

MODERN DIGITAL METHODS FOR TEACHING READING SKILLS*Orazimbetov Shing'isbek**Assistant teacher of University
of Innovation Technologies**Nietullaeva Shaxsanem**3rd year student at the University
of Innovation Technologies***Abstract**

This paper examines the role of modern digital technologies in teaching reading skills in foreign language education. The study highlights the importance of interactive platforms, electronic books, online learning applications, multimedia resources, and artificial intelligence tools in improving learners' reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and motivation. Particular attention is given to digital reading strategies, gamification, and adaptive learning systems that support individualized instruction. The paper also discusses challenges related to digital distraction, unequal access to technology, and insufficient teacher training. Based on recent international research and educational practices, practical recommendations are proposed for the effective integration of digital methods into reading instruction.

Keywords: reading skills, digital learning, e-books, online platforms, AI tools, interactive reading

The development of digital technologies has significantly transformed the methods used in language education, especially in teaching reading skills. In modern classrooms, traditional reading practices are increasingly combined with digital tools that create more interactive and learner-centered environments. Reading is one of the most important language skills because it develops vocabulary, grammar knowledge, critical thinking, and overall communicative competence. Anderson (2018) emphasizes that modern reading instruction should combine technological resources with communicative learning strategies in order to improve learners' comprehension abilities.

Firstly, electronic books and digital texts have become essential resources in teaching reading skills. Unlike printed books, e-books provide multimedia support such as audio pronunciation, hyperlinks, dictionaries, and interactive exercises. These features help learners understand texts more effectively and independently. Research conducted by Kadirova (2024) demonstrates that digital reading environments increase comprehension and reading speed among language learners [1, 114]. Furthermore, students can access online libraries and reading materials from different countries,

which broadens their cultural and linguistic knowledge. Digital reading platforms also allow teachers to monitor students' progress and provide immediate feedback during reading tasks.

Secondly, online educational platforms play a major role in developing reading comprehension skills. Platforms such as Google Classroom, Moodle, and Quizlet integrate reading activities with quizzes, collaborative discussions, and vocabulary exercises. According to the European Schoolnet report, digital learning platforms support active participation and encourage learners to become more autonomous readers [2]. Similarly, Rakhimova (2024) states that interactive reading activities improve learners' ability to analyze texts and identify key ideas. Through online discussion forums and group tasks, students can exchange opinions about texts, which strengthens both comprehension and communication abilities.

Another important digital method is the use of multimedia materials in reading instruction. Videos, animations, podcasts, and infographics help students better understand the context and meaning of reading passages. Multimedia reading activities combine visual and auditory learning styles, making reading lessons more engaging and effective. Grabe and Stoller (2020) note that multimedia-supported reading instruction enhances students' motivation and helps weaker learners understand difficult texts more easily [5, 33]. In addition, digital storytelling applications encourage students to interact creatively with reading materials and improve interpretative skills.

Artificial intelligence-based tools have also introduced innovative approaches to teaching reading skills. Applications such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and AI-powered reading assistants provide personalized support for learners by analyzing reading performance and recommending suitable texts. AI systems can adapt reading tasks according to learners' proficiency levels and learning needs. Gilakjani (2016) explains that adaptive learning technologies improve reading comprehension by offering individualized instruction and immediate corrective feedback [6]. Moreover, AI tools help students develop independent reading habits and critical thinking skills through personalized recommendations and interactive questioning techniques.

Gamification is another effective digital method for improving reading skills. Many educational applications use points, badges, leaderboards, and interactive games to motivate learners. Gamified reading activities create a positive learning atmosphere and increase student participation. Researchers argue that game-based learning improves concentration and reduces anxiety during reading tasks. Platforms with reading challenges and rewards encourage students to read more frequently and develop stronger comprehension abilities. This approach is especially effective for young learners and beginner-level students who require additional motivation in language learning.

Despite these advantages, several challenges still affect the implementation of digital methods in teaching reading skills. One major problem is unequal access to technological devices and stable internet connections, especially in rural areas. In addition, some teachers lack sufficient digital competence to integrate modern technologies effectively into classroom instruction. Another concern is digital distraction, as students may lose concentration while using online devices. UNESCO (2021) stresses that successful digital learning requires proper teacher training, balanced screen time, and equal access to educational technologies [7, 41]. Furthermore, issues related to plagiarism and excessive dependence on automatic translation tools may negatively influence learners' independent reading development.

Conclusion

Modern digital methods have become an important component of teaching reading skills in language education. Electronic books, multimedia resources, online learning platforms, AI-based applications, and gamification techniques create interactive and effective learning environments that improve reading comprehension and learner motivation. Although challenges such as technological inequality and insufficient digital literacy remain significant, international educational experience demonstrates that the thoughtful integration of digital technologies enhances the quality of reading instruction. For Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan, expanding digital educational infrastructure and improving teachers' technological competence will contribute to more effective and innovative reading education in the future.

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