



APPLICATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THE PROCESS OF LANGUAGE LEARNING AND ITS BENEFITS

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Abstract: This article analyses employing new means of technology to language learning procedures, and examines the alternative impacts of this innovative methods on learners.

Key words: Edtech, computer based language activities, technological tools, educational platforms.

Nowadays, bilingualism and multilingualism have become the key features of successful social intercourse and career prospects. As there is an ever increasing worldwide demand for the scholars of foreign languages, majority people, regardless of the relevance of their specialty to linguistics, have an earnest wish to be able to speak foreign languages. According to the 2018 statistics presented in Languages.org, 43% of world population is bilingual, while another 13% can speak three languages.

The time and effort required to master a new language is generally a great concern for some people. However, there are plethora of methods, approaches and teaching concepts of language learning, which makes the process straightforward for learners. Besides, just like the other fields, technological advancements had already stepped into the learning concept, creating a unique phenomenon of Edtech. Combined use of computer, software programs, innovative gadgets and traditional teaching patterns form the educational technology, and applying it to the learning procedure had already been proven efficient and comprehensible.

As one of the experienced educators David Warlick expressed, “we need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher’s hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time”, technology has become the predominant factor of learning progression, and improvement of language awareness.

According to the Social Science Research Network, 65% of human population are visual learners [www.forbes.com], which means that they process integral part of information based on their sense of sight. Computer based language activities, and programs contain a wide variety of visual materials, therefore, if they are



engaged upon learning procedure, learners typically demonstrate better performance. [1.p.312-315]

It is extremely crucial to be focused on the subject while learning, and variety of technological tools provide user-friendly, creative activities to draw attention. For example, “Kahoot!” is a popular game-based learning platform, and is best to utilize for evaluating students’ knowledge through multiple choice, true-false questions and quizzes in or out of class. [3.] Users are even able to create challenges and leagues, which encourages learners to perform proactively and to learn with higher potential. “Floop” is another efficient website, where learners can upload their works, and they are assessed by mentors and their peers. The website is especially facilitative for independent language learners who want their language capacity to be checked by professionals. Alongside, there are automatic speech recognition (ASR) and pronunciation programs that compares learners’ pronunciation acoustically with original pronunciation of the language, and provides feedback. [2.p. 73-74] Such programs give learners an opportunity to practice simulated dialogue with computer-based agents, and to check and improve their speaking skills individually. When a software CandleTalk was put to experience with ASR between 49 ESL learners in Taiwan, their oral performance turned out to be advanced after the studies, by showing better results in posttests compared to the results of pretests. [2.p. 81]

To come to the point of independent language learners, they are also the “production” of Edtechs. Today every people have an unlimited access to books, textbooks and other necessary materials available for public use, even learners are capable of utilizing online dictionaries. There are dozens of user-friendly educational platforms, such as Duolingo, Busuu, Memrise and Babbel which aim at teaching languages through interactive methods, exciting games and challenges. Duolingo allows its users to make study plans, with which learners can study by following a timeline. The platform has a leaderboard that shows the progression of all users, as well as their achievements, and it motivates users to be as active as possible so that they are at the list of top 10 learners. It gives grammatical explanation and tips to the topic, and encourages daily practice by expiring the completed sessions of the users who have been inactive during the whole day. Duolingo considers learner’s age, and aims of learning, language preferences, and there is no limit for courses, which means that users can take as many language courses as they want simultaneously. Such means of Edtechs make the learning process convenient, joyful activity and avoid learners from extra expenses and obligations, as independent learning is actually empowering and liberating.



It is inevitable that there would be any fields left where technology didn't approach. Instead, it will proceed advancing, and both mentors and learners should adapt to new concept of giving and receiving education, which involves Edtechs. In collaborative learning, teachers need to be equipped with systematic and advanced technological means. [4.p. 169] There cannot be any age limit to utilize Edtechs, as there are the ones specialized for both children, and older learners.

Besides, the necessity of language awareness will be growing gradually as well, and technology is vital to provide learners with qualitative education. There is no doubt that appropriate use of modern means of technological tools attracts larger quantity of learners by promoting language learning between both old and young generations, supporting independent learning and supplying users with unlimited resources. Above all, it makes learning languages delightful and relatively straightforward process.

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