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ON EFFECTIVENESS OF NEW APPROACHES IN TEACHING ENGLISH

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*The paper touches upon the modernized English language teaching methods through the application of new technologies, used at the Faculty of International Relations, YSU. The new approaches to teaching English have yielded the following positive results: enhancement of students' interest in study, cultivation of lecturer – student efficient interaction, advancement of students' academic progress, improvement of students' individual creative work.*

*The authors argue that the application of new methods and technologies has changed the quality of the learning process and present a number of assignments and activities to prove it.*

**Key words:** *new technologies, motivation enhancement, creative work, academic progress advancement, teaching material upgrades, innovative methods*

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The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the era of progress, marked by the advent of advanced technology and an unprecedented scope of information. Students now have the skills in operating various technological tools and sources of information and the teacher's guidance is to direct them through the diversity of choices and options<sup>1</sup>.

The professors of the Faculty of International Relations, Yerevan State University have introduced elements of modernized English language teaching through the application of new technologies available at the faculty: projectors, notebooks, iPads. It has altered the whole process of learning English for our students, leading to the following positive changes.

- Enhancement of students' interest in study.

Even the most sluggish, indifferent students' attitude to assignments changes when the work is carried out via new technologies. The students show

great eagerness to participate in such lessons and gradually a better teaching effect is achieved.

- Cultivation of lecturer-student efficient interaction.

Seeing the lecturers' competence in handling technology, feeling their readiness and zeal to change the traditional teaching methods, the students stop perceiving their lecturers as people from "another planet", from "remote times" who are alien to everything that makes sense to them. They feel common ground between themselves and the lecturers and their overall attitude towards them changes: they become more respectful and more willing to carry out their tasks.

- Advancement of students' academic progress

The survey of students' examination and test grades as well as their attendance charts before and after the application of technology provides convincing evidence of the efficiency of the new methods. The students' grades have improved and the number of absentees has reduced considerably, which confirms the evident fact that the greater the interest and motivation, the higher the academic progress<sup>2</sup>.

- Improvement of students' individual creative work

One of the activities successfully carried out during our lessons starts with the presentation of great presidents' inaugural addresses via video sources. It gives our students the opportunity to sense the modulation of voice, change in facial expression, body language and, of course, the artful wording of political speeches. A thorough discussion and analysis of the viewed material follows. Many students even volunteer to imitate such speeches or to repeat the most successful and memorable statements. Then they present their own inaugural addresses as newly elected presidents.

The students' feedback has changed beyond recognition. In the past, when they would only read great presidents' inaugural addresses prior to their own speeches, there used to be very few distinguished presentations in each group; the majority of the speeches were mediocre. Now almost all the speeches are made with such sincere patriotism and inspiration that they touch the listeners to the hearts.

Another activity frequently conducted with the students of the faculty is staging round table discussions. Here, too, the situation changed drastically when the lecturers started applying new technologies. The round table discussion held recently with the fourth year students is noteworthy. The question under discussion was the problem of drugs. The roles were distributed among the participants beforehand. On the day of the discussion our policeman puzzled everybody at the University when he came to classes in a policeman's uniform with a baton hanging by his side, the diplomat was wearing a smart

