

## DEVELOPING READING SKILLS THROUGH MODERN DIGITAL TOOLS AND INTERACTIVE METHODS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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**Abstract.** This article examines the role of modern digital tools and interactive methods in developing reading skills in foreign language learning. In the context of rapid technological advancement, integrating digital platforms into the educational process has become essential for enhancing students' engagement and learning outcomes. The study focuses on the application of tools such as Duolingo and Quizlet, as well as interactive strategies including skimming, scanning, gamification, and collaborative reading.

The findings suggest that the use of digital tools significantly improves students' reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and motivation. Moreover, interactive methods encourage active participation and foster critical thinking skills. The article also discusses the advantages and limitations of these approaches and highlights their didactic potential in modern language education.

**Key words:** Reading skills; Digital learning tools; Interactive methods; Skimming and scanning; Gamification; Collaborative learning; Foreign language teaching; Educational technology

In the modern era of globalization and digital transformation, the ability to read effectively in a foreign language has become a crucial component of language competence. Reading is not only a receptive skill but also a gateway to acquiring knowledge, expanding vocabulary, and developing critical thinking. However, traditional approaches to teaching reading often rely on passive techniques, such as translation and memorization, which may limit students' engagement and deeper comprehension. As a result, there is a growing need to adopt innovative teaching methods that align with the demands of contemporary learners.

The integration of digital tools into language education has opened new opportunities for enhancing reading instruction. Digital platforms provide learners with access to diverse texts, interactive exercises, and immediate feedback, which significantly improve the learning experience. For example, applications like Duolingo offer structured reading activities combined with vocabulary and grammar exercises, allowing learners to practice multiple skills simultaneously. Similarly, Quizlet enables students to reinforce vocabulary encountered in reading texts through flashcards and interactive games.

One of the most effective strategies in developing reading skills is the use of skimming and scanning techniques. Skimming allows learners to quickly grasp the general idea of a text, while scanning helps them locate specific information. These strategies are particularly useful in digital environments, where learners can navigate texts efficiently and focus on relevant content. By practicing these techniques, students become more confident and independent readers.

Another important approach is digital annotation, which involves highlighting key ideas, adding comments, and asking questions within a text. This method encourages active reading and deeper comprehension, as students engage with the material rather than passively consuming it. Platforms such as Google Classroom facilitate this process by allowing teachers and students to interact within a shared digital space.

Gamification is also widely used to enhance reading instruction. By incorporating game elements such as points, levels, and competition, teachers can increase students' motivation and make the learning process more enjoyable. For instance, tools like Kahoot! can be used to create quizzes based on reading texts, encouraging students to actively engage with the material and test their understanding in a dynamic way.

Collaborative reading is another effective method that promotes interaction and communication among learners. In this approach, students work in groups to analyze texts, share ideas, and discuss interpretations.

This not only improves comprehension but also develops communicative competence, as students learn to express their opinions and respond to others. Digital platforms make it possible to implement collaborative reading even in online settings, thereby increasing flexibility and accessibility.

Despite the numerous advantages of digital tools and interactive methods, there are also certain challenges to consider. Technical issues, such as poor internet connectivity, may hinder the learning process. Additionally, students may become distracted by non-educational content when using digital devices. Therefore, it is essential for teachers to carefully plan and monitor the use of technology in the classroom to ensure that it serves pedagogical goals.

In conclusion, the use of modern digital tools and interactive methods offers substantial and multifaceted benefits for developing reading skills in foreign language learning. These approaches significantly transform the traditional teaching process by shifting it from a teacher-centered model to a more learner-centered and interactive educational environment. As a result, students become more actively involved in the learning process, which leads to higher levels of engagement, motivation, and responsibility for their own learning outcomes.

The integration of digital tools such as Duolingo and Quizlet allows learners to access authentic materials, practice vocabulary in context, and receive immediate feedback, which is essential for effective language acquisition. In addition, interactive methods such as skimming, scanning, gamification, and collaborative reading contribute to the development of deeper reading comprehension, critical thinking skills, and the ability to process information efficiently in both academic and real-life contexts.

Furthermore, these approaches support autonomous learning by encouraging students to take control of their own learning pace and strategies. This autonomy not only improves reading proficiency but also strengthens long-term learning habits and digital literacy skills, which are essential in today's technology-driven educational environment.

However, it is important to acknowledge that the effectiveness of these methods depends on several factors, including access to stable internet connection, availability of digital resources, and the pedagogical competence of educators in integrating technology into instruction. Without proper guidance and structured implementation, the potential benefits of these tools may not be fully realized.

Overall, this study confirms that the combination of digital tools and interactive teaching strategies creates a more effective, engaging, and flexible learning environment for foreign language reading instruction. These methods not only improve immediate learning outcomes but also contribute to the development of lifelong learning skills. Therefore, future research should focus on longitudinal studies to examine the long-term impact of these approaches and explore how they can be adapted and optimized across different educational systems, proficiency levels, and cultural contexts.

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