

The advantage of using ICT to support direct teaching and self-study

Mgr. Dita Gálová, Mgr. Jana Denemarková, Ph.D.

E-mail: galova@fme.vutbr.cz, denemarkova@fme.vutbr.cz

Brno University of Technology - Institute of Foreign Languages (Czech Republic)

Abstract

This paper focuses on the possibilities of using ICT for self-study of foreign languages and as a support of direct teaching.

Following the development projects of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, teaching English at the Faculty of Business and Management has been connected with an electronic support in the form of blended learning, and all within the university e-learning system. Thanks to this support, teaching is supplemented by various types of activities in the form of interactive revision exercises and electronically submitted assignments. The paper will summarize the main advantages of the use of ICT elements in teaching Business English courses, in both full-time and distance forms of study.

With respect to the results achieved in the projects, The Institute of Foreign Languages sent an application for a project called BUT English Campus which was approved and its implementation is planned for the years 2009-2012. It is a project supported by the European Social Fund within the programme Education for Competitiveness and the state budget of the Czech Republic. The aim of the project is to create a large support for the study of English for students and employees at the Brno University of Technology.

An e-learning support for the self-study of English enabling further development of the acquired language skills will be created within the BUT English Campus project. It will provide the students with the possibility of self-evaluation and preparation for international examinations City&Guilds. The e-learning module will offer students and employees at the BUT a tool for English language development and improvement. The students will be able to use it as a supplement to their English classes. As for the employees, it will serve them as a means of further language training and self-evaluation. The e-learning module will be incorporated in the BUT information system and it will be composed of several parts: testing part, grammar and vocabulary, all of them supported by numerous audio recordings and videos. The module will contain a wide range of sample documents and downloadable materials. It will also include suggestions for self-study and links to other resources.

The paper will summarize the experience with incorporating e-learning support into teaching and describe the objectives and plans of the running project aimed at creating compact e-learning environment for self-study and as a supplement of direct teaching.