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COMPUTER-ASSISTED LANGUAGE LEARNING

The relevance of the topic is based on the fact that mankind is developing: we have come a long way from the "Stone Age" to the "Age of Information Technologies". Today we cannot imagine our life without phones, TV-sets, computers or laptops. So, why cannot we use these devices to study foreign languages? But we can and it is named "CALL".

Computer-assisted language learning (CALL) is succinctly defined in a seminal work by Levy (1997: p. 1) as "the search for and study of applications of the computer in language teaching and learning" [1]. CALL embraces a wide range of information and communication technology (ICT) applications and approaches to teaching and learning foreign languages, from the "traditional" drill-and-practice programs that characterized CALL in the 1960s – 1970s to more recent manifestations of CALL, e.g. as used in a virtual learning environment and Web-based distance learning [2].

CALL is a very young way of studying languages. It began in the 1960s and developed parallel to ICT. The emergence of the World Wide Web (known now simply as "the Web" or "the Internet") in the early 1990s marked a significant change in the use of communication technologies by all computer users. In the Internet, there are databases that contain information on every branch of human knowledge and activities – from the most serious scientific topics to catalogues of jokes. Due to advances in the worldwide telecommunication systems, the Internet has become a global network of universities, businesses, and individual users in practically every country visit the Net. Summing up, we should state that the Internet enables students of English to: