

**EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES****From the Editor-in-Chief****Ilona KOSTIKOVA**

*Doctor of Science (Education), Ph. D in Education, Ph. D in Philology, Full Professor, Head of Department of Theory and Practice of the English Language, H. S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University, Ukraine, 29, Alchevskyh Street, 61002, Kharkiv, Ukraine*

✉ **E-mail:** [ilonakostikova@gmail.com](mailto:ilonakostikova@gmail.com)

🆔 <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5894-4846>

**DEAR COLLEAGUES!**

**T**he necessity to create a new journal appeared in spring 2020 after the lockdown of all universities and schools. According to UNESCO, in spring 2020, 91% of university students and schoolchildren around the world had to adopt online learning. That was the first global lockdown of universities and schools since World War II. The experience of online learning in spring 2020 has shown that education would never be the same.

Let's imagine what education can be like. In my opinion, the best educational mode a university can provide is hybrid or blended learning. Students can learn face-to-face at the university guided by a teacher as well as partly online at home or absolutely offline. This combination of online and offline education can make universities very flexible.

It seems to me that the function of a University teacher can change dramatically. A University teacher can be a facilitator who encourages and coordinates teaching and learning. Many teachers realized that it was necessary to use digital technologies free to make online learning as interesting and interactive as possible. In my opinion, it is necessary to use various interactive tasks such as quizzes, role-playing games, projects etc. more often. It helps motivating and engaging all students for online learning.

From my point of view, the system of assessment and testing should be also revised. Undoubtedly, teachers can use online tools and instruments. For example, one of the convenient testing tools is a Google form. This tool counts points, builds graphs and has much more useful functions. Mobile learning becomes a trend. Today, mobile learning is changing the whole education. Modern learning sites are already focused on adapting their content for mobile learning.

Undoubtedly, education is becoming global. For example, in spring 2020, during online learning, some reputable and well known universities offered training courses for free, for instance, Coursera courses became popular. Educational online sites, resources and platforms are developing rapidly, their quantity and quality have increased extremely. For example, Zoom had ten million users at the beginning of online learning and two hundred million at the end of the lockdown. Learning

*Passport as a global online educational platform for learners launched by UNICEF and Microsoft became popular too.*

*Thus, forced lockdown and online learning in spring 2020 showed that all teachers had to master information and communication technologies and digital literacy very quickly. Online learning has demonstrated that both teachers and students have undergone a considerable transformation. They had to adapt to the new system of getting information and instruction, practice new interactive tasks, projects, tests and meet the educational challenges of the newly adopted e-learning format. I think, it proved that it was high time we have stepped towards the teaching and learning of the future.*

*Editor-in-Chief, Prof. **Ilona Kostikova***

*H. S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University*