TEC Model Appliance in International Online Collaborative Project between German and Israeli High School Students (TEC4CoGI) (Poster)

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Abstract

To foster high school students' intercultural communication competence and to promote their acquisition of English as a foreign language, an International Collaborative Project between German and Israeli students (TEC4CoGI) was implemented in the scope of Cooperation Germany-Israel (CoGI) between University of Kassel and Kibbutzim College of Education. The online collaborative learning has become one of the most effective methods in the modern educational practice, and many new strategies and techniques have been initiated to raise its efficiency even more (Harasim, 2012), taking the students out from the classroom walls and overcoming the time and location restrictions (Ghazal et al., 2019; Shonfeld et al, 2013). The Internet-based collaborative learning connects the bearers of different cultural values, including their linguistic diversity, ensuring intercultural exchange between people with different cultural or national backgrounds with the aim to develop both language skills and intercultural communicative competence by engaging students in specific tasks (Hockly, 2015; Godwin-Jones, 2019). To enable successful intercultural exchange between students from different ethnical communities through various online interaction forms, it was decided to base the project on Technology, Education and Cultural Diversity (TEC) model which is mainly focused on recognition others and awareness of another culture ensuring gradually developed trust and tolerance among project's participants through innovative technological educational methods (Kritz et.al., 2019; Shonfeld et al., 2013). This model has been successfully applied in long-term TEC projects in the Academia and in TEC4Schools that aimed to promote multicultural values by developing collaborative digital content related to

culture, heritage, and values mainly between younger students at the Junior High Schools with Jewish secular, Jewish religious and Arabic population of Israel (Ganayem et al., 2020). The uniqueness of the TEC4CoGI project was in adjusting the TEC method to the needs and particularities of the High School students, and to apply it to international collaborative learning environment with the emphasis on learning English as foreign language. For this reason, the online communication on NEAR educational platform was chosen. It was created as an educational social network with limited access only for the projects' participants, providing forum for small groups consisted of different ethnical representatives to work on a joint task. The research of the current project shows that application of TEC model in international collaborative project between High School students proved itself as an effective educational approach for overcoming the cultural and language barriers, while providing the students an important experience of intercultural exchange.

Keywords: intercultural exchange, TEC model, online collaboration, social network, international communication.

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