will be studied. The application of the constructivism and instructional theories into practice of learning and teaching English as a Foreign Language will be examined