



THE PROFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF IMPLEMENTING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING.

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Abstract: *In today's fast-paced world, state-of-the-art technologies play a crucial role in education, and both teaching and learning foreign languages are no exception. Digital literacy means the ability to use modern technologies and resources in an effective way, that is playing a vital role in a language instruction. Whereas, embodying digital competence in learning languages provides various benefits, it also offers some challenges for learners and teachers of EFL. This article reviews the main advantages and disadvantages of incorporating digital literacy skills into language education.*

Key words: *modern technologies, digital literacy, benefits, challenges, ICT, digital distractions, digital addiction, EFL.*

Introduction: In recent years, learning foreign languages has become tremendously popular among all ages. The main reasons of growing interest in language learning are having a chance to communicate with different people all over the world and gaining information about their culture; getting a prosperous job; and travelling around the world without any language barriers.

Moreover, there is no doubt that all of us have an opportunity to use modern gadgets and the internet for many various things like for online-shopping, surfing on the social media, listening to music, watching films or getting in touch with friends or relatives who are far from us. Additionally, with the introduction of advanced technologies, teachers now are able to make their lessons more effective and interesting, while students, sitting at home, have an access to a huge number of information and online lectures by professional teachers. Undoubtedly, as every coin has two sides, using innovative technologies too often has drawbacks as well.

Advantages for EFL teachers:

- **The enlargement of teaching resources:** Thanks to technologies, EFL teachers have a full access to a wide range of e-resources like language learning apps, different materials, multimedia, and online textbooks. In comparison with past decades, using innovative methods with advanced technologies, nowadays, teachers improve the quality of instructional content that they provide for students.

- **It saves time spent on paperwork:** Unfortunately, teachers are responsible for not only educating students, but also spending a great amount of time on filling out different documents such as lesson plans, attendance and administrative tasks. Online platforms, learning management systems and digital portfolios can give an



opportunity for teachers to contribute more time and attention for teaching process that increases overall efficiency in teaching English.

•It is useful for improvement of students' engagement and motivation: Incorporating digital tools and resources into language teaching can considerably enhance learners' participation and interest. Multimedia, interactive games, online quizzes, advanced whiteboards and virtual reality simulations can allure students' attention and make language learning more effective and interesting. The best example of digital quizzes that can be used effectively in language learning process is Kahoot (www.kahoot.com). 'It is a game-based classroom response system played by the whole group in real time as it is the perfect tool to engage students with a new topic' says Lolayeva G.G (2022) [1].

Advantages for FL learners: According to Becton Loveless (2024), 'When combining digital and traditional literacies, not only do students learn how to read and write, but they also learn how to expand their communication, language and media skills.' [2]. There is no doubt that integrating digital literacy into language learning process, learners can enhance language skills development, cultural competence and global communication skills in a correct way. The main benefits of implementing digital literacy into the English language learning are listed below:

•Accessibility: Advanced technologies provide learners with access to a vast array of resources and digital tools. For example, every learner has an opportunity to watch English movies online, which plays an important role in EFL. The main reason why watching films or talk-shows is becoming popular among EFL learners is that it is really helpful to enhance learner's listening and speaking skills. Besides, students can listen to native speakers and shadow their speech in order to expand vocabulary and fix their accent. In addition, thanks to language learning apps and online platforms, students have a chance to practice more with other learners globally.

•Flexibility and convenience: Electronical devices such as laptops, mobile phones and headphones allow learners to study anywhere and anytime, which is really comfortable. They can be used for getting knowledge and broadening horizon by learners who follow hectic lifestyle. Moreover, students have an access to online classrooms and lectures held by highly qualified teachers from all over the world.

•Increased interaction and support: Modern technologies ameliorate collaboration among EFL learners and teachers globally with the help of online meetings, forums, and social networking platforms. In addition, participating in e-projects, exchanging feedback and knowledge, and joining group activities can improve communication skills, interest in cultural diversity, and support between students and tutors from different countries.

Challenges of implementing digital literacy skills in learning and teaching foreign languages: Although, ICT plays an important role in education, especially in learning and teaching foreign languages, there are paramount issues caused by implementation of ICT in education. These challenges and issues are discussed below:



• Unstable access and lack of tools in the classroom: One of the most major issues of incorporating ICT into the classroom is the limitation of access and digital tools. Due to geographical location or financial resources, not all learners have a stable and equal access to digital resources which results in not being able to participate in online sessions or completing tasks on e-platforms on time. Furthermore, there is scarcity of advanced technologies in the classrooms, which means that not all teachers and students have laptops, projectors, and printers, as the cost of innovative tools is high. According to Toprakci's study (2006), "The low numbers of computers, oldness or slowness of ICT systems, and scarcity of educational software in the school were barriers to the successful ICT implementation in Turkish schools." [3]. It happens not only in Turkish schools, but also in most Asian and European countries, where the schools and institutions have no opportunity to utilize state-of-the-art technologies in the classroom.

• Learners are becoming addicted to gadgets: The modernization of digital technologies has revolutionized the way students learn, communicate and live. Whereas, advanced gadgets offer numerous benefits in language learning, there is a rising concern about students' high reliance on technologies. The consequences of technology addiction among students have detrimental effects on their academic performance and well-being. Nowadays, students prefer 'copying and pasting' ready answers to complete a task rather than seeking out information in the books or encyclopedias. But, in fact, reading a book in English helps students learn new vocabulary, improve writing skills and memory. Moreover, excessive screen time contributes to health problems like anxiety, depression, and sleep disturbance which leads to less productivity and concentration on studies. Additionally, overreliance on translation tools and language learning apps prevents students to improve their language learning skills and critical thinking.

• Digital disturbance: This issue is also becoming a distraction that hinders students' progress and engagement in the learning process. While studying or practicing a new language students may waste a major amount of time on browsing the internet, checking social media or engaging in other video games. A great number of distractions like messages from social media and notifications limits learners' attention and focus during the lesson or language learning process. Hence, it may cause passive participation of learners during the lessons.

Conclusion:

To conclude, in our rapidly changing world, it is impossible to imagine not only life but also education without latest technologies. Definitely, the implementation of digital literacy skills provides a myriad of benefits, involving increased participation and interest; enlarged access to resources and data; and enhanced collaboration. However, it may also cause some challenges related to poor access, rising rate of digital addiction and distraction which should be addressed in order to integrate technologies successfully and effectively into EFL learning and teaching.



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