

## **Discover the world of languages with Fledu.uz**

### **Special features of a new educational web portal and scientific e-journal**

**GulmiraShukurova,**

Director of the editorial office of

“Foreign Languages in Uzbekistan” web portal &

scientific and methodological e-journal

e-mail: [gul\\_mir85@mail.ru](mailto:gul_mir85@mail.ru)

Wide range of governmental initiatives and projects for the development of foreign languages education in Uzbekistan include an important direction, which is the implementation of ICT into the education system. Modern communication technologies open uncountable opportunities for reaching the hands-on, up to date, multimedia infobase, for interacting with people, and hence for learning, researching, etc. Perhaps this is the reason why virtual world is probably the place where today’s learners are present more often than they are in the real one.

Immense attention paid by the government to the training of highly qualified specialists with fluent linguistic skills, especially English encourages policy makers of modern education system of Uzbekistan to design ICT-assimilated curricula, to integrate new technologies to the education process and to modernize the way educational institutions and their personnel operate. The decree of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov *On Measures of Further Improvement of Foreign Languages Teaching System* from December 2012 has been a great impetus for plenty of undertakings, reforms, joint projects with our international partners and other programs in the field, leading FLE — foreign languages education to the next level.

One of this kind of projects is “Foreign Languages in Uzbekistan” web portal and scientific and methodological e-journal that started functioning three years ago due to the decree #283 of the Cabinet of Ministers from November 2013. This web project aims at providing its audience of three main categories, learners, researchers and teachers, with necessary knowledge and information for their language discovering experience.

If you are a learner, please take advantage of video lessons, media resources and rich-in-content e-library on *Media* and *Books* subsites. Keep track of opportunities; learn about contests, students conferences on our *Homepage*.

If you are a researcher or a teacher, please join our big community of scholars — unique-in-Uzbekistan electronic journal that is authorized by Higher Attestation Commission, specializing in humanitarian studies. Today education system of Uzbekistan, especially higher education stage requires teachers to work on themselves, strive for further professional development, do research and share it with their colleagues. Journal.fledu.uz is that very platform for professional communication, for sharing new methods of teaching and for holding-hands solutions for current issues and challenges in the field.

Our electronic journal welcomes any submissions from scholars of scientific establishments, higher educational institutions and independent researchers: papers, articles and stories about the results of researches in linguistics, literature and related spheres. To the day, above 1000 pieces of different genres in more than 10 categories of “Foreign Languages in Uzbekistan” e-journal was announced in 14 issues of the journal. Until 2016, our journal used to be a quarterly one. From last year, considering an increasing demand and interest for our publication, we started to publicize the journal every other month, meaning 6 issues a year.

When we started working with local teachers and students more closely, there were some initiatives by future teachers of English, students of English at the Uzbekistan State World Languages University to launch live distant classes of foreign languages on fledu.uz. Thus lessons.fledu.uz subsite was developed and today we are to work on its further improvement with your, committed teachers’ and your active students’ assistance.

Sharing and exchanging experience are hard to imagine without conventions, conferences and this kind of events. Taking advantage of new technologies, Fledu.uz is campaigning to organize webinars, online conferences, online round tables and online contests. Therefore, last year our team designed conference.fledu.uz website and in April 2016, we were so fortunate to organize first-ever in Uzbekistan distant conference on *Foreign Languages Teaching Trends in Continuous Education*.

This very event we are going to enjoy together is, as well, being covered on this website. In addition, all papers to be presented in the *English is Key to Dialogue* international conference are included to a special software application in CDs as a conference proceedings — Collection of Conference Materials. When we started to work on this conference, it was the initiative from Fledu.uz to approach a very important aspect of conferences in Uzbekistan, publishing conference proceeding in a different way. Now, this is in an e-book format, where you can

view, search for articles and share with your colleagues. Each of the participants will be handed with these CDs at the end of the conference.

Here is another thing that we would like to make a special emphasis. And this is what makes fledu.uz different from other resources for learning and teaching. Today, talking to any qualified expert, you make sure that a teacher must take learner's culture, its lifestyle and mentality into consideration upon forming his skills or giving him knowledge. This is actually why Uzbekistan specialists are working on national textbooks nonstop, every day, if not every hour. What about internet resources? We must have national content online for Uzbek learners that would give them more close-to-heart and useful learning experience.

Besides those integrated four skills and sufficient vocabulary, successful learner of contemporary classrooms must have a clear awareness of the culture of a target language and CERTAINLY their own culture. And this is probably the rightest definition of intercultural communication in language learning context.

Our students must be able to explain their own culture, traditions, customs and features of their nation's lifestyle to foreigners in foreign languages, in English in our case. To promote this very important idea is another mission of fledu.uz, so we are planning to develop Visit Uzbekistan page on our site. We welcome any proposals for cooperations from local teachers and young scholars regarding this.

Thank you for your attention!