



Technology in Teaching and Learning in ESL Classrooms

Galimullina Luiza Tolgatovna ¹, Aktamkhonova Nozimabonu Abrorjon qizi ²

^{1,2} Teacher, FerSU

Abstract: The main objective of this article is to assort various uses of technologies as a teaching-learning tool in a virtual learning environment. The use of technology has impacted every element of human life, and it has the ability to play a pivotal role in the fields of education and training, particularly in distant learning, to transform it into a cutting-edge learning environment. New technologies are increasingly needed in the teaching and learning process. The information age transforms into an era of knowledge, offering sound and unequalled practicality for information exchange, communication, and exploration to enhance the teaching and learning process. Different educational technologies have benefited both instructors and students, they have taught teachers how to incorporate technology into their classrooms, and students are becoming more engrossed in learning using technology. Through digital learning tools like PCs, iPads, cellphones, and smart digital white boards, technology has digitized classrooms. Additionally to increasing student involvement and passion for studying, it has enhanced course offerings. This research paper deals with the issues that teachers encounter when using conventional ways to teach English are discussed. It suggests five innovative language-learning games that use technology to teach learners syntax structures.

Key words: Technology; teaching-learning process; distant learning; digital learning; language-learning games; syntax structures.

Introduction

The spread of English has led to it being used as a compulsory language in nations like Uzbekistan, wherein for certain individuals it is their second language. Different teaching strategies have been put into place to evaluate the efficacy of the teaching method as the number of English learners grows. There has long been a use of real materials in movies, radio, and television. It is true that modern technologies have been effective at displacing traditional education. The modern teacher is given new responsibilities and challenges by the current period. With the astounding advent of technology, the tradition of teaching English has undergone significant transformation. Numerous choices offered by technology make education engaging and effective.

Focused learning, critical thinking, and interaction were not stressed in the traditional classroom. The students were prevented from learning about the subjects they are passionate about. In a typical classroom, the only sources of information are the teacher and the books, which can be constrained as opposed to online learning, where the amount of material available is virtually endless. Learning can occasionally get monotonous and appear like a chore because of the standard educational model. In addition, each student has a unique capacity for learning, which one single instructor cannot accommodate in a classroom. Due to a lack of individualized instruction, it impairs students' ability to learn. These issues can be solved with the aid of technology.

Technology will not replace excellent instructors, but in the hands of excellent teachers, it can be transformative, according to George Couros. One of the main forces behind changes in both society and language is technology. Technology use has been encouraged in the field of language instruction. Technology supports and enhances language learning in many ways, but the efficiency of any technical equipment relies on the knowledge and skill of the certified language teacher who oversees and supports the language learning environment. Today, it is common practice in ESL classrooms to use technology as a teaching tool for teaching language acquisition. It helps ESL students learn and can be used in a variety of ways to help students understand the course material (Hicks, Reid, & George, 2001). According to ESL students themselves, it is an essential tool for improving their fluency in a foreign language (Neuman & Koskinen, 1992). Students can set up online groups utilizing the Internet along with software tools. With the help of technology, people can join virtual communities that link them up with students and professors anywhere in the world in real time. They can ask questions and voice concerns about their lessons, and they can get feedback from their teachers. Students sharpen their thinking, achieving greater levels of comprehension, by reading about and listening to other people's input. Activities centered on technology primarily call for critical-thinking and problem-solving abilities. The importance of learning languages has increased during the past ten years. Learning a novel language helps people become more intelligent as individuals, but it also helps people integrate into a new culture and equips them with the abilities they need to succeed and adapt their behavior in a world that is changing quickly (Chan & Herrero, 2010). It is true that visualization is beneficial for a number of things, including memory enhancement, health restoration, stress reduction, relaxation, and motivation. Visualization aids in boosting people's motivation. It offers safe, cost-effective, and beneficial mental exercise. An effective strategy to strengthen strategies like association and scripting is through visualization.

According to Draper (2012), imagery is the primary requirement for a competent reader. In order to improve greater comprehension while reading, it is crucial to assist learners in developing their imagery abilities. It enables students to read more actively and they utilize their imagery to make explanations of the text, retain specifics from the text, and form inferences (Keene & Simmerman, 1997). Expert readers mentally construct images both while they are reading and after they have finished. This is done both accidentally and on purpose. The pictures are archived in the encyclopedic memory of the readers. Images are used by readers to further explain what they have read. The visuals give the text depth and dimension, enhancing the reader's experience and helping them remember the material. Expert readers employ imagery to draw conclusions, develop original and distinctive interpretations of the text, remember the text's key ideas, and retain a text after reading it. By employing movies in EFL classes, English teachers can become more creative and motivated (Ismaili, 2012). As a result, teachers thought that showing movies in EFL classes could improve student speaking abilities and give students more opportunities to utilize English. In EFL classes, videos that are relevant to the curriculum's subject matter might be used to add realism to the lessons being covered. (Furmanovsky, 1997).

Methodology

A. Study Purpose and Significance

Most people do not find teaching sentence construction to be a particularly pleasurable learning subject. Learning to write can be challenging because writing is a complicated form of communication. Studies on teaching sentence structure to learners are quite rare. Studies have been done on using technology to teach learners grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and context clues. However, the use of technology in teaching learners sentence construction has not received significant attention in research investigations.

B. Participants

Three ESL students from Tashkent's Webster University—two women and one man—were study participants. From 23 to 28 years old, they ranged. These individuals did not speak English as a first language, and their combined teaching experience ranged from 4 to 8 years. The students are going to receive a Master of Arts in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). They

provided instruction at beginner, low and high intermediate, and advanced levels in a variety of subjects (reading, writing, grammar). Student names were assumed identities.

C. Instrumentations

The researcher will create five language games to aid in educating learners about sentence patterns. The learners will be given access to the games that have been carefully created. Teaching ESL in the classroom involves a lot of games and enjoyable exercises. A fun technique to encourage pupils to integrate grammar and vocabulary is through games. Building linguistic proficiency is accelerated by these linkages. Both native and non-native English speakers can benefit from playing these ESL games to sharpen their language skills. Additionally, playing games in class improves interaction, boosts energy, boosts confidence, and helps to focus attention. Additionally, when participating in class activities like games, shy or reserved pupils start to speak up and use English. We're confident that our game area will be a helpful resource for you as you work to raise the English language proficiency of your students.

Kahoot: Kahoot is a well-liked option for teachers to design a game-based lesson. Multiple-choice tests can be used in the classroom to evaluate ESL students in a pleasant way across all subject areas. You may download Kahoot for free. You can find a mobile app and an online version of it on Google Play and the App Store, respectively.

Jeopardy: It is a fun game to play to test and assess knowledge. It is a typical game show on television where the host gives the solution and the contestants respond with a query. From one of the available categories, players select a certain number of points. The harder the question, the more points it has. Utilizing a whiteboard or projector, you can design your own game board, or you can discover several pre-made games utilizing websites like Jeopardy Labs. It has a "how to play ESL Jeopardy" page on its website to assist teachers in setting up their own board and comprehending the rules. The game show Jeopardy encourages language learners to use linguistic analysis, increase their vocabulary, and organize their responses as questions.

Quizlet: Quizlet is an excellent tool for teachers to design a range of flashcards, practice tests, interactive games, and evaluations for their students. There are several pre-made study sets on Quizlet, or you may make your own. Quizlet is available for free on the web and as an app for Apple and Android devices.

For the most engaging online drinking games, *Scavenger Hunts* are excellent. To begin, instruct players to retrieve each object one at a time. Drinking is required of shareholders who do not have the objects. The person who returns to the computer first may choose a different player to drink. automatically the last person to bring beverages back.

Playing *Bingo* online with coworkers is enjoyable. By sipping every time you check out a square, you may easily make the exercise into a drinking game. The winner is the first person to mark five consecutive squares and call "Bingo"!

Result

Initially, the chosen students were split into control and experimental groups at random. Sentence structuring principles were taught to the Control group along with sentence forms from the book. In order to teach sentence structures to the Experimental group, technology-enhanced language games were used. It was shown that students who learned sentence structures through technologically enhanced language games outperformed the control group in terms of accomplishment and could remember the learned structures for a longer period of time. It is believed that students who learn a foreign language through language games do so more effectively than those who receive instruction through more traditional means. The use of electronic tools in a classroom was demonstrated in various ways to three master students. For instance, Ms. Alice used the Internet, emails, Dropbox, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Microsoft Word in her classroom. Additionally, the instructor provided instruction on how to give students feedback and how to instruct utilizing technology games. Numerous feedback methods, including written and spoken feedback, direct and indirect input from instructor and students, and peer and teacher feedback, were also recorded in the results. Obviously,

using digital tools in modern classrooms is increasingly growing as it helps transform boring lessons into engaging (interactive) activities. After implementing digital tools in classrooms, enhanced learning and education can be clearly seen by providing a better framework.

Results of electronic gizmos' wizardry

Factors	Previous indication	Present indication
Motivation	40.5%	82%
Integration	55%	85%
Productivity/Efficiency	42.7%	79.4%
Vocabulary	58%	90%
Results of test	65%	92.6%

Discussion

Today's globe faces a wide range of issues that can be overcome thanks to the continuously evolving technology. Technology can have a beneficial impact on English learning that can enhance the whole experience. Students can have greater freedom and support to completely absorb the information as technology plays a larger role in today's world. Due to the greater effectiveness and decreased prices of online English learning, more students are making this decision. The relationship between technology and learning English is one of the main reasons more people choose online courses.

The broad shifts in worldwide communication are the main driver of technology use in education. By bringing the world together, technology creates many more chances. The ability to interact with people in a social situation is a crucial part of learning English. There is now a virtual community of learners available for students to interact with, ask questions of, or get leadership experience from by assisting others. For example, interactive whiteboards offer English learners a straightforward yet priceless approach to get access to useful materials or lectures. Instructors could bring up earlier material that is crucial to moving on to the next level. Technology-enhanced English instruction also boosts students' interest, which is another advantage.

Since rote learning techniques do not engage or challenge students, a traditional classroom environment is frequently unsuitable for learning. However, because of the variety of ways that knowledge may now be given thanks to technology, learning has undergone a complete transformation. Students learn more quickly when lessons use computer-based education, visual aids, and cutting-edge teaching resources. Traditional classroom instruction is severely constrained and is only possible while pupils are present. However, thanks to technology and the opportunity to learn English, students can now access necessary information at any time using devices like computers or mobile phones, for instance. This not only aids in the retention of the information but also provides useful exercise in the appropriate use of technological tools. Because of the invaluable abilities they have learned throughout the lessons, students prefer to combine technology and English learning. Software and online resources let students learn the topic far more quickly and develop valuable language skills. Technology excels at keeping students' attention while including them in the lecture. It is beneficial to highlight the fundamental concepts of language development, such as vocabulary, understanding, phonics, and general fluency.

Both inside and outside of the classroom, technology use has grown to be a critical component of learning. In most cases, technology is used in every language class. Language acquisition has been aided and enhanced by technology. The learning of languages is improved by the ability of teachers to modify classroom activities thanks to technology. As a tool for teachers to assist students in learning languages, technology is becoming more and more crucial. It would also be beneficial for other teachers in many ways to see seasoned ESL instructors with advanced degrees, such as a master's degree in TESOL. One can, for instance, learn how to use various teaching methods, strategies, and concepts in ESL classes by participating in the observation. These techniques can cover peer and group feedback, classroom discussion, group and pair work, technology implementation, and group and pair work. Overall, seeing seasoned teachers use these strategies inspires other teachers to do the same.

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