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Title: Verbs of Motion in the 'Flipped Classroom': Benefits and Challenges

Abstract:

The model of the “flipped classroom” is being widely discussed across many institutions. For language instructors, the prospect of shifting grammar instruction to assignments done outside of class, thus freeing class time for practice and communicative activities, makes such an approach especially appealing.

Nevertheless, a number of problematic practical issues remains for those seeking to flip portions of the Russian language classroom. Many widely used textbooks do not provide enough interactive online material to be used for flipping a class. Instructors find that creating their own materials can require financial support and significant commitments of time. Projects undertaken with institutional support may not be accessible to those at other institutions.

We propose to address these issues in the context of teaching Russian motion verbs, using materials currently being developed by the applicants at <https://www.tips4russian.com/?sfwd-courses=introduction-to-motion-verbs>

We argue that online modules should consist of brief, focused online video segments that include extensive use of animations and examples to illustrate concepts and points of usage. These videos will be accompanied by downloadable audio exercises, interactive quizzes with immediate feedback, and traditional written exercises involving manipulation of forms and translation. We will address issues of motivation by including gamification techniques and options for instructors to receive notifications when students complete certain tasks. All online materials are compatible with standard web technologies, require no additional plugins, and can be used on any computer or portable device with a modern web browser.

The project will be tested with students at Oberlin College, from beginning to advanced levels. While these groups are not large enough for control groups, we hope to draw conclusions that will contribute to a wider discussion of the feasibility of flipping the Russian language classroom.