

The significance of Technology and its effects on English Language Learning

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Abstract: Technology is not excluded from the enormous changes that have occurred in all spheres of contemporary way of living. Technological developments have dramatically altered human life and correspondingly, people have made great steps in each of their respective fields. These dramatic changes have also had a great impact on English teaching and learning. Technology plays a crucial role in every human walk of life nowadays. It includes different websites, applications, networks and e-mails through the internet to search and collect information throughout the world. Nowadays, technology is essential for many modern tasks, like paying bills, purchasing items, applying for jobs, money transfers and other activities. Every organization depends on technological services. It provides genuine information for all sectors. The Educational sector is one of the major sectors in the world that uses technology. The majority of educational activities, including teaching and learning, employ technology. Innovative educational tools are made possible by technology to aid pupils and boost their abilities. In education, a teacher is a resourceful and creative person who enhances the learner's skills by using various technology. Technological knowledge is helpful for students to explore their skills and to face the competitive world. The Covid – 19 pandemics had a great impact on technology in India. After the covid -19 pandemic, people can raise knowledge of technology and technological instruments and approaches in the educational sector. The current study highlights the significance of technology in education, particularly when learning a language like English. It also discusses how various forms of technology can help students become more knowledgeable and also examines the benefits and drawbacks of using technology to learn the English language.

Keywords: Technology, e-resources, benefits, drawbacks

1) Introduction:

Technology is a branch of scientific knowledge. It plays a major role in changing the way people interact with one another. Technology works with the help of the Internet. The internet means data access through electronic devices such as computers, mobile phones, tablets and so on. Social media networks, e – mails, and other weblogs are a part of human lives nowadays. Early in 1990, the internet started to take over the world, and as a result, technology also became quite popular. It was very difficult for students to gather information about people, places and various sectors in the past, but it is now very simple to access information and provide the needed data for the public. Before the internet's widespread use, people relied on different books, newspapers and other materials to acquire or learn the language. As technology advances daily, more and more devices such as computers, mobile phones and other devices offer multiple languages for learners to access information. Since English is one of the common languages used on computers, this medium is crucial for students who are learning information online. The English language is an important means of exchanging various information among different communities. The English language is a vital medium for exchanging information among distinct communities. The Modern English language adds jargon vocabulary before it gives meaning to already existing words and terminology such as mouse, keyboard and so on. The learning process is always supported by technology. Technology changes the mindset and ways of thinking of the human beings, which has led to significant advancements in all subjects. There has been great progress made in all sectors of society with the help of technological advancement. Technological learning is easier and simpler for learners than traditional learning. Learners can show a lot of attention to the new methods of teaching.

2) Meaning and importance of technology:

Technology refers to all the methods, systems and devices that are used for all purposes in human lives in the world. It is a scientific concept that calls for the use of the right knowledge, competence and abilities. Technology provides more options for the teaching and learning process. The tradition of English language teaching and learning has undergone significant transformation with the astonishing arrival of technology. The English language is a universal language with a wide range of uses and distinctions from many other languages. Technology has greatly facilitated our lives and provided us with a wealth of amenities we never could have imagined. Today, everybody's life is linked with technology and technological services. Hence, it plays an important role in the development of the nation and the world. If a country's rate of development is slow, it is a sign that its technology is quite outdated. Although technology has revolutionized many aspects of national and international development, it has also had a negative impact on human health and the environment. Technology has improved people's quality of life while simultaneously bringing about radical changes. Learning a language is made easier for language learners by using technology. In order to inspire students at all levels is education. Computers give students access to a wealth of online knowledge, but they are no longer used in traditional lab settings. For informational purposes, students carry laptops, tablets and mobile phones. Mobile phones are portable gadgets that are easy for learners to learn everything rather than time and place. This says technologies are very beneficial for technology students to work independently.

3) Educational learning through technology: Every human being is constantly learning and it's crucial to advance people's cognitive abilities in all fields. Learning also provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate our knowledge of a certain field.

Learning through education gives students the knowledge they need to determine what is best for them and what is not, as well as paves the way for their future in the 21st century. Learning methods have altered as a result of technology. Technology and education changed teachers and students' mentalities.

Educational technology offers pupils convenient and straight forward methods of learning. Although it is more expensive when compared to traditional ways, it is easy to access. Technology is a vast ocean that offers information to everyone in every field. Not all learners are familiar with all apps and web technologies.

4) Technology in English language learning: English is a globalized language. It plays an important role in communicating with others throughout the world. English language learning is a challenging task for ESL and EFL learners because their mother tongue is different. So, they are not perfect in a globalized language. As a result, they struggle to speak English fluently. To improve their ability, they should learn the English language. Today's technology makes it very simple to learn the English language. A variety of apps, videos, online courses and other materials are well known for helping learners to enhance their speaking and pronunciation skills. The key concern here is how people can enhance their language abilities and how effectively they communicate with others. In order to communicate effectively, one must first learn appropriate vocabulary, sentence structures, pronunciation and grammar. So that others can easily understand their language. To develop learners' English language skills, students pay attention to YouTube videos, digital storytelling, e-books, motivational images and speaking partners.

4.1) YouTube/Online videos: Nowadays, as education becomes more digitalized, there are many educational uses for YouTube that have many advantages. Learners first acquire an internet connection to use these new learning platforms. After that, they can search for anything they need. YouTube is a visual tool that learners may use to better grasp their course equipment. It also offers a comment box where students can post fresh ideas and new learning concepts, which encourages open dialogue and discussion. YouTube provides access to a variety of online courses for learners. Videos can be uploaded by educators from across the globe. We can watch countless videos and clips on YouTube, and we have original conversations with students there. We can obtain high quality educational videos for free of cost and use brief documentary segments. It is a very powerful tool for e-learning.

4.2) Inspirational/motivational images: Images can be effective teaching aids when used as examples for a lesson or for learning topics outside the setting of a course, since people are drawn to them. Pictures as memories, unexpected sights might make us smile or cry, but there are those that we adore. A particular image can call our attention to a book or circumstance that we otherwise wouldn't read or pay attention to.

The brain is wired to process pictures in many online courses. We frequently pay attention to images and take screenshots of those images for further learning. Images convey the concept. Several pages of text can be summarized by one image. Every student's perspective on the same image is different, but content is important for that learning situation. Learners are improving their language skills and cognitive abilities to convert the image into text. Images encourage students to think for themselves. Posters, placards and other promotions provide clear, concise and understandable information.

Images are unprejudiced. But they can also teach and inspire. Therefore, we acknowledge them as a crucial part of online learning, not only as background or decoration.

4.3) E – Books: Technological education in classrooms has a favourable impact on the quality of education. E-books are beneficial for teachers and students from their respective points of view. Students from elementary level to university level can be introduced digital books. In the 21st century, Google and other online resources offer a variety of e-books in different languages. So, students are actively engaged in the learning process. This is the best educational reform that enables learners to learn better and faster because it provides immediate results for the learners. These e-books ensure that students never feel bored inside and outside the classroom.

- E-books carry easily anywhere and save them in your mobile or e-mail.
- E-books offer offline accessibility.
- It contains bookmark pages, chapters and multiple features.
- E-Dictionaries help learners to find out the meanings of words quickly.
- E-Dictionaries include translations of the mother tongue into English as well as from English to the mother tongue.
- Learners can adjust the font size, style, brightness and so on.
- It discovers the knowledge of the students.
- Online saves the printing costs for learners.
- E-books give them access to updated content.

4.4) Digital story telling: From basic to higher education, educators can employ digital story - telling to help students at all levels of learning to develop their oral communication skills. Digital story telling is a method that combines the media to enhance spoken language. It covers a wide range of topics is beyond the traditional story, history...so on. The use of technological media such as laptops, mobiles, computers and projectors assist teachers and students in telling stories. The narration may occasionally be overlaid with the background images or videos, depending on the situation.

One of the most effective ways to present the story with digital technology is through Augmented Reality. Digital story telling engages the mind and heart. It can be used to reinforce the subject, share personal experiences or present new information in a creative and engaging way.

The majority of students are becoming reluctant to voice their opinions in front of the media or on digital devices because everyone's voice quality is inappropriate on these devices. To combat these demanding intentions, teachers introduced storytelling to help the students interact with others more effectively.

4.5) Speaking partners: A speaking partner is necessary to test the learner's knowledge and enhance the conversation. If a person is not a native English speaker, they should read newspapers and watch English movies every day to improve their fluency. But it is not enough for learners to become a good speaker. Studying grammar won't automatically turn someone into a fluent English speaker.

Most of the time, we discover that using online tools to find discussion partners to enhance the English language. Otherwise, enrolling in structured programmes with regular hours is really helpful. If you select a speaking partner, they will provide feedback on your pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar to help you improve.

Speaking partners always encourage learners towards fluency and can push and challenge the learner throughout the process. Learning English vocabulary gradually increases learners' abilities. Learners who converse in English become aware of their errors and seek assistance from speaking partners for helpful and essential learning advice.

5) Benefits and drawbacks of Technology in education: Additionally, technological advancements have always had a significant impact on the educational system. With the rapid development of new technologies, learners are no longer able to prepare themselves for the challenges and demands of the real world through traditional education. Despite the fact that innovations have always had a significant impact on education. However, students will exercise caution when using current technologies in the classroom. Both sides contribute to the advancement of technology. There are several benefits and drawbacks of using technology in education.

5.1) Benefits:

- Technology makes information and data available indefinitely.
- Through the use of many sources, technology enhances the interaction between teachers and students during the teaching and learning process.
- Technology integration into education gives learners the chance to keep up with learning trends.
- It reduces the costs and boosts student performance.
- With the help of technology, learners take charge of their own learning.

5.2) Drawbacks:

- For young learners, the use of technology in the classroom leads to long -term issues.
- Technology diverts students' attention both within and outside of the classroom, which subsidizes learning.
- It reduces thinking capacity, problem solving skills and cognitive development.
- Direct peer interaction is very rare.
- The cost of maintaining modern technology is very high.
- There is a significant opportunity to cheat in examinations.
- With the use of technological devices, labour is reduced and individuals are at risk of losing their jobs.

6) Conclusion: After Covid-19 pandemic, different people have varying views about the use of technology in education. Technology influences both teaching and learning strategies. Technology has fundamentally altered the way we approach education. It helps students to develop their critical thinking skills and their ability to express and adhere to their original ideas. Technological advances access through the internet. The internet is a global network system which provides people a variety of information and communication facility by using the standardized communication protocols. It is essential to introduce to the learners because it permeates every industry. Technology provides countless information and data. Technological developments are coined both sides – positive and negative. Technology is incredibly straightforward to employ for those with excellent operational skills. Learners can use technology to complete various chores from anywhere. It provides both online and offline applications to enhance the individual's knowledge. Although there are many technological resources, only a few are highlighted in this paper that are most beneficial to them. Technology can help learners become better at self – learning. Students should upgrade themselves as new things emerge daily in order to keep up with the changes of technological advancements.

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