RECONSIDERING UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE LEARNERS OF THE NET GENERATION

Evelina Jaleniauskienė

Kauno technologijos universitetas, Lietuva | Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Understanding, analyzing, designing and managing educational environment can be a powerful tool to improve students' success in the 21st century. In addition, the need to focus on the development of learning environments is expressed by educational policy makers, especially in higher education. Therefore, research into the learning environment as a major determinant of students' learning has become a key subject among educational researchers in order to bridge the gap between university educators and the new generation of students. The main aim of the current presentation is to investigate the university educational environment that meets the needs and expectations of the Net Generation students. The ideas covered in the current presentation may be applied in the reconsideration of the educational environment for language learners. Before conducting research into the learning environment, it is prerequisite to have in mind the learner and the way one studies in some particular environment. In this view, the current presentation deals with the following issues concerning educational environment: 1) the most common characteristics of the new generation of learners related to their learning as a starting point in the discussion, 2) theoretical foundation on learning environments - contemporary constructivist-inspired learning theories, and 3) the idiosyncratic features of university educational environment that could be acceptable to the learners of the Net Generation.