

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract. This paper examines the role of technology in teaching English as a foreign language (EFL), with a focus on mobile applications and online learning platforms. In recent years, digital tools have significantly transformed language education by making learning more interactive, flexible, and accessible. The study analyzes how these technologies contribute to the development of students' language skills, particularly vocabulary acquisition and learner motivation. It also discusses the challenges associated with technology use, such as technical issues and student distraction. The findings suggest that, despite certain limitations, technology has a generally positive impact on EFL learning when used effectively.

Key words: technology in education, EFL, digital learning, mobile applications, online platforms, vocabulary acquisition, student motivation.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilini chet tili (EFL) sifatida o'qitishda texnologiyaning o'rni, xususan, mobil ilovalar va onlayn o'quv platformalariga e'tibor qaratgan holda o'rganiladi. So'nggi yillarda raqamli vositalar ta'limni yanada interaktiv, moslashuvchan va ochiq qilish orqali til o'rgatish tizimini sezilarli darajada o'zgartirdi. Tadqiqotda ushbu texnologiyalar talabalarning til ko'nikmalarini rivojlantirishga, ayniqsa, lug'at boyligini oshirish va o'rganuvchilar motivatsiyasiga qanday hissa qo'shishi tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, texnologiyadan foydalanish bilan bog'liq muammolar, jumladan, texnik nosozliklar va talabalar diqqatining chalg'ishi kabi masalalar muhokama qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, muayyan cheklovlarga qaramay, texnologiya samarali qo'llanilganda ingliz tilini o'rganish jarayoniga umumiy ijobiy ta'sir ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: ta'limda texnologiya, EFL (ingliz tili chet tili sifatida), raqamli ta'lim, mobil ilovalar, onlayn platformalar, lug'at o'zlashtirish, talabalar motivatsiyasi.

Аннотация. В данной работе исследуется роль технологий в преподавании английского языка как иностранного (EFL) с упором на мобильные приложения и онлайн-платформы обучения. В последние годы цифровые инструменты значительно трансформировали языковое образование, сделав обучение более интерактивным, гибким и доступным. В исследовании анализируется, как эти технологии способствуют развитию языковых навыков учащихся, в частности, усвоению лексики и повышению мотивации обучающихся. Также обсуждаются проблемы, связанные с использованием технологий, такие как технические неполадки и отвлечение внимания студентов. Результаты показывают, что, несмотря на определенные ограничения, технологии оказывают в целом положительное влияние на изучение английского языка при их эффективном использовании.

Ключевые слова: технологии в образовании, EFL (английский как иностранный), цифровое обучение, мобильные приложения, онлайн-платформы, усвоение лексики, мотивация студентов.

In the 21st century, technology has become an essential component of modern education, significantly influencing the way languages are taught and learned. The teaching of English as a foreign language (EFL) has evolved from traditional classroom methods to more dynamic approaches that incorporate digital tools. Today, teachers increasingly combine textbooks with technological resources such as mobile applications, online platforms, and virtual communication tools. The integration of technology into language learning has created new opportunities for both educators and students. Learners are no longer limited to printed materials; instead, they can access a wide range of authentic resources, including videos, podcasts, and interactive exercises. These materials help students develop their language skills in a more engaging and practical way. Furthermore, online platforms allow students to study independently and receive immediate feedback, which supports continuous improvement. The aim of this paper is to examine how mobile applications and online platforms improve vocabulary acquisition and increase student motivation in EFL learning. It also seeks to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using technology in the educational process. Many researchers have emphasized the importance of technology in language education. According to Harmer (2007), modern teaching methods should integrate digital tools to enhance student engagement and participation. Similarly, Scrivener (2011) highlights that interactive learning environments can significantly improve language acquisition. Recent studies have also focused on mobile-assisted language learning. Kukulska-Hulme (2020) states that mobile applications provide learners with flexible opportunities to practice language skills anytime and anywhere. In addition, Chapelle (2003) argues that technology supports individualized learning by allowing students to work at their own pace.

Overall, the literature suggests that technology plays a crucial role in improving both the effectiveness and accessibility of language learning, although its successful implementation depends on proper usage and teacher training. Technology in EFL teaching includes a wide range of tools that enhance the learning experience. Mobile applications, for example, allow students to practice vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation independently. These applications often use gamification techniques such as points, levels, and rewards, which make learning more engaging and motivating. Online learning platforms also contribute significantly to language education. They enable teachers to organize lessons, share materials, and track student progress efficiently. In addition, video conferencing tools such as Zoom support distance learning by providing real-time communication between teachers and students. This has become especially important in situations where face-to-face instruction is not possible. One of the key advantages of using technology in language teaching is increased student motivation. Digital tools incorporate multimedia elements, including audio, video, and interactive tasks, which make lessons more interesting. As a result, students are more likely to participate actively in the learning process. Furthermore, technology supports personalized learning, allowing students to choose materials that match their individual needs and proficiency levels. Another important benefit is accessibility. Students can access educational resources at any time and from any location, which promotes

independent learning and continuous practice. This flexibility is particularly useful for learners who need additional time to understand complex topics. However, the use of technology also presents certain challenges. Technical problems, such as poor internet connection or lack of devices, can interrupt the learning process. Additionally, students may become distracted by social media or other non-educational content while using digital devices.

Another issue is that some teachers may not have sufficient training to use technology effectively, which can limit its potential benefits.

In conclusion, technology plays a vital role in teaching English as a foreign language. Mobile applications and online platforms significantly improve vocabulary acquisition and increase student motivation by providing interactive and flexible learning opportunities. Despite some challenges, such as technical difficulties and potential distractions, the advantages of technology outweigh its disadvantages. Therefore, it is important for educators to integrate digital tools into their teaching practices in a thoughtful and effective manner. Proper training and careful planning can help maximize the benefits of technology in language education. Future research should focus on analyzing the impact of specific technological tools on different language skills and types of learners.

Furthermore, the integration of technology in English language teaching encourages the development of essential 21st-century skills, such as digital literacy, critical thinking, and autonomous learning. By engaging with diverse multimedia resources and interactive tools, students become more independent and confident in their learning process. As educational technologies continue to evolve, teachers have the opportunity to create more personalized and inclusive learning environments that cater to the needs of diverse learners, ultimately enhancing the overall effectiveness of language education.

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