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THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract. Technology has become one of the most influential factors in modern education. It has transformed the process of teaching and learning English by providing learners with access to a wide range of digital resources and interactive tools. Students can now improve their language skills through online platforms, educational applications, virtual classrooms, and artificial intelligence-based technologies. This article examines the role of technology in English language learning, its advantages, challenges, and its impact on students' academic performance. The study also highlights how technology enhances communication, motivation, and independent learning among English language learners.

Keywords: technology, English language learning, digital education, online learning, language skills, artificial intelligence.

Introduction. In the twenty-first century, technology has become an essential component of education. Rapid technological development has changed traditional teaching methods and created new opportunities for both teachers and students. English, being an international language, is widely used in education, business, science, and communication. Therefore, learning English effectively has become a priority for many learners around the world.

Technology provides students with access to unlimited educational resources and enables them to learn beyond the classroom environment. Digital devices such as smartphones, tablets, and computers have made language learning more flexible and convenient. Students can practice English at any time and from any location. As a result, technology has significantly improved the quality of English language education and increased learner engagement.

Technology and Access to Learning Resources.

One of the most significant contributions of technology to English language learning is the availability of learning materials. In the past, students mainly relied on textbooks and classroom instruction. Today, learners can access thousands of online resources, including e-books, educational videos, podcasts, online dictionaries, and language-learning websites.

These resources help students improve all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. For example, learners can watch English videos to improve their listening skills and pronunciation. Online articles and digital books help develop reading comprehension and vocabulary knowledge. Additionally, grammar websites and educational applications provide interactive exercises that allow students to practice independently. The availability of online materials has made education more accessible and affordable. Students from different regions can access high-quality learning content without the need for expensive resources.

The Role of Mobile Applications in Language Learning.

Mobile applications have become popular tools for learning English. Applications such as vocabulary builders, pronunciation trainers, and grammar practice platforms help learners study efficiently. These applications provide personalized learning experiences and allow students to track their progress.

Many language-learning applications use gamification techniques, including points, badges, and rewards, to increase learner motivation. As a result, students are more likely to remain engaged and continue practicing regularly. Mobile learning also enables students to utilize their free time productively by studying while traveling or waiting. Furthermore, mobile applications support self-

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directed learning. Students can focus on their weaknesses and learn at their own pace without feeling pressure from others.

Technology and Communication Skills

Technology has created new opportunities for communication in English. Through video conferencing platforms, social media, and online discussion forums, students can interact with people from different countries. Such interactions provide authentic language practice and help learners gain confidence in speaking English.

Online communication allows learners to use English in real-life situations. They can exchange ideas, participate in discussions, and collaborate on projects with international partners. This exposure improves fluency and develops intercultural communication skills.Teachers also benefit from communication technologies. Virtual classrooms enable instructors to conduct lessons remotely and maintain interaction with students regardless of geographical distance.

Artificial Intelligence in English Language Learning

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has recently become an important tool in language education. AI-powered applications can provide instant feedback on grammar, pronunciation, and writing. These technologies analyze learners' performance and offer personalized recommendations for improvement.Chatbots and virtual assistants allow students to practice conversations in English without fear of making mistakes. AI-based systems can identify common errors and help learners improve their language proficiency more effectively.As artificial intelligence continues to develop, it is expected to play an even greater role in supporting language learning and personalized education.

Challenges of Using Technology

Despite its numerous advantages, technology also presents certain challenges. One of the main concerns is distraction. Students may spend excessive time on social media or entertainment instead of focusing on educational activities.

Another challenge is unequal access to technology. Not all students have reliable internet connections or modern digital devices. This digital divide may create educational inequalities among learners.

In addition, excessive dependence on technology may reduce face-to-face communication and critical thinking skills. Therefore, technology should be used as a supportive tool rather than a complete replacement for traditional teaching methods.

Recommendations. To maximize the benefits of technology in English language learning, educational institutions should provide training for both teachers and students. Schools and universities should invest in digital infrastructure and ensure equal access to technological resources.Teachers should integrate technology into lessons in meaningful ways and encourage students to use digital tools responsibly. Learners should develop digital literacy skills and balance online learning with traditional study methods.

Conclusion. Technology has transformed English language learning by making education more accessible, interactive, and effective. Digital resources, mobile applications, online communication platforms, and artificial intelligence have created new opportunities for learners worldwide. Although technology presents certain challenges, its advantages greatly outweigh its limitations when used appropriately. Therefore, technology should continue to be integrated into English language education to help students develop their language skills and succeed in an increasingly digital world.

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