

Instructing in a Virtual Language Class

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Abstract

Distance education is constantly improved by various forms of new technology. Recent and rapid improvements in information and communication technologies have made the use of virtual classrooms for instruction more popular.

A virtual classroom is an instrument for conducting live classroom-like sessions over the internet. Students and instructor(s) can communicate using voice, video, chat and whiteboard tools. They also have facilities like application sharing, polling, breakout sessions and quizzes. It allows the instructor and students to participate in real time lessons and discussions. Students can ask questions, draw on the whiteboard, and participate in breakout sessions. Almost everything that can be done in a real classroom, can be done in a virtual classroom. Moreover, the whole classroom session can be recorded and made available for review afterwards.

When taking a course online, it is important to remember several points of etiquette that will smooth communication between the students and their instructors. Just as courteous behavior is necessary in person, it is also necessary online. With the use of Internet-based real time technologies, the effect of physical distance on the interaction between learner and instructor can be reduced to the minimum.

The main topic of this paper is the contribution of virtual classrooms one of the most important tools of the TSP (Turkish Language Certificate Program), which is applied completely via the internet. Virtual classrooms are instructed by a native speaker instructor in TSP. The paper is designed to determine that the virtual classrooms have great contributions to distance language teaching.