

## INNOVATIVE METHODS OF EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGE SKILLS

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### ABSTRACT

In my paper, I focus on teaching foreign languages at the Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies in Prešov at Technical University in Košice. The current satisfaction of students and teachers of foreign languages at the Faculty is proof that the introduction of new, more efficient, and more modern methods and forms of teaching can achieve even better results in the teaching process. Each change brings the need to think about other options on how to improve the current situation, what would be appropriate to incorporate into the learning process to increase the effectiveness of the lesson.

I consider that today universities, colleges, or other educational institutions already have not enough with the traditional way of teaching. They must respond to changes in technologies, but also to changing the behaviour and needs of their clients, in our case the students. Teachers need to understand that if they want their graduates to succeed not only in the domestic but also global labour market, in the foreign language environment, must be something to stand out, be different and offer better services. The faculty's success is also measured by being able to be a leader in innovation, flexibly identifying trends, and linking them to the needs of their students. In this regard, I will point out that the fourth industrial revolution is now often highlighted, and as students also see technology growth in their private lives, they are also looking forward to this at the Technical University. All relevant information in the various fields of science and research should be applied at a high level.

*Keywords: innovative education, languages skills, methods*

### INTRODUCTION

The new 21st century humanities agenda requires universities, academies of science and other scientific institutions to promote interdisciplinary research in the humanities (especially languages). Furthermore, it formulates a role in the search for new forms of teaching humanities in general education as well as in relation to lifelong learning and teaching. In this context, the responsible institutions should strive for better involvement of young scientists in research in the humanities. It is also necessary to adopt transparent criteria for assessing the quality of research in the field of science. An equally important area is the need to maintain linguistic diversity in education and in academic publishing. This should go towards joint research projects on humanitarian issues in all areas of

research, including issues related to the values and challenges of ethics science. I believe that the humanities should play a very important role also through a better understanding of human behaviour, which is considered a necessary prerequisite for a closer understanding of nations.

Mankind is currently experiencing one of the serious crises, whose symptoms can be characterized by various attributes, such as post-factual time, the migration crisis, confidence in public policy and democracy, information explosion, etc. Part of the process is the emphasis on economic growth, profit growth, consumption growth, preference for technical education, education appropriate to the needs of the labour market and directly supporting the economic growth of the countryside and the consumption of its inhabitants as a driver of growth. On the other hand, the type of university education in humanities and social sciences at all are becoming more and more at the edge of the interest of society and its governments. Questions about their usefulness to society, how much they contribute to meeting the needs for further development, or the extent to which they can respond to current questions and the needs of time, are asked to contribute to their solution. This enables better collaboration between humanities, as it also forms part of the shared responsibility for successfully addressing the issues and challenges of human development as part of the plurality of world cultures today [1], [2].

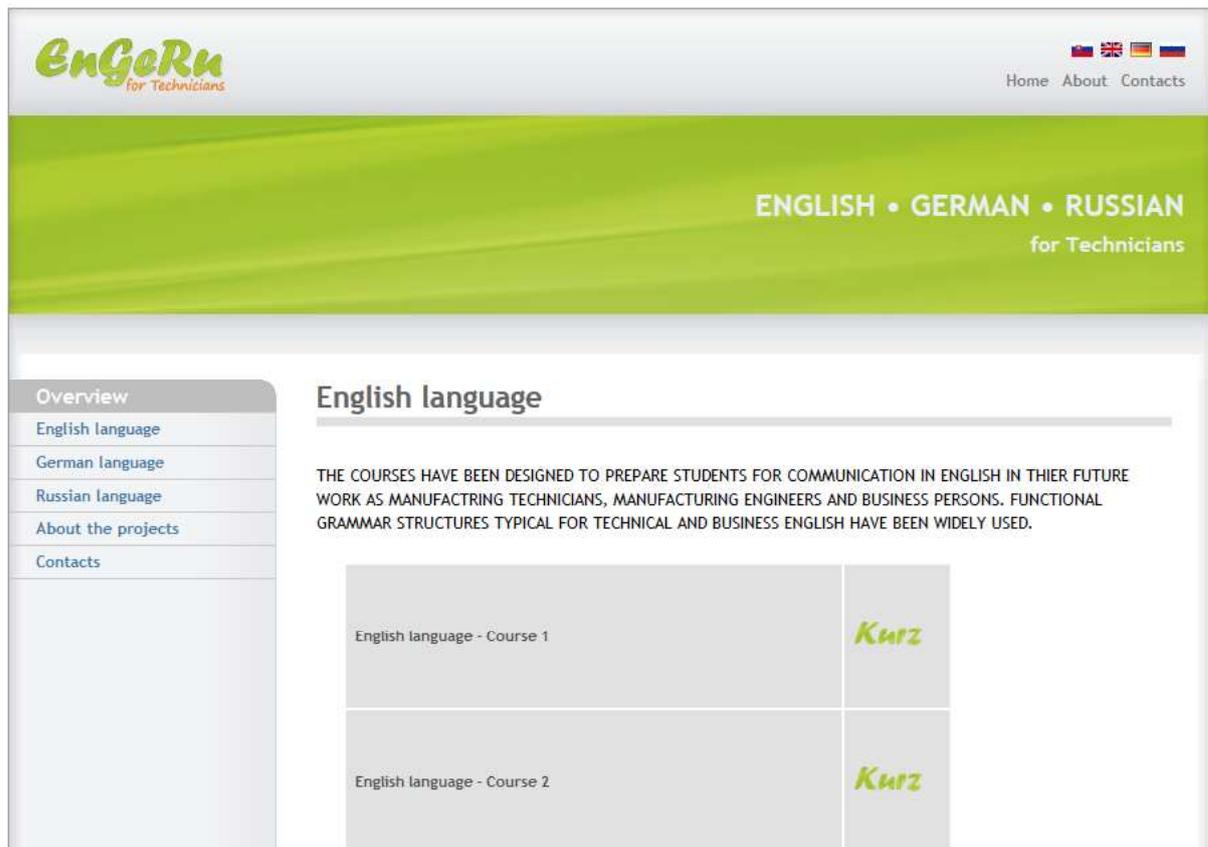
We are currently witnessing the fact that in many developed countries of Europe and the world, spending on science, higher education, is decreasing, which usually affects the humanities. Therefore, it remains to be hoped that, in the near future, this issue will be addressed mainly by politicians, managers and people who are responsible not only for the current situation. Part of the humanities are also foreign languages. The need for language skills is also currently among the most important factors in finding a job in both domestic and foreign companies.

### **INNOVATIVE METHODS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION**

I believe that technical universities today should not neglect the professional language training and understand it as part of higher education, because the teacher's professional assistance in acquiring a professional language is really necessary [3]. This was one of the reasons that we introduced e Learning into foreign language teaching, which was the focus of the KEGA project *Application of E- Learning in Foreign Language Teaching at the Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies* (Gluchmanova, 2012-2014). These were the foundations on which it was later expanding horizon of technical professional language in the framework of the following KEGA project *Implementation of Blended E-learning to the Process of English Language Teaching within the Newly Accredited Study Programs at the Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies of the Technical University of Košice* (Bielousova, 2017-2018). In 2019 we started to prepare study material for contemporary KEGA project *Innovative methods and*

*forms of education for needs and development of language and communication skills within technical professional foreign language study material.*

Therefore, foreign language teachers at the Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies in Prešov Technical University in Kosice feel the need to create and also make available to its clients - students at all three levels of university study foreign-language study materials, which would be literally tailor-made, taking into account the specificities of study branches and study programmes of the individual institutes and departments [4].



*Fig.1. Sample web pages with projects within the foreign languages at the Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies*

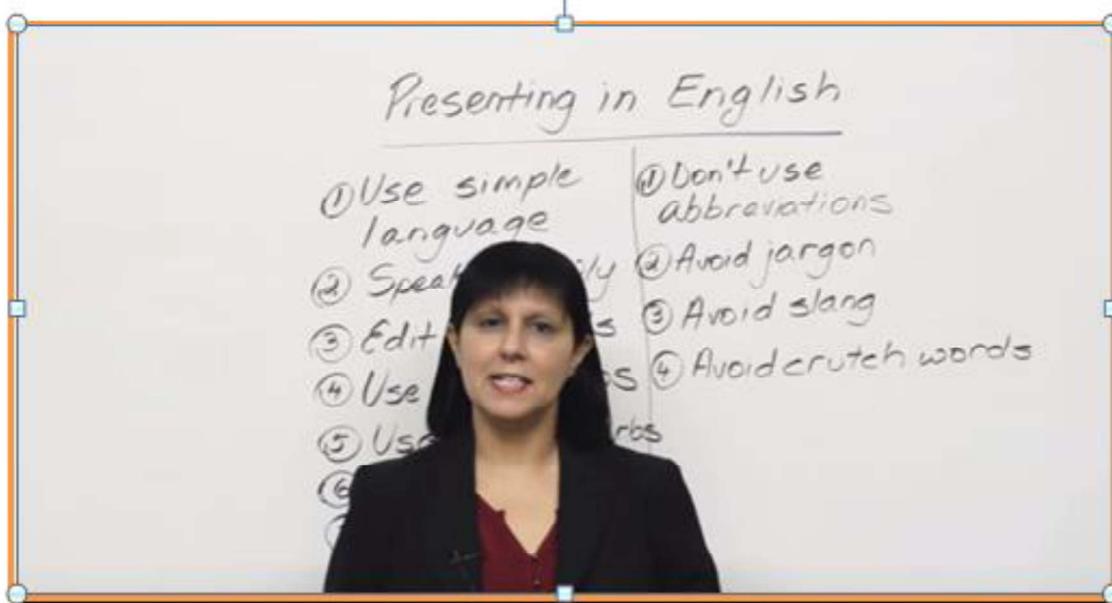
At the same time, professional communication is a key skill of an ambitious scientific and pedagogical staff and a guarantee of progress in the scientific discipline, which needs to be improved and developed at a qualitatively high level.

Communication skills should be properly structured, delivered in a professional language and scientific style, with effective support for audiovisual technology, knowledge of the conference culture, and especially with regard to a particular audience [5]. Developing communication skills of students at the Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies in Košice, especially in a foreign language so far is not enough space, despite the fact that the exchange of information on the results of scientific research, new knowledge and perspectives

of their use, their practical application is the driving force behind progress in academic and scientific-research environments.

In recent years, the word "brain drain" has been growing in Slovakia. Young people go abroad not only for work but also for education. They want to expand horizons, seek motivation and contact with the industry, because there is a school closely linked to practice and as they often say, learning is also from life. Abroad, they examine not only the need for vocational education but also the need for communication language skills or soft competencies such as communication or planning. Changes in the upcoming 20 years will be more than in the past, says futurist Gerd Leonhard in his latest book, *Technology versus Humanity*, where he also intends the humanity we want and should keep in time, when our technologies are beginning to outgrow over your head. In the next ten to twenty years, we will be able to use technology much more than we had in the past [6].

12. MP4. Listen to the video *How to give a presentation in English*.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXVoT7VMCpM>



There are 12 important tips. How many can you remember?

Fig. 2. Example of listening exercise

Promoting quality education is primarily an investment in the quality of society. High-quality foreign language training for students of a technical degree study will have a positive impact on the possibility of their better use in the labour market, the overall economy of the country in the knowledge economy as well as in social life, as the role of educational institutions today is the preparation of a young generation, the rapid development of information and communication technologies in the sense of their correct applications in the process of education and after specialized language training in the context of teaching foreign languages, that is to apply e-learning in an appropriate way.

In the project, which will result in the application of outputs in social, profitable and economic practice, information and communication technologies will be applied within the framework of individual competencies, the management of the learning process and the lesson, and the subsequent distribution of planned outputs. Proper implementation of e-learning will encourage the development of creativity in the process, because an educated and creative graduate, providing an innovative view of problem solving, should be a value to society, because every investment in education should also bring value to society [7]. By creating a creative interactive learning environment with the use of modern information technologies to acquire foreign language competencies, we will enable the multi-purpose and interdisciplinary preparation of graduates of the Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies for the needs of economic, profitable and social practice. Part of the project is, in particular, the creation of professional study material in foreign language in the form of electronic textbooks with active learning content and an e-course designed for students of newly accredited study programmes: *manufacturing management, computer aided manufacturing technologies, progressive technologies, automotive manufacturing technology, monitoring and diagnostics of technical equipment, computer design of technical systems, renewable energy sources, industrial management* in both daily and external study [8].

The screenshot shows a web interface for an online course. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: Overview, English language, German language, Russian language, About the projects, and Contacts. The main content area is titled 'English language'. Below the title is a paragraph: 'THE COURSES HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH IN THEIR FUTURE WORK AS MANUFACTURING TECHNICIANS, MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS AND BUSINESS PERSONS. FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR STRUCTURES TYPICAL FOR TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS ENGLISH HAVE BEEN WIDELY USED.' Below this is a table with two columns: the first column lists course topics, and the second column contains the word 'Kurz' in green, indicating that each topic is covered in a short format.

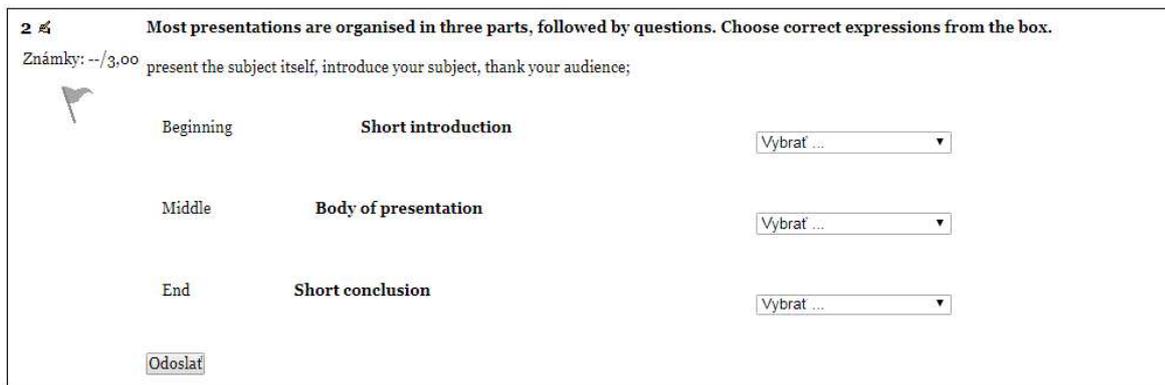
Presentations	Kurz
Study at the Technical university	Kurz
Socializing	Kurz
Automotive industry	Kurz
Progressive manufacturing technologies	Kurz
Lean production	Kurz
Renewable energy sources	Kurz
Safety	Kurz

Fig. 3. Content of online courses at the Faculty

The content of the e-course will be a series of tests to examine language skills in a foreign language. This material will be created in Moodle environment and placed on the existing functional website of EnGeRu, which will allow students of study programmes to participate in the e-learning process at our faculty. The portability of specific outcomes appears to be quite large for target groups of

potential future students interested in learning a foreign language, focusing in particular on progressive production technologies in the form of e-learning [9].

This process of foreign language learning will thus become part of an innovative modern teaching process at the Faculty of Manufacturing Technology and will thus make learning more attractive at the faculty. Through the professional technical foreign language, the solution of the project will contribute to the computer literacy of the faculty, while at the same time will support the creative potential of the members of the team. Study material in the case of interest will benefit and related faculties at the Technical University in Košice.



The screenshot shows a quiz question with the following text: "Most presentations are organised in three parts, followed by questions. Choose correct expressions from the box." Below this, there is a prompt: "present the subject itself, introduce your subject, thank your audience;". The interface includes a flag icon, a score indicator "Známky: --/3,00", and three rows of options. Each row consists of a label on the left, a bolded expression in the middle, and a dropdown menu on the right. The first row has "Beginning", "Short introduction", and a dropdown menu. The second row has "Middle", "Body of presentation", and a dropdown menu. The third row has "End", "Short conclusion", and a dropdown menu. At the bottom left, there is a button labeled "Odoslať".

Beginning	<b>Short introduction</b>	Vybrať ...
Middle	<b>Body of presentation</b>	Vybrať ...
End	<b>Short conclusion</b>	Vybrať ...

Odoslať

*Fig. 4. A demonstration of exercise for presentation*

## CONCLUSION

Finally, one of the objectives of the project will be to teach students how to present their research activities and foreign language texts in the school environment or at international events with a foreign language. Students will be provided with comprehensive, selected, and customized study material for their own needs, prepared after consultation with supervisors and heads of their departments. For example, the student will be able to know what should be taken into account when preparing and presenting an academic presentation, how to organize the selected material, how to use the language, how to support the material with attractive and functional visual elements using information and communication technologies, how to navigate the listener during audience [10]. Most students, including foreign students, can then successfully apply the acquired skills in technical subjects, as well as in defense of bachelor, diploma and dissertation thesis. Applying the presentation technique will allow you to learn how to handle the microphone right while recording, upload your video on a video camera to get constructive criticism from the teacher and classmates during the seminar. Many students consider appearance before a foreign audience at the conference, a traumatic or stressful event. For this reason, e-learning and b-learning will also include the issue of stress and trick management, the skills of non-verbal communication and the etiquette in connection with the international environment.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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