

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN LEARNING AND TEACHING ENGLISH AND OTHER LANGUAGES

Abdumurodova Sevinch To'raqulovna

2nd-year student at Termez State University

Abstract: This study explores how technology facilitates the language-learning process, helping both teachers and learners of not only English but also other languages. Having read this article, one can learn the advantageous and disadvantageous sides of technology alongside the ways to keep a balance between them. Moreover, future prospects regarding this topic can not be left behind either.

Keywords: Virtual Reality(VR), Augmented Reality(AR), technological integration, benefits, challenges, future prospects, AI.

Introduction

The incorporation of technology into language education has profoundly changed how individuals learn and utilize new languages. Once, traditional language learning depended largely on in-person teaching, physical textbooks, and repetitive grammar exercises, but now it has advanced into a more engaging and interactive experience due to the emergence of digital tools and platforms. Specifically, the introduction of mobile apps, artificial intelligence (AI), and online learning platforms has broadened access to language learning, providing learners with increased flexibility and independence.

Regarding English and other major languages, technological innovations have allowed learners to access genuine resources, interact with native speakers, and receive immediate, tailored feedback. Additionally, technology equips educators with a variety of resources and approaches for creating engaging lessons. With immersive experiences through Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR), along with AI-driven tutors and chatbots, the contemporary language classroom extends beyond traditional physical limits.

This article intends to investigate the different ways technology aids in learning English and other languages. It emphasizes the advantages of technology-enhanced language education, considers the obstacles associated with incorporating technology, and explores the potential future advancements in this area.

Benefits of Technological Integration

- Increased motivation and engagement

Gamified platforms and interactive tools have been demonstrated to boost learner motivation. For example, Duolingo's gamification strategies have resulted in a notable increase in user engagement, with over 113 million monthly active users reported.

- Personalized learning experiences

AI-driven platforms can customize content to meet the needs of individual learners by providing adaptive learning paths and personalized feedback, allowing learners to progress at their own pace while concentrating on areas that need improvement.

- Access to authentic language resources

Technology exposes students to authentic language materials, such as native speaker dialogues, real-life scenarios, and cultural contexts, which improve listening and comprehension skills and close the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application.

Challenges in Technological Integration

- The Digital Divide

The digital divide, or the difference between those who have access to contemporary information and communication technologies and those who do not, is one of the most urgent problems. Students in remote or impoverished locations might not have access to necessary resources like laptops, smartphones, or reliable internet connections. Further educational gaps result from this disparity, which limits their access to online language learning platforms and resources.

- Insufficient Training for Teachers

Teachers need to be proficient with digital tools and have adequate training for technology to be used in language courses. However, teachers in many schools, particularly those in poor nations, receive little to no training in instructional technology. The potential influence of existing technologies on student learning outcomes may be diminished as a result of their underutilization or inefficient use.

- Cultural and Linguistic Authenticity

Although AI-powered tools and automated language platforms are highly efficient, they often lack the depth of cultural understanding and linguistic nuance that human instruction provides. This can result in an over-reliance on standardized or overly formal language, overlooking regional dialects, slang, and cultural context. Learners may develop an artificial or overly textbook-like version of the language, which might hinder real-world communication.

Prospects

Language learning will inevitably continue to develop as time passes, thanks to the advanced technologies. Virtual and Augmented reality will offer immersive experiences, making way for learners to practice real-life conversations in digital environments. AI will continue to provide more accurate feedback and personalized learning paths, helping learners progress faster and more efficiently.

Furthermore, future tools may support multilingual learning and include cultural content to promote better understanding and communication. Language apps may also integrate with social media and messaging platforms, allowing users to practice languages in real-time conversations with natives.

Overall, the future holds exciting opportunities for more engaging and flexible language learning.

Conclusion



It is undeniable that technology has changed the field of language education to such an extent that almost everyone is happy about that for now. It offers innovative and creative solutions to traditional challenges and facilitates human life. While the benefits are substantial, addressing the associated challenges is crucial to ensure effective language learning experiences. By fostering digital literacy among people, especially educators and learners, and providing access to technological resources, the full potential of technology in language learning can be realized.

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