

THE ATTITUDE OF STUDENTS OF KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES TOWARDS THE QUALITY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES STUDIES CONDUCTED BY DISTANCE

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Research purpose. The global COVID-19 pandemic has forced participants at all levels of educational institutions, as well as higher education institutions, to switch to distance learning without asking if teachers and students are ready for this and whether there are suitable technologies, tools, and methodologies in the higher education institution. In a relatively short time, the teaching staff had to learn how to work remotely and teach it to their students because there was no other way out. Likely, the quality of studies in medicine, engineering, arts, and other fields of study in which contact work is necessary has suffered due to such a situation. The question arises, what is the situation with the study of foreign languages remotely when to achieve a quality result, interaction and teamwork are necessary? The aim of the research is to find out the opinion of KUAS students about the quality of foreign language studies conducted remotely.

Keywords: foreign language studies, distance studies, language competences

Research Methodology. The object of the research is the opinion of KUAS students about the quality of foreign language studies conducted by distance. By anonymous questionnaire, 393 KUAS students were interviewed. The survey included students of different courses of all faculties. The data obtained were processed by statistical analysis methods.

Results / Findings. The results of the survey showed that two-thirds of the respondents were satisfied with the distance studies of foreign languages at KUAS. They positively appreciated the atmosphere created by the teaching staff during remote lectures and confirmed that both teachers and students were able to use technology. Out of the language competencies being improved, the skills of understanding from hearing and reading have improved best. Although half of the respondents avoided connecting video cameras during foreign language lectures, almost everyone ensured that they adhered to the principles of academic integrity. As the biggest problem when studying foreign languages remotely, respondents identified the inability to concentrate and focus on tasks.

Originality / Practical implications. KUAS hosted surveys of students about the quality of distance learning, but there were no surveys specifically about foreign language studies. The results of the survey showed that foreign language teachers properly organized activities during remote lectures and practical classes, and received recommendations on how to improve work in the future.