

TEACHING ENGLISH THROUGH TECHNOLOGY: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

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Abstract: *As we forge ahead into a new era marked by technological dominance, the educational landscape has also significantly evolved with an increasing exploitation of technology, particularly within the realm of teaching English as a secondary language. The purpose of this composition is to delve into both the merits and demerits harboured by this new-age approach of fusing technology into the scaffold of English language pedagogy. Of the many boons accompanying this method, a notable few include a heightened sense of engagement from students, a customizable learning experience and the flexibility of utilizing a vast toolkit of resources. However, scrutiny will also be cast on issues that might stem from this integration, mainly the burgeoning dependency on technology, diminished personal communication and potential hurdles in achieving universal access. Our goal remains to unveil integral insight that would aid teachers, policymakers and sector professionals to cultivate an optimal blend of technology and traditional methodologies inside English language classrooms.*

Keywords: *ESP Teaching, Digital Tech, Pros and Cons, Tailored Instruction, Student Engagement, Limitless resources, Accessibility Hurdles.*

INTRODUCTION

As is evident, technological advancements are trotting at a breakneck speed in the current era, the impact of which is inevitably permeating educational methodologies in every nook and corner. Traditional modes of teaching are gradually being overshadowed by their digital counterparts, with the English language teaching spectrum witnessing a dynamic transformation. The primary aim of this article lies in exploring a critical analysis and assessment of the potential credit and discredit associated with the introduction of technology in English language teaching. Taking into account how technology intersects with this niche of education, one must be aware of the multifariousness of its nature. Consequently, educators will be well positioned to unlock the richness of its opportunities and also ratify strategies to counter its bottlenecks.

In our rapidly evolving digital age, the integration of technology into education has become increasingly prominent, particularly in the teaching of languages such as English. The use of technology in English language instruction offers both benefits and challenges that educators must navigate.

I. Unearthing the Advantages of English Language Learning Aided by Technology

A. **Engagement Enhancement:** The introduction of technology into the English language learning realm brings about immersive and interactive experiences – a surefire strategy to kindle and maintain heightened levels of student involvement. Technology can make language learning more interactive and engaging for students. Through multimedia resources, gamified learning platforms, and interactive applications, students can develop their English skills in a dynamic and stimulating environment.

B. **Personal Learning Pathways:** Bridging technology and English language learning implies exploiting adaptive digital resources and learning platforms, also ensuring the gradual fruition of tailored learning. This circumvents 'One size fits all' dictum, rebelliously trdrawing-baseeding further beyond generic language learning lessons catering to the idiosyncratic learning styles and predilections. Technology enables teachers to personalize instruction based on students' needs and abilities. Adaptive learning platforms can provide targeted exercises, immediate feedback, and progress tracking, facilitating a more tailored and efficient learning experience.

C. **Access to Diverse Resources:** The environment in which students learn is enhanced greatly by technology that presents them with authentic materials, multimedia and the use of Apps in language acquisition. Technology provides teachers and students with access to a wealth of online resources such as educational websites, language learning apps, and virtual libraries. This allows for a diverse range of materials to support language acquisition, catering to individual learning styles and preferences.

D. **Collaborative Learning:** Projects, discussions, feedback and sharing are greatly facilitated by online platforms and tools that promote communication and team works of the learners.

E. **Flexibility and Convenience:** Flexibility and accessibility are the features of elearning platforms and digital resources which give learners an opportunity to study any time and in any place suitable to them.

II. Challenges posed by using technology to teach English.

A. **Over-Reliance on Technology:** Heavy reliance on technology can result in unnatural language and hamper speech fluency. One of the major challenges of integrating technology in English language teaching is the digital divide. Not all students may have equal access to devices or reliable internet connection, creating disparities in learning opportunities and hindering the effectiveness of online instruction.

B. **Lack of Face-to-Face Interaction:** Online learning environment lacks face to face communication, which can result into problems with learning language issues that are socially and interactional.

C. **Accessibility Issues:** With socioeconomic disparity, digital divide may restrict access to technology, as well as other resources, limiting equal English language education. Integrating technology into the classroom can be fraught with technical challenges, such as software glitches, connectivity issues, or incompatible devices. These disruptions can disrupt the flow of the lesson and impede learning progress.

D. **Distractions and Information Overload:** Excessive availability of digital distraction in addition to information overload may take away learners' attention for directed language

learning and understanding. The use of technology in language learning can sometimes lead to distractions, especially with the temptation of social media, games, and other non-educational content. Additionally, overreliance on technology may diminish students' ability to develop essential communication skills and critical thinking.

It is without a doubt that technology into English teaching has certainly transformed in to an electronic world which gives power to teachers and learners at their disposal. Technology is indeed an indispensable tool in modern language teaching as it brings new gains for the learners such as increased engagement, individualized instructions, and availability of numerous sources. Nonetheless, there are downsides worth discussing like dependence on technology, lack of personal contact among students and teachers and the problem of internet connection availability. Enabling teachers identify the dynamics of technological integration will help them to plan for advantageous but minimal short term adverse effects.

In conclusion, while teaching English through technology offers numerous advantages in enhancing engagement, providing access to resources, and enabling personalized learning, educators must also be mindful of the potential disadvantages such as the digital divide, distractions, and technical issues. By leveraging technology effectively and thoughtfully, teachers can harness its power to create a more dynamic and effective English language learning environment for students.

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