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## **VIRTUAL TOUR AS ONE OF THE WAYS OF LEARNING ANOTHER CULTURE AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

At present, excursions can expand existing knowledge, develop the ability to approach to phenomena from the life of nature and people, increase the interest in the subject and cause the humans feelings.

While some direct the excursion primarily to provide knowledge, others aim to develop the ability and skills of the excursionists to see and understand works of art, natural phenomena, events from different areas of people's lives.

Our task is to determine the role of the virtual tour in the educational process, to find out whether the virtual tour is relevant in our time, to find out whether it is possible to learn a foreign language using virtual travels and also to explore the virtual tour as one of the platforms for acquiring and developing new knowledge.

Excursions arose at the end of the 18th - beginning of the 19th centuries as a teaching method that promotes the development of observation, students' independent work skills. They opposed the educational process in Western Europe and Russia. During the 19th century, excursions gradually became an organic part of the educational process at school. Many scientists (P. I. Pidkasisty, I. P. Podlasy, E.Ya. Golant and many others) turned to excursions as a form of educational work [4].

In connection with the introduction of new information technologies, the approach to excursions has changed significantly; new types of excursions have arisen – virtual and interactive. The first virtual museums began to appear on the

Internet in 1991. They were small sites with information about the museum itself, its geographical location and mode of operation. Subsequently, virtual exhibitions began to appear on the pages of virtual museums. Many museums created several virtual expositions and combined them into virtual tours. Currently, the quantity and depth of information presented, accessible via the Internet, is constantly growing, and it is possible that in a few years all museums in the world will have their virtual tours [4].

Virtual tours can be used in various classes, as one of the ways to study a particular topic. For example, it would be much more interesting for students to see the virtually famous painting «The Mona Lisa» and read the inscription next to it in the original language, rather than look for information about it on the Internet. A virtual tour allows the people to immerse into that world and that era in order to understand the materials better. In addition, as one of the methods of studying a foreign language, it is possible to listen to the manual in the original language, to visit museums and to read the tablets with the description also in a foreign language.

Now a virtual tour is an innovative form of training aimed not only at gaining knowledge, but also at the formation of communicative and cognitive educational activities, which helps to increase interest not only in the subject, but also in the cultural heritage [3].

A virtual tour introduces a plot element into the educational process, which is so necessary in the process of teaching foreign languages. In the absence of a real foreign language environment, this technique allows to organize a virtual immersion in the regional geographic reality of the country of the language being studied [1].

At the moment, the relevance of virtual tours is increasing. Since now, it has become commonplace to be at home and have nowhere to travel, because it is impossible, excursions are one of the methods of spending the free time. Now there are many places where people can visit various virtual tours, for example, visit the Louvre or the Pirogov National Museum, the Dusoleil circus show or the Strauss in

Operetta concert. This is very interesting, because it makes it possible to attend different musicals, concerts and excursions to different museums in absentia without leaving home and without violating quarantine.

Thus, our study will provide an opportunity to understand whether a virtual tour is one of the most effective training platforms. As a result of the research, the designer will improve his knowledge of the most effective teaching methods. Virtual tours are one such method. It is important to note that the main advantages of this 3D tour is the ability to actively participate in viewing, walking or traveling through the museum itself, immersing yourself in this atmosphere and era.

Virtual tours develop the human imagination. Such kind of tourism also provides an opportunity also for people with disabilities, thanks to modern technology, to visit many attractions and foreign countries, to get acquainted with various masterpieces of world culture, to learn the customs and traditions of peoples of different nationalities.

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