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*Tamara Glazunova (Vinnytsia),*
*Svitlana Kuzmina (Vinnytsia)*

## G SUITE PLATFORM FOR ENGLISH TEACHER TRAINING

The pandemic of 2020 demanded to reconsider the tools and methodologies of instruction in record time. The necessity to develop online infrastructure became evident. However, universities lacked the time and means to invent the new tools and apps to replace traditional learning effectively. That is why, existing platforms and apps were addressed with a more specific focus in search of the most appropriate technologies to fit the context of language education at Ukrainian universities. That did not seem to be an easy task since by the time of the pandemic Ukrainian language education had determined the priorities in approaches to and methodologies of teaching English. The interactive methods, live communication, individual approach to language instruction were well-experienced and appreciated both by students and faculty as contributing to good training of prospective English teachers. But these modes worked successfully in face-to-face classrooms. Thus, the methodological and organizational issues applicable to the online academic environment required undivided attention, quick responses, and immediate solutions.

In this respect, G Suite has become a solution to the problems imposed by the pandemic. According to Wikipedia, G Suite is "a collection of cloud computing, productivity, and collaboration" (Wikipedia, n.d.). Another source highlights G Suite as easy in use, and as "an integrated space that helps to be focused on work, not on organizational issues" (Cooper, 2018). Probably, they were the characteristics that defined the choice of the computer specialists in Vinnytsia State Pedagogical University who worked on creating a university online platform that has been successfully in use since the beginning of the fall semester. Such tools of G Suite as Gmail, Calendar, Google Classroom, Google Meet, and Zoom conferences were not new, but they had never been integrated into one space before.

The created online university platform has eased organization, access to the learning resources, content delivery, and student assessment. Each type of software has its functions that are effective for oral and written classwork, home assignments' checks and analysis. The features provide interactive opportunities, good reciprocity, and feedback, which helps achieve academic goals "on any device from any location" (Appling, 2016; Cooper, 2018). G Suite assists with reaching out to each student, making the learning space more friendly, creating groups, and pairs for each student to benefit. Using the "breakout groups" approach, the instructors assign the groups/pairs before the class in Google Meet but switch between the main room and the groups' rooms during the class. This creates a feeling of an individual approach, movement, and variety. It engages the students in conversations, discussions, increases the time of active speaking, although the students are sitting at the same computer during the same online class. Share screen function enlivens the class activities with video materials, PowerPoint presentations, which is equally good for lecture delivery and practical classes of English. The potential of this function for project work is undeniable.

G Suite develops the skills of analysis and critical thinking as each class, or a part of it can be recorded for a later revision and detailed feedback.

While working on the G Suite platform the faculty members of the department of foreign languages improve the awareness of technologies and the methodologies of web-based teaching. However, it is never a one-way stream. When exploring the opportunities of G Suite and using them in the classes, we help the students to master modern technologies, building the foundation of teacher professionalism which is hardly possible without modern apps and technology awareness.

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