

The Importance and Opportunities of using Infographics in Independent Learning

Mahkamov Maxammadjon Dadajonovich

Andijan State Pedagogical Institute, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Sciences

Abstract. *The article presents infographics as a method of presenting information in an accessible and engaging way. This method helps students better understand the material and simplifies the learning process. The article also explains how online platforms such as Canva, Piktochart, Venngage, Microsoft PowerPoint, Google Slides, and others can be effectively used and how infographics can assist in the learning process.*

Key words: *infographics, independent learning, visualization, learning process, online platforms, educational technologies, presentation creation, understanding information, study effectiveness, Canva, Piktochart, Venngage, Microsoft PowerPoint, Google Slides.*

In today's digital learning environment, the need for students to acquire knowledge independently is steadily increasing. In such conditions, using various modern technologies, particularly infographics, has become an urgent issue to simplify education and increase its effectiveness. Infographics are a tool for conveying complex information in a simple, understandable, and visual way. They especially simplify the learning process in independent learning, attract attention, and make information memorable. This article discusses ways to improve the effectiveness of independent learning through the use of infographics, its advantages, and practical recommendations.

Infographics are a method of explaining and presenting information through graphical tools. It uses diagrams, pictograms, drawings, and colored blocks to present information in an easy and clear manner. Infographics are particularly useful in subjects with many facts, dates, and statistical data, especially in the subject of the history of Uzbekistan. Infographics help present educational materials in a concise and clear form. In the process of independent learning, it helps the student to quickly understand and retain the topic being studied. Through the infographics they create independently, students learn to generalize, analyze, and organize their knowledge. This approach fosters creativity and enhances visual thinking.

Currently, there are a number of free and paid online platforms available that allow users to easily create infographics. Among them are Canva, Piktochart, Venngage, Microsoft PowerPoint, Google Slides, and others. These tools can be widely used by students in independent learning.

Canva is one of the most popular and user-friendly online platforms for creating infographics, preparing presentations, and developing other design materials. Canva has an intuitive interface that allows users to place various design elements easily[1]. Through it, students or teachers can simplify complex and rich historical materials and present them visually. The templates and design elements available in Canva help express various topics and provide convenience for users in creating their own designs.

he Canva platform has both free and paid versions, with the free version allowing users to create the necessary infographics. The paid version, however, offers additional premium templates and features,

which provide students with the opportunity to make their designs even more advanced. Infographics created in Canva can be exported in various formats, making it very convenient for printing or presenting online. Additionally, Canva offers collaboration features, making it easier to work in teams. Students or teachers can discuss their work with the team and quickly implement suggestions and changes. This is especially useful for fostering effective collaboration in the learning process. Canva stands out in infographic creation due to its ease of use, a wide range of functional possibilities, and customization options. This platform is one of the most effective tools for students in the process of independent learning.

Piktochart is a high-quality, professional platform for creating infographics and presentations. It stands out with its intuitive interface, allowing users to easily place various design elements. The platform's extensive templates and design elements help students reflect complex historical topics in a simple and understandable way. Additionally, the infographics created in Piktochart are of high quality and have a visually perfect appearance. Through Piktochart, users can not only create their own designs but also collaborate on them. This is very convenient for teamwork, especially when students or teachers work in groups[2]. Piktochart allows users to create the necessary design even in its free version, but premium features and additional options are available through the paid version. Infographics created in Piktochart can be exported in various formats, making it convenient for teachers or students to print them or present them online. Thus, Piktochart is an ideal platform for students to simplify their learning and present historical topics visually.

Venngage is an online platform designed for creating infographics, diagrams, and presentations, standing out with its intuitive interface and wide range of features. The platform allows users to easily place various design elements and customize them to meet their needs. Through Venngage, students or teachers can simplify and present complex historical topics, including extensive and rich information such as the history of Uzbekistan, in a visual manner. The wide range of templates and design options available on the platform helps users create professional-looking infographics on various topics. One of Venngage's features is that it allows users to quickly create their infographics, as its drag-and-drop interface is very easy and convenient[3]. Through the free version, students can create the necessary infographics, but the premium version offers even more templates and additional features. Additionally, infographics created through Venngage can be exported in various formats, making it convenient to use them in presentations, project documents, or reports.

The Venngage platform also supports collaboration, which makes it easier for students and teachers to work together on group projects. The ability to discuss created infographics with the group, make changes, and shape the final design together is very beneficial for students. Therefore, Venngage is an excellent platform designed to help students visually express their historical knowledge and make the learning process more effective.

Microsoft PowerPoint is one of the most widely used programs in the world for creating presentations. With its user-friendly and intuitive interface, it allows users to create complex infographics. Through PowerPoint, students or teachers can present historical information, such as the extensive and rich topics like the history of Uzbekistan, in a clear and understandable manner. PowerPoint offers advanced design options, including charts, graphs, and images, making it very easy to present information in an effective and visual way[4]. One of the biggest advantages of Microsoft PowerPoint is its support for various templates and design elements. These help students create presentations that fit their specific goals. Another benefit is that PowerPoint does not require an internet connection to use, so it can be used anytime and anywhere. Additionally, PowerPoint is enhanced with advanced animations and effects, making presentations even more engaging.

Google Slides, on the other hand, is a platform primarily designed for online collaboration. With its cloud technology, it allows users to work together from any device connected to the internet. Students and teachers can collaborate on creating and editing their infographics via Google Slides. When using Google Slides, multiple users can view and modify the data simultaneously, which facilitates group work. The Google Slides platform is free and, when compared to Microsoft PowerPoint, has many similar features, but it is constantly updated through the internet. Additionally, presentations created

in Google Slides can be saved directly to Google Drive and accessed on all devices, whether on a computer, mobile phone, or tablet. This makes it very convenient for both teachers and students[5].

These platforms have simple interfaces, making them user-friendly for individuals at any skill level. In the subject of the history of Uzbekistan, remembering vast amounts of information related to different periods, events, historical figures, and political processes requires the student's attention and time[6]. Infographics provide the opportunity to visually represent these historical processes in a chronological order and in cause-and-effect relationships. For example, an infographic on political reforms during the "Timurid Empire," a comparative table of "20th-century Uzbekistan" historical periods, or visual maps based on the life paths of famous historical figures, and more.

Using infographics in independent learning is not only a tool for easily assimilating information but also a powerful method for developing students' ability to work independently, think critically, and improve themselves. In studying a data-rich and complex subject like the history of Uzbekistan, infographics are ideal, significantly simplifying the students' learning process. By using visual materials, creating them, and presenting them, students learn to manage their learning activities more effectively.

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