INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY INTO ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

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Abstract: The digital age has revolutionized the way individuals of all ages, from young learners to those in higher education, engage with and learn modern English. Internet connectivity and technological advancements have given rise to essential tools such as computers, tablets, smartphones, and smartwatches, which are enhanced by contemporary platforms like Moodle and Blackboard. These resources have become not only necessities but also obligations for individuals and educational institutions aiming to facilitate advanced and effective English language learning.

Key words: digital tools, English language, instruction, video segments, films

INTRODUCTION

There are numerous technological tools available for use in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classrooms, including digital storytelling applications, comic creation tools, eBooks, video content, images, online speaking avatars, and interactive whiteboards that can be accessed through the internet. The significant advancement in technology is reflected in research indicating that approximately 90% of students now have access to a mobile device or computer, whether at home, school, or in the workplace. Consequently, it is not surprising to see a corresponding shift in teaching methodologies towards the incorporation of technology. This modern educational landscape is characterized by innovative teaching paradigms such as blended learning, online open-source platforms, and virtual classrooms, all of which have gained endorsement from prominent figures in the field of education. These contemporary instructional strategies effectively weave technology into the

English language teaching process, aiming to aid educators in their efforts, enhance student engagement, and provide a structured and comprehensive environment conducive to learning. Therefore, it is increasingly clear that educational institutions must adapt and transition towards a more tech-oriented classroom setting, as this evolution is not merely beneficial but essential for meeting the needs of today's learners.

Materials and methods. The application of new technologies greatly increases the creativity of teachers in the application of new methods in the study of the English language, and thus, largely, takes the teacher's responsibility [2].

The integration of new technologies significantly enhances the level and quality of English language instruction by aligning educational content with the contemporary capabilities offered by advanced tools and software. This modern approach not only enriches the presentation of learning materials but also fosters a heightened sense of engagement and activity among students as they interact with the content being delivered in the classroom.

Moreover, these technological advancements serve as powerful motivators and stimulators, encouraging not just students as active listeners but also educators, who face the invigorating challenge of effectively incorporating these modern resources into their teaching practices. This includes the use of various devices such as computers, tablets, smartphones, and smartwatches, alongside interactive boards and e-learning platforms like Moodle, Blackboard, and Google Classroom. Consequently, the adoption of these technologies is reshaping the educational experience, making it more dynamic and participatory for all involved.[1]

In the Results and Discussion section, it is evident that the incorporation of modern technological tools provides educators with robust opportunities to adopt and execute teaching methodologies that have demonstrated considerable success in English language education. This methodological shift allows teachers to cater to various learning styles and proficiency levels, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of their instructional approaches.

Specifically, the use of these innovative tools enables educators to present material in a more engaging and interactive manner, which not only captures students' attention but also encourages active participation. As a result, teachers can deliver content and exercises with maximum efficiency, ensuring that each student receives a tailored learning experience that meets their individual needs. This adaptability ultimately fosters a more inclusive educational environment, where all learners can thrive and develop their English language skills to their fullest potential. Through this integration of technology, teachers are better equipped to facilitate meaningful learning experiences that resonate with today's digital-savvy students.[3]

While new technology has advanced significantly over the years, not all innovations have remained relevant or effective. This fluctuation can be attributed to increasing concerns regarding security and the gradual obsolescence of certain technologies. However, those tools and methods that have demonstrated durability over time are often rooted in solid teaching practices.

One notable educational model that exemplifies this evolution is blended learning. This approach merges traditional teaching methods with technological resources, allowing educators to offer a diverse range of course materials that cater to various learning preferences. The trend toward blended learning is gaining popularity in classroom settings because it effectively meets the individual needs of students, fostering an environment where each learner can engage with the content in a manner that enhances their overall understanding and retention. By accommodating different learning styles, blended learning optimizes the educational experience, enabling students to achieve higher levels of comprehension and mastery in their studies.

Mobile learning has become increasingly significant in education, particularly due to the accessibility that mobile applications offer to online resources. For instance, Oxford University Press has developed the Essential English app, which provides both students and educators with a variety of free resources. These resources include flashcards, comprehensive lesson plans, phrasebooks, and more,

all designed to assist in the learning process. By utilizing mobile apps like Essential English, users can easily access educational materials anytime and anywhere, promoting a more flexible and engaging learning experience. This accessibility not only supports classroom instruction but also encourages independent study and practice, allowing learners to reinforce their skills at their convenience. As a result, mobile learning empowers individuals to take charge of their educational journeys and enhances their overall proficiency in the English language.

Gamification were learning occurs through the use of gaming apps and software. Interactive games help language skills to be used to collaborate, negotiate, and create friendships [4].

Embodied learning transcends mere memorization; it emphasizes the interaction between the body and mind through exploration, discussion, and collaboration. A prime example is the Doodle Town course offered by Macmillan Education, which incorporates hands-on activities alongside visual and auditory elements to inspire and engage learners. This approach encourages students to become curious, creative, and expressive through drawing and other interactive tasks. In addition to embodied learning, learning and teaching management platforms like Edmodo play a crucial role in enhancing the educational experience. These platforms grant students online access to resources such as handouts, facilitate the submission of assignments, and enable ongoing classroom discussions beyond traditional hours. Moreover, online platforms are increasingly utilized for communication with stakeholders, including parents and guardians, which strengthens the relationship between home and school. They also assist educators in organizing materials, managing lesson plans, and providing a comprehensive overview of the curriculum to both teachers and administrative staff. This multifaceted use of technology in education fosters a more connected and wellstructured learning environment, ultimately benefiting all participants in the educational process.

Conclusion, the application of new technologies in ELT in today's conditions is inescapable to maintain the trend of systematic learning of modern English at all

levels of education [5].

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