

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING: ENHANCING LEARNING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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Abstract

This article explores the role of technology in English Language Teaching (ELT) and its impact on improving language learning outcomes. It examines how digital tools and online resources support communicative competence, learner autonomy, and motivation, particularly among A2–B1 level secondary school students. The study highlights practical strategies for integrating technology into English lessons while maintaining pedagogical balance and educational effectiveness.

Keywords: English Language Teaching, technology, digital tools, motivation, learner autonomy, A2–B1 learners

Introduction

The rapid development of technology has significantly transformed the field of education, including the teaching of foreign languages. In English Language Teaching, technology is no longer an optional supplement but an essential component of effective instruction. Digital tools, online platforms, and multimedia resources provide new opportunities for interaction, personalization, and authentic language exposure.

This article discusses how technology can be meaningfully integrated into English language classrooms. It focuses on pedagogical principles, practical classroom applications, and the role of the teacher in technology-enhanced learning environments.

The Role of Technology in Modern ELT

Technology supports language learning by providing access to authentic materials such as videos, podcasts, online articles, and interactive exercises. These resources expose

learners to real-life language use and different accents, improving listening and pronunciation skills (Harmer, 2015).

Moreover, technology allows learners to practice English beyond the classroom. Mobile applications, learning management systems, and online dictionaries encourage independent learning and continuous practice.

Technology and Learner Motivation

Motivation is a critical factor in successful language learning. Digital tools increase motivation by making lessons more interactive and engaging. Visual content, gamified tasks, and instant feedback help maintain learners' interest and reduce anxiety.

For teenage learners, technology-based activities such as quizzes, online discussions, and short video tasks create a familiar and enjoyable learning environment, which positively influences participation and confidence (Dörnyei, 2001).

Developing Language Skills Through Technology

Technology can support the development of all four language skills. Listening skills improve through videos, podcasts, and online audio materials. Speaking skills can be developed through video recordings, voice messages, and online role-plays.

Reading skills benefit from digital texts with interactive features such as hyperlinks and glossaries. Writing skills improve through collaborative documents, blogs, and online feedback tools. These activities promote accuracy, coherence, and creativity (Richards & Schmidt, 2010).

Blended Learning in English Teaching

Blended learning combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online learning activities. This approach allows teachers to use classroom time for communication and interaction, while online platforms provide additional practice and reinforcement.

Blended learning supports differentiated instruction by allowing learners to progress at their own pace. It also encourages responsibility and autonomy, which are essential skills for lifelong learning.

Challenges of Technology Integration

Despite its benefits, technology integration presents certain challenges. Limited access to devices, insufficient teacher training, and technical issues may reduce effectiveness. Additionally, excessive use of technology without clear objectives can distract learners from learning goals.

Therefore, technology should be used purposefully and in alignment with pedagogical aims. Teachers must carefully select tools that support learning outcomes rather than replace meaningful interaction.

The Teacher's Role in Technology-Enhanced Classrooms

In technology-integrated classrooms, the teacher remains a central figure. The teacher guides learners, selects appropriate digital resources, and ensures that technology supports communication and learning objectives.

Continuous professional development is essential for teachers to effectively use technology and adapt to changing educational environments (Scrivener, 2011).

Conclusion

Technology has the potential to significantly enhance English language teaching when used thoughtfully and strategically. By integrating digital tools into communicative and learner-centered lessons, teachers can improve motivation, autonomy, and language proficiency.

Effective technology integration does not replace the teacher but empowers both teachers and learners, creating dynamic and meaningful English learning experiences.

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