

THE CONCEPT OF ADVISORY FOR PARENTS LOOKING FOR A LANGUAGE SCHOOL FOR THEIR BABY

Marek Jakubowski¹, Michalina Gryniewicz-Jaworska²

¹ Management Faculty, Lublin University of Technology, 38 Nadbystrzycka Str., 20-618 Lublin, Poland, e-mail: m.jakubowski@pollub.pl

² Pixel Information Systems, Poland, e-mail: michalina.gryniewicz.jaworska@vp.pl

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ABSTRACT

This paper proposes a system of advisory for parents looking for a language school for their child. It describes and discusses examples of tools to search for a language school and takes an account of methods of teaching a foreign language, and age of the child, who is to attend the classes. The article briefly characterizes each method of teaching foreign languages as well as describes the concept of an expert system, briefly describes the main features in above systems. The expert system can greatly facilitate and improve decision made by parents due to the “big expert knowledge” which takes into account child’s individual personality traits and their language potential.

Keywords: computerization, expert systems, customized IT solutions, methods of teaching foreign languages.

INTRODUCTION

Currently, there are many methods of teaching a foreign language, but they do not create the only correct one. Very often you will notice teachers combine several methods in the classroom, it all depends on children’s age and the severity of the recipients. It is important to achieve success, which is to teach a young child, a student or an adult learner the language. It is worth noticing that the age and development of the customer is very important, we use different methods in the course of young children from, different in teaching school children and different methods in teaching adults [3].

Over the years, a number of foreign language teaching methods have been developed and are described for both teachers and students. One of the most common methods of teaching a foreign language is a direct method; this method focuses on the association with a foreign language, the natural assimilation. Grammar rules are not as important here as the teaching of speaking, conversation or language comprehension.

The second traditional method of teaching a foreign language is a method of Grammar-Translation, which has placed great emphasis on the mastery of grammar and vocabulary of the language taught. A learner who in this way was learning a foreign language could read foreign literature [3].

Another method, which is worth mentioning, is the audio-lingual method. This method relies heavily on repetition of the same text or material which should be remembered. A student in a mechanical way repeats a text which should be remembered, this method was applied much less attention to grammatical errors, and it was more a memory storing scenes and dialogues. In the case of cognitive methods teachers emphasize that a student should be able to build their own sentences and understand the language [3].

In addition to traditional methods of teaching foreign languages unconventional methods were created to offer easier and faster forms of learning a foreign language. One method is a method of non-conventional whole body reaction (TPR) the author of this method was James

Asher; in his opinion the best way to remember is silent observation and physical movement. This method, regards the stimulation of brain, namely the left and right hemispheres, where one is responsible for the language and the other for the movement [3].

Another method of teaching English is the method created by Caleb Gattegno – The Silent Way, in case of this method, the language learning takes place in silence and concentration. The teacher performs new material; the student tries to learn vocabulary and phrases provided. In this method body language plays an important role, also the best results are achieved when the student learns on his/her own, where the student can repeat new vocabulary and stuff without any obstacles in the silent.

The method of Counselling Language Learning is also worth noticing; it depends on communication between people in the group. People who are involved in the course held between their selves' conversations and dialogues in a foreign language the teacher is as an observer, in the case of the language problem the teacher translates incomprehensible vocabulary into their native language [3].

Another method, in turn, derived from the U.S. The Natural Approach as TPR method focuses on getting rid of anxiety and stress related to speaking and making mistakes. It involves speaking to the audience while performing various gestures or *miens*.

An interesting solution in teaching foreign languages is Suggestopedia; the author of this method is the Bulgarian scholar Lozanow. According to the author of the aforementioned method, the conditions in which the student acquires a foreign language depends largely on its success. Small, cozy rooms and baroque music are conducive to accelerate acquisition of the new material. Friendly atmosphere allows the listener to get rid of a variety of fears and blockages that hinder the teaching process. In addition, assertive and competent teacher after the relaxation phase proceeds to provide information which would be quickly assimilated.

Currently, in schools, children are taught a foreign language using the method of communication, however, attention is paid to the correctness of the language. It is important that the student would be able to communicate fluently and correctly with a native speaker of the foreign language [6].

One of the methods proposed for adults is the Callan method, this method consists primarily of permanent repetition of dialogues and texts, and student leads a dynamic dialogue with the teacher. Using this method the student does not have time to think about the answer, the fast pace of this method has a great importance. The language drill used in this method gives rise to the language habits of students who automatically provide answers to the questions of the teacher.

Another method of teaching a foreign language is a method proposed by an Englishwoman Helen Doron. The principle of this method lies in the fact that children listen to a text which is said by the teacher and then they repeat it several times. Important elements in this method are gestures, expressions and intonation with which the teacher is saying, the children by repeating guess the meanings of words. The method described above works for small children, who are very mobile by their nature; they have a short concentration, also learn quickly through games and fun.

The conclusions that arise after reading various methods of teaching foreign languages allow the teacher to choose the correct, appropriate and personalized for the student method, taking into account his age, personality traits, as well as the material that will be discussed in class. In addition, parents who want their child to start learning a foreign language can choose the language school that will meet their expectations in terms of teaching methods and pace of language acquisition.

DESIGN TOOLS

In Microsoft Access a relational database of language schools offering language learning was created. The application provides information, teaching methods that are used in the process of language learning by individual schools. In addition, it helps to determine to whom the offer is addressed, and details of the types of language courses.

In Figure 1 all the tables that were used in the application database are listed. To create a database of language schools the author produced five tables: methods, languages, types of courses, participants and schools, all tables are linked by the relationship: one-to-one or one-to-many. Figure 2 presents the detailed relationships between the

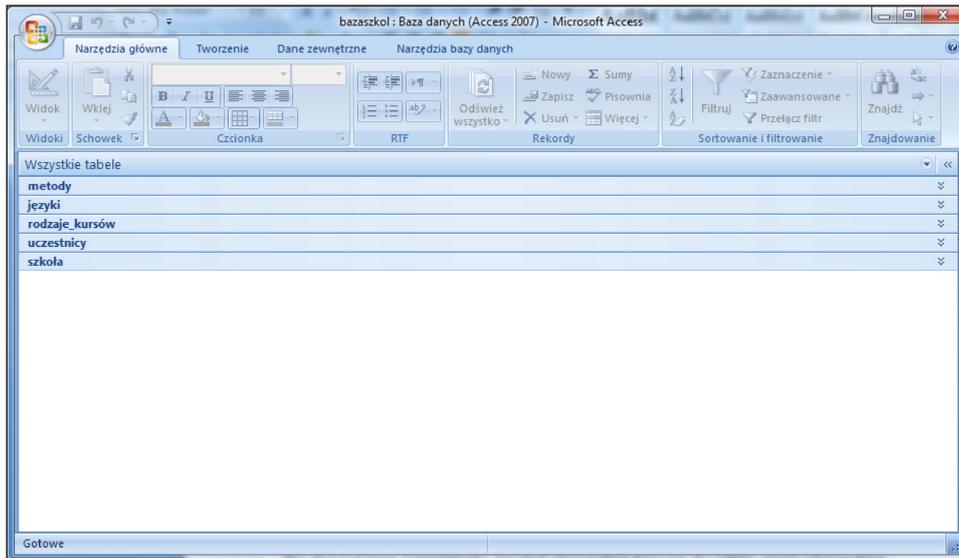


Fig. 1. List of Tables

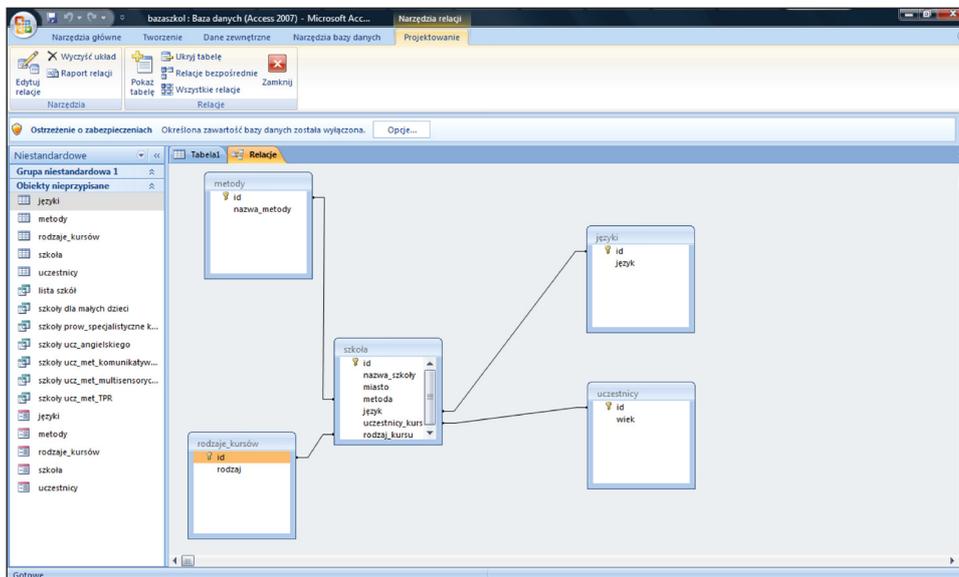


Fig. 2. Relationships

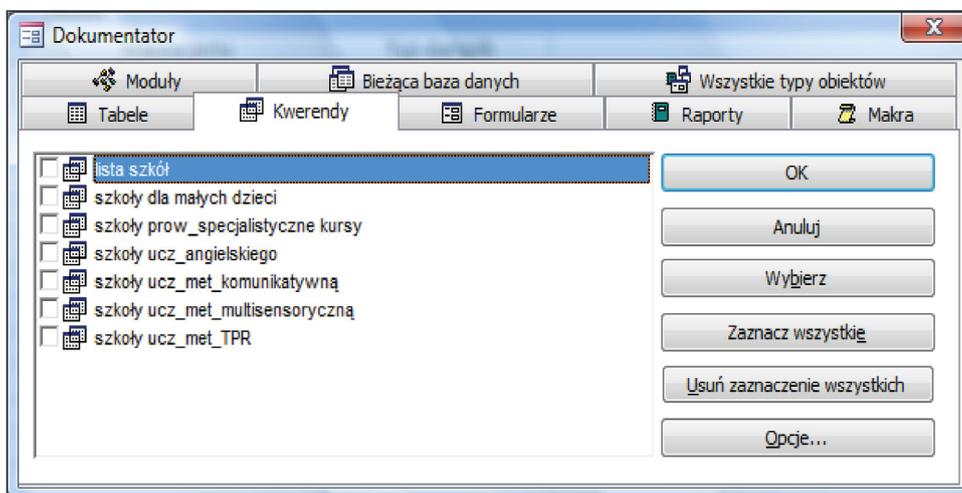


Fig. 3. Queries

tables, create relationships allow for quick selection of the necessary information from the database. Figure 3 presents a list of queries that have been created to facilitate the data selection process. The created queries are: the list of schools, schools for children, schools offering specialized courses, schools in which there is a learning English process, school teaching in a communicative method, multisensory and TPR. Number of created queries can be arbitrary, often creating them not to duplicate the same queries.

This application allows you to generate various reports based on users' needs. Figure 4 and 5 present examples of reports that can be created using the application, such as a report on schools

offering specialized courses or a report in which language schools a multisensory method is used. Figure 6 is a prepared statement, which present a list of schools teaching the communicative method. To create an application there data collected both online and Panorama Firm, data on language schools operating in Lublin were used.

The tool presented above can be used by parents of young learners to search for schools with a particular method or as a typical web-based search engine for people looking for a specific language course. We often deal with the situation that a significant proportion of parents are not able to judge to which schools send their child and what teaching methods to

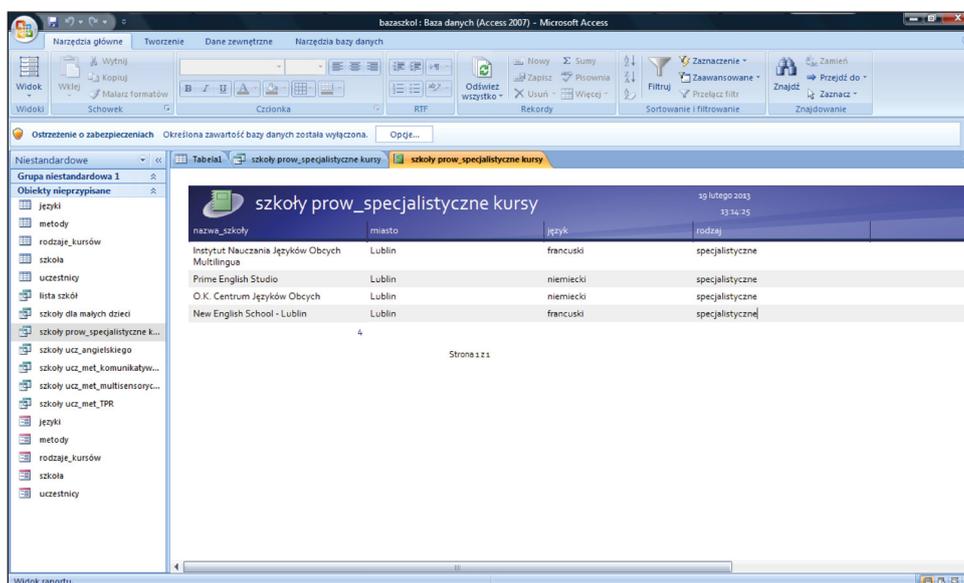


Fig. 4. Report of schools offering specialized courses

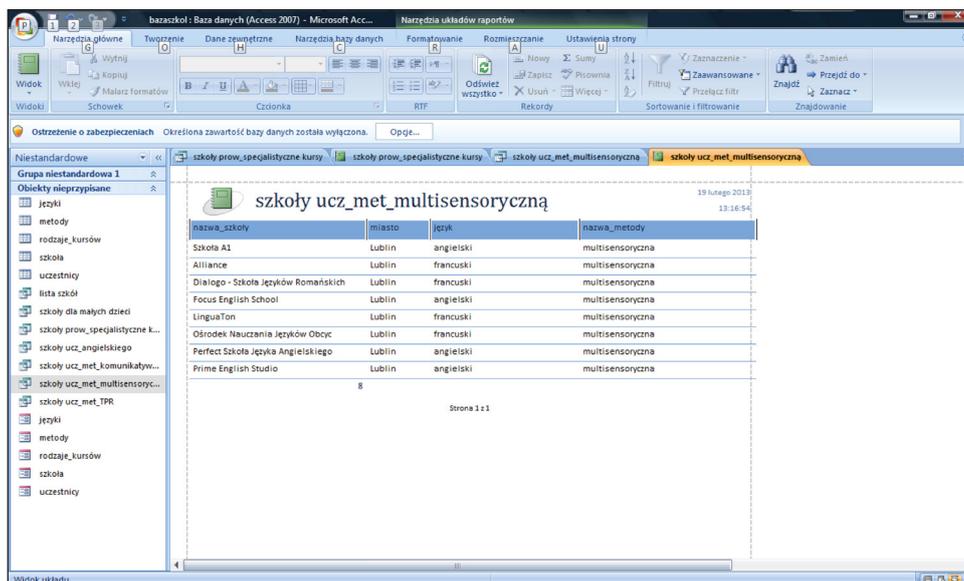


Fig. 5. Schools report using multisensory method

nazwa_szkoły	miasto	język	nazwa_metody
Profi Lingua	Lublin	angielski	komunikatywna
Diethloff Deutschschule, Szkoła Języka Niemieckiego	Lublin	niemiecki	komunikatywna
Euro English - Szkoła Językowa	Lublin	angielski	komunikatywna
Euro-Forum Szkoła Języków Obcych	Lublin	niemiecki	komunikatywna
FELBERG British & American English School - Lublin	Lublin	angielski	komunikatywna
Instytut Nauczania Języków Obcych Multilingua	Lublin	francuski	komunikatywna
New English School - Lublin	Lublin	angielski	komunikatywna
O.K. Centrum Języków Obcych	Lublin	niemiecki	komunikatywna
Oświata Lingwista	Lublin	angielski	komunikatywna
Studio English	Lublin	angielski	komunikatywna
Szkoła Języka angielskiego Intercaine Education, Lublin	Lublin	angielski	komunikatywna
Virginia Centrum Językowe - Lublin	Lublin	angielski	komunikatywna
Prime English Studio	Lublin	niemiecki	komunikatywna
O.K. Centrum Języków Obcych	Lublin	niemiecki	komunikatywna
New English School - Lublin	Lublin	francuski	komunikatywna

Fig. 6. List of schools teaching English using the communicative method

use. At this point, the above-described devices are insufficient.

CONCEPT OF THE ADVISORY SYSTEM

Currently, in order to meet the increasing demands of professional users there are designed expert systems, or advanced computer programs to perform complex intellectual tasks. The main purpose of creating these systems is to serve users with expertise in a particular field or subject [1]. Expert systems, called advisory, is one of the main branches of artificial intelligence. The main aim of counseling is to transfer the knowledge of an expert developed by the developer of the program. The knowledge accumulated in the system can be processed multiple times for multiple users. The system in response to the task of the user gives best advice or its opinion, the most appropriate way to proceed [2]. The main features of expert systems are:

- gathering credible and competent knowledge on the specific area and the possibility of it;
- skillfully reflects thinking like a human-expert;
- ability to justify the course of the proceedings that led to the generated results;
- clear interface that is an intuitive way to communicate with the user of the system.

Currently, we select three categories of expert systems: consultancy, taking own decisions without human control and criticizing [4, 5].

In our case, when we are dealing with an advisory system for parents looking for the right language school for their child. It is, therefore, necessary to develop a system that contains the knowledge of pedagogical, psychological and linguistic diversity. It is important that the system should tell parents a solution what specific language school which uses teaching methods appropriate for their child's choice, they should choose. Every child is different, has some individual personality traits, behavior and responses to stimuli. Therefore, it is important that the expert system, after entering some information into the system, was able to evaluate and select appropriate method of learning a foreign language for a particular child.

Every child is different, has some individual personality traits, behavior and response to stimuli. Therefore, it is important that the expert system after entering some information into the system is able to evaluate and select appropriate method of learning a foreign language for a particular child. It is worth to design such a system in which there is created a database of psychological tests and skill for both parents and children. For example, a base personality tests, manual, memory, math and logic. It is worth using a skeletal system in this project, which will significantly reduce system's development time and allows visualization of the project in the demo (Figure 7).

An interesting solution turns out to be a hybrid system that, unlike traditional expert systems, perfected the light of experience. It is im-

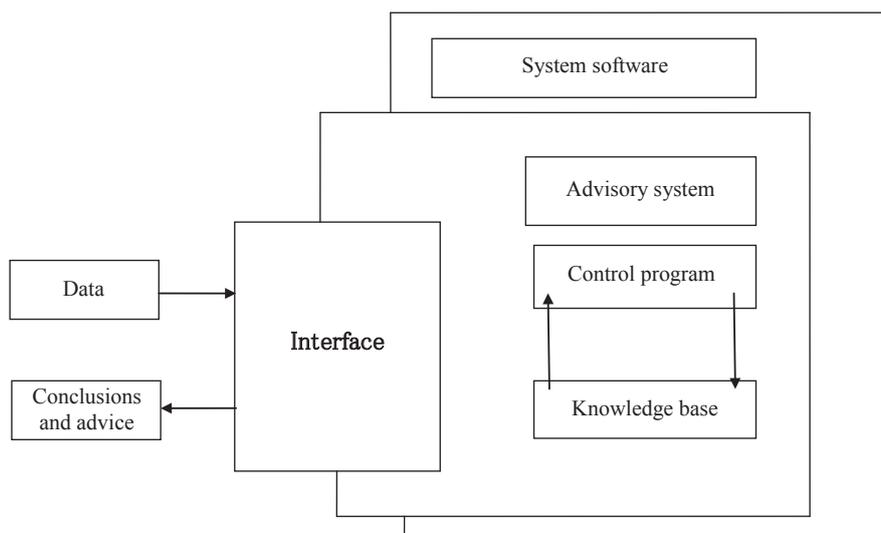


Fig. 7. Basic design of an expert system [6]

portant that the system has the ability to acquire new and expand the accumulated knowledge.

CONCLUSION

A rich database of expert knowledge will serve as a kind of counseling center that, after testing, personality, logic and language will be able to select an appropriate method of education for a particular child having their temperament, interests and potential of language. Design professional expert systems is time consuming but significantly enhances, improves and meets the needs of users in above systems. The creation of an advisory system works in many areas of science, in industry, education or other services.

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