

THE ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract: The article is about educational technology, the aim of which is to facilitate and improve the quality of human learning. It is concerned with achieving the goals – of maintaining internal discipline, adapting to its environment, for solving the varied problems of education successfully.

Globalization and technological change processes that have accelerated in tandem over the past years have created a new global economy – powered by technology, fueled by information and driven by knowledge. Educational technology can be regarded, as the application of systematic knowledge about learning and instruction to teaching and training with the aim of improving their quality and efficiency. For this reason, a wide range of presentation, control and feedback devices may be employed such as teaching machines, stimulators and computers. It should, however, be emphasized that techniques such as critical path analysis, curriculum development methods and task analysis are essential components as well as the hardware system.

In fact, there are two meanings attached to the definition of the term “educational technology”. One meaning refers to the detailed application of psychology of learning to practical teaching problems, while second meaning refers to the application of engineering principles in the development of electromechanical equipment of such devices – as pictures, tape recorders and computers. These two meanings of educational technology interact in the design and use of equipment to provide control over the learning situation, a rich array of stimulus materials and interaction between responses of the learner and the presentation of instructional material.

The evolution of technology has in fact ushered in a kind of revolution in our occupational, social and educational world. But it seems a little awkward to observe that whereas the contribution of some kind of technology is visibly felt in respect of the operation of our hospitals, factories, farms and offices, our classrooms have remained a unique example of backwardness by remaining insensitive to the technological inputs and their influences.

In brief, it may then be said that the entire principle of educational technology lies in the:

1. Use of a broad range of resources;
2. Emphasis on individualized learning;
3. Emphasis on systems approach to education.

By taking into consideration the usefulness of educational technology in all branches of education, one dare not deny the vastness of its scope. It modifies the learner's environment through the various techniques of presentation, arrangement of learning activities and organization of physical surroundings. The very purpose of educational technology is to facilitate and improve the quality of human learning. It is concerned with achieving the goals – of maintaining internal discipline, adapting to its environment. For solving the varied problems of education successfully, educational technology consisting of various media of mass communication, suitable child learning processes, and modern testing and evaluation techniques are essential.

The purpose of educational technology is to improve the quality of human learning. The effectiveness of educational technology depends on:

1. Ability to achieve goals;
2. To maintain itself internally;
3. To adapt to its environment.

Educational technology is concerned with the disciplined and systematic approach to education and training. Technology includes:

1. Preparing pupils for learning experience;
2. Reinforcing their values while pupils are sharing the experience;
3. Relating the experience with the lesson and thus stimulating further learning

However, the factors responsible for the progress of educational technology also cannot be overlooked. The factors causing the progress of educational technology are:

1. Student flood due to population explosion;
2. Acute resource scarcities;
3. Rising costs;
4. Unsuitability of output.

Current and future foreign language educators must learn to effectively and meaningfully merge technology with instructional practices and activities. This responsibility necessitates a thorough and realistic understanding of the various functions, uses, strengths, and limitations of technology in education settings. Foreign language became an integral component of professional training of any specialist. The high school course is professionally oriented and aimed at training students to intercultural professionally oriented communication. Foreign language provides the decision of the problems of a real professional training.

Modern language teaching and learning technology includes but is not limited to language labs, online learning platforms, digitalization, multimedia devices, mobile phones, learning apps, flashcards, audio/visual multimedia content, EdTech solutions, and social media which can facilitate faster and more comprehensive language

progression. For example, the application of multimedia content in class could integrate print texts, video, learning games, and the internet to familiarize students with language vocabulary and structure or let them practice pronunciation and speaking with native speakers.

Technology in language learning supports students as following ways:

1. Wider exposure to the target language and cultural contexts

Technology increases the students' opportunity for authentic interaction with native speakers and other language learners at various levels within or outside the classroom. Practice leads to perfection and technology-rich language learning makes it possible.

2. Higher motivation and attention during the language course

Transforming from passive recipients to active learners, students might feel very excited about language learning and are motivated to practice more, using devices with which they can practice a language through features such as voice recognition and interactive multimedia exercises, etc.

3. Flexible learning

Much more freedom is given to students within the classroom to decide how they approach the language and choose when and where to learn outside the classroom. Self-decision making and individual responsibility-taking stimulate more profound and enriching linguistic immersion.

4. Adaptive learning

Technology has made it possible to create adaptive learning systems that can track a student's progress and adjust lessons accordingly. This helps provide a more tailored learning experience, making it easier for students to learn at their pace and focus on areas they need improvement in.

Educational technology tools support teachers, too like:

1. Creates a better learning environment

In a technology-driven learning environment, flexible classroom spaces where connected devices, audiovisual tools, and purposeful furniture are integrated facilitate positive engagement of students and the mix of independent, small-group, and whole-class learning that is now viewed as essential to student success

2. Increases the possibility of a much wider range of language teaching methods and resources

Compared with traditional language teaching methods that could make students passive and bored, modern language teaching strategies primarily utilize multimedia, communicative language teaching approaches, various available resources, and educational games giving students opportunities to meaningfully increase their exposure to the target language and thus make their own knowledge.

Language teachers can use a wide range of digital resources, such as e-books, audio files, videos, and online articles, to supplement their teaching materials. These resources offer increased flexibility and can be easily updated, making them a valuable tool in language teaching.

3. Connects the classroom with the real world

New technology in the language classroom such as videos, images, and software solutions empower teachers to incorporate the larger real world into the classroom. Turning the theories into practical experiences motivates students to practice and be deeply immersed in second language learning.

4. Saves time in lesson planning and organization

Technology provides tools and platforms that help teachers plan, organize, and share their lessons more efficiently.

5. Expands the opportunities for continuous professional development

Online courses, instructional videos, webinars, and e-conferences provide opportunities for language teachers to continue their education and develop new skills related to educational technology and language teaching pedagogy.

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