



THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING: TRANSFORMING MODERN PEDAGOGY

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Abstract: The integration of technology into educational frameworks has fundamentally reshaped modern language pedagogy. This article explores the multifaceted role of technology in English Language Teaching (ELT), analyzing how digital tools enhance student engagement, personalize learning experiences, and democratize access to authentic linguistic resources. By examining the impact of Educational Technology (EdTech), Mobile-Assisted Language Learning (MALL), and Artificial Intelligence (AI), this paper highlights the shift from teacher-centered paradigms to dynamic, learner-centered ecosystems. Finally, the study addresses the pedagogical challenges of digital implementation and underscores the vital role of educators in navigating the digital frontier to foster global communicative competence.

Keywords: English Language Teaching (ELT), EdTech, Blended Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Learner Autonomy, Pedagogical Innovation.

For decades, English Language Teaching (ELT) relied heavily on traditional, grammar-translation methods and textbook-bound curricula. However, the dawn of the digital era and the rapid evolution of Educational Technology (EdTech) have ushered in a paradigm shift. In today's globalized world, technology is no longer merely a supplementary aid; it has become an intrinsic backbone of language acquisition. From interactive digital classrooms to AI-driven speech recognition software, technology offers unprecedented opportunities to mirror real-world immersion. This article investigates how digital innovations are redefining ELT



methodologies, optimizing cognitive engagement, and preparing learners for global communication.

2. Enhancing Linguistic Immersion Through Digital Tools

One of the historical barriers to learning English in non-native environments (EFL contexts) has been the lack of authentic linguistic input. Technology effectively dismantles geographical barriers to provide comprehensive immersion:

Multimedia and Authentic Resources: Platforms like YouTube, podcasts, and digital news outlets expose students to diverse accents, real-world idioms, and cultural nuances that traditional textbooks cannot replicate.

Gamification: Educational applications utilize gaming mechanics—such as point systems, streaks, and leaderboards—to lower the affective filter, alleviate language anxiety, and boost student motivation.

Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR/AR): Emerging immersive technologies allow students to participate in simulated real-world scenarios, such as ordering food in a virtual London café, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical execution.

3. The Power of Personalization and Learner Autonomy

Traditional classroom settings often struggle to accommodate the varying paces and learning styles of individual students. Technology provides scalable solutions for differentiated instruction:

Adaptive Learning Platforms: Modern software analyzes a student's real-time performance to automatically adjust the difficulty level of vocabulary, reading comprehension, and grammar exercises.



Asynchronous Learning: Cloud-based learning management systems (LMS) enable students to access educational materials, submit assignments, and review lectures at their own pace, fostering independent study habits and learner autonomy.

Mobile-Assisted Language Learning (MALL): Smartphones turn any environment into a potential classroom, allowing micro-learning sessions that fit seamlessly into a student's daily routine.

4. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Automated Feedback

Artificial Intelligence has introduced hyper-personalized, instant feedback mechanisms that accelerate the language acquisition loop:

Speech Recognition and Pronunciation: AI-powered tools provide immediate phonetic analysis, allowing students to practice speaking and correct their accents in a private, low-stakes digital environment.

Automated Writing Evaluation (AWE): Software tools analyze syntax, grammar, and style instantly, giving students preliminary feedback on their writing before human evaluation.

Intelligent Chatbots: AI dialogue partners simulate realistic, real-time conversations, offering learners continuous opportunities to practice communicative English without the fear of social judgment.

5. Challenges and the Evolving Role of the Teacher

Despite its vast benefits, the integration of technology in ELT is not without systemic hurdles. Challenges include the digital divide, technological distractions, and a lack of specialized training for educators.



Crucially, technology cannot replace the language teacher. Language is fundamentally a social, human phenomenon rooted in empathy, culture, and emotional connection. The role of the modern English teacher has evolved from being the sole "source of knowledge" to becoming a facilitator, curator, and guide. The objective is not to maximize screen time, but to strategically blend pedagogical expertise with technological efficiency (Blended Learning) to maximize communicative output.

Technology has permanently revolutionized the landscape of English Language Teaching, turning passive classrooms into vibrant, interactive environments. By leveraging AI, multimedia resources, and adaptive platforms, educators can cultivate highly motivated, autonomous, and phonetically proficient speakers. As digital landscapes continue to advance, the success of ELT will depend on the harmonious synergy between human pedagogy and technological innovation, ultimately equipping the next generation with the master key to global citizenship.

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