LEARNING THROUGH MULTIMEDIA:
ESL PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract. The article analyzes the use of multimedia resources in foreign language teaching from ESL perspective. The advantages of employing multimedia means in a foreign language classroom have been summarized and described.

Keywords: ESL, foreign language learning, language acquisition, multimedia resources.

Changing the traditional mode of language education is an ongoing tendency, which affects all domains of foreign language acquisition. E-learning has proudly established its place among the variety of modern teaching and learning ways. Implementing multimedia means into ESL framework can lead to rebuilding the structure of productive language learning.

What separates multimedia resources from using a conventional textbook? It is an unlimited number of ways to present information and create possibilities to work with it. Such resources go way beyond merely working with texts, introducing voice, video, graphics, music, etc. This, in turn, introduces the much sought-after intertextuality in education, that being a distinguishing feature of e-learning. From ESL perspective, multimedia resources have a number of advantages which can be summarized in the following.

First of all, the visual support of multimedia can never be overrated. In case of cross-cultural reference in education, it is always more effective to see something with your own eyes than to read about it even a hundred times. It can be stated that visual aid in learning foreign languages contributes to better understanding and enhances target material acquisition.

The use of multimedia resources can affect students' emotions and memory as visual perception is inseparably related to cognitive processes. Videos, pictures, info

graphics make students emotionally involved in the process while essential vocabulary becomes more memorable. The connection between emotions and memory has long been proved and multimedia tools exploit this interrelation to students' benefit.

As a result, students are provided with more personalized learning possibilities enabling them to take active part in their education. Active learners demonstrate better skills of acquiring and processing information, that is why multimedia sources are effective in promoting learner autonomy.