THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY USAGE ON LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

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Abstract. *The role of technology in the language learning journey has altered language acquisition process, making it more effective and meaningful. Technology has improved education by providing learners reliable resources, such as learning applications, online courses and virtual tutoring platforms. This article sheds light on the advantages of using technological tools in language learning and teaching.*
Key words: *implementation, multimedia activities, interactive learning, language proficiency, resources.*

In the modern era, technology has become a vital component of our everyday routines, including our education. Language learning has also accepted this digital shift, presenting a number of advantages for improving language skills. The evolution of technology in language education has been substantial, propelled by progress in digital resources, online platforms, and educational software. This incorporation of technology in language learning has dramatically changed traditional teaching methods, providing innovative methods to boost language proficiency, communication abilities, and cultural awareness. With the help of technology, educators can create a dynamic and interactive learning environment that could cater to a variety of learning preferences.

Technology was first introduced into language instruction with the arrival of computer-assisted language learning in the late nineties. At first, these applications trained lexical resources and grammar through drills using mainframe computers and floppy disks. As technology developed, interactive software and multimedia CD-ROMs became common as instructional tools in language schools. These tools gave students access to tests, interactive activities, and audiovisual materials. With the development of the internet in the 1990s, students now have access to authentic sources, interactive learning tools, and virtual communities in websites and other online learning resources for languages. Online language platforms, social media,

podcasts, vlogs, and other web-based technologies have increased the opportunities for language learning and intercultural communication [Smith, J. (2018), 112-129, 1].

Famous scholars have expressed their opinions about the way technology could benefit students in learning a language. Naom Chomsky, who has done research in this field, believes that technological tools could be the best way to practice their language abilities. In an interview with him, he stressed the role of including innovative approaches in language education to make the learning journey more diverse [Chomsky, N. (2017), 45–56, 2]. Technological tools could boost the learning process with reliable and interactive opportunities for practicing a second language, giving learners the chance to access authentic materials, sustaining interaction with speakers of the target language. [Swan, M. (2006), 3]. Technology hones communication with speakers of the target language with the help of video calls and exchanging platforms, aiding students in training language skills in a meaningful environment.

Several case studies have tested the efficiency of technological tools in language acquisition. A study completed by Wang and Li carefully analyzed the direct and indirect effects of interactive language platforms on English students. The results draw the conclusion that those students who were exposed to online interactive language apps performed well compared to those who were taught English traditionally [Wang, S&L, M (2020), 4].

Another study was done by Garcia and Wang, they accessed the impact of social media on language outcomes. The research stressed that if language learners acquire knowledge with the help of social media, it could improve their self-confidence, cultural awareness along the way, developing language proficiency [Garcia, R., & Wang, L. (2020), 5].

While implementing online tools in language education, it is important to keep in mind to include the most reliable resources to boost their effectiveness. Johnson [Johnson, L., Adams Becker, 6] suggests some methods mentioned in his book called " Technology Integration, Best Practices Guide.". These are important points about the correct way of implementing online tools in the language classroom.

Blended method: The combination of conventional teaching styles and digital materials could advance the learning process. This approach allows students to study independently, paving the way for active participation in the classroom. By balancing face-to-face communication with digital tools, educators could promote student accomplishment, encourage teamwork, and empower self-guided learning [Bonner, 2013, 7].

Active learning: This method involves activities like online simulations and quizzes to spark interest in students and strengthen active participation in the classroom.. These exercises might elevate students' motivation and encourage them to engage in the subject. According to a study by Clark and Mayer, [Clark & Mayer (2016), 45–46, 8], immersive online tools could grab the attention of students and keep their study motivation throughout the learning journey. Also, a high level of motivation could lead to enthusiasm for language learning.

Digital media assets: A number of digital language assets, like video lessons and presentations, could facilitate diverse language tendencies, making room for improvement. Meskill believes that listening scripts and educationally-friendly software could enrich the learning content, making it more colorful [Meskill, 2015, 9].

Exposure to language: This type of method exposes students to a second language in their day-to-day lives, honing their fluency in that language [Swain, M. (1998), 10]. He thinks that this approach allows students to practice their language skills in their target language, making the learning environment real and meaningful. He holds the opinion that by facilitating learners with authentic interaction in their second language, educators could help students increase their language fluency.

By implementing social media tools for language practice and taking advantage of digital assets, teachers can develop the language learning proficiency of their students.

In conclusion, the merits of technology integration in the classroom are clear. Considering the influence that technology implementation might have, instructors should aid learners in effectively communicating in several languages. Accepting these new approaches to language acquisition is vital for students to thrive in today's interconnected society.

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