



THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS TO IMPROVE SPEECH COMPETENCES IN THE CONTEXT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Huge improvements in information and communication technologies are leading to the rapid change of our world. As the Earth becomes smaller like a little universe because of globalization, communication through the world becomes more accessible. Modern technologies are affecting all aspects of our life and education is obviously one of those rapid changing spheres. The exponential growth of technology usage in education has a great impact on its further development and has raised the significance of the research on the importance of educational technology. This article aims to explore various benefits of the educational technology usage in foreign language teaching process. The author reveals advantages a number of technological tools which have been widely on the usage by foreign language instructors and language learners. The focus is mostly devoted to describing educational technologies and recent researches for investigating and understanding technology applications in complex real-life settings.

KEYWORDS: Educational technology, Technology and learning; Impact of technology on foreign language teaching, Moodle, Zoom, White board,

DISCUSSION

Looking at the daily usage of technology, it is obvious that technology has already become inseparable part of our life. Technology enables us to communicate with whoever we want, wherever we go and also improves our life in many ways, from daily basis to education. Specifically, Technology can assist in the language learning process and there are so many advantages of using technology in foreign language teaching process.

To start, it is better to define educational technology as a term and give information about its benefits on education, particularly on foreign language teaching process. Accordingly to Wikipedia "Educational technology (commonly abbreviated as EduTech, or EdTech) is the combined use of computer hardware, software, and educational theory and practice to facilitate learning". **Educational technology** is a term used to describe a wide array of teaching-and-learning-related software and hardware that's increasingly being used in college and university classrooms. The ultimate goal of educational technology, also referred to as Ed Tech, is to enable an improved learning environment, which in turn is meant to boost student outcomes. It

has also been proven to increase student engagement and participation in class.

Educational technology can be defined differently by different scholars. The recent research on educational technology by Ross and Morrison reveals that technology can be defined with three general domains:

Technology as a Tutor. The oldest and most-researched application of educational technology is computer-assisted instruction. Modern CAI programs provide tutorial lessons and drill-and-practice exercises adapted to students' needs. Graphics and animation make the materials more engaging and interesting than textbooks and workbooks.

Technology as a Teaching Aid. Another valuable role of technology is increasing teachers' effectiveness in organizing and presenting lessons. For example, according to the Chambers the Reading Reels program, developed by the Success for All Foundation embeds strategically selected video segments and interactive question-and-answer exercises in daily lessons

Technology as a Learning Tool Viewed from these perspectives, proficiency in using technology for such contemporary tasks as searching the Internet,



creating graphs and illustrations, and communicating through multimedia presentations has become an essential educational outcome, much like being proficient in reading and mathematics.

EFL teachers must be aware of how to use educational technology and its potentials to the quality and improvements of education. Educational technologies can mostly be used by teachers when:

- They are structuring the task for their classes; (In this process it helps with how to do a task)
- They are looking for the sources; (it helps teachers find information needed)
- They are presenting new knowledge; (it provides alternate forms of knowledge representation)

Ross and Morrison suggested that using computers or other forms of technology can give students practice on core content and skills while the teacher can work with others, conduct assessments, or perform other tasks. According to Kronholz through the use of educational technology, education is able to be individualized for each student allowing for better differentiation and allowing students to work for mastery at their own pace

There are countless of educational technologies in today's world to use in any aspects of education such as audio and video materials, computers, tablets and mobile devices, collaborative and social learning devices, whiteboards and virtual classrooms etc.

There are several technologies which can be used widely in the EFL classroom. In the period of quarantine all traditional lessons have been turned to online form since then educators have been working in online platforms, for instance, the university which I am currently working have been using platform Moodle.

Moodle is a learning platform designed to provide educators, administrators and learners with a single robust, secure and integrated system to create personalized learning environments. The most useful benefits of Moodle is that one can set it up and administer it in self-service mode, create and teach courses, students are able to log into the course and learn, additionally it provides countless features that anyone would use over time.

Socrative. It is one of the best platforms that supports education without specifying specific learning objectives (<http://www.socrative.com>). It can provide a general-purpose platform enabling formative assessment using any kind of web-enabled device. Any kind of foreign language instructor, teacher or mentor can easily create their own space to teach learners by using enormous features of Socrative teacher and Socrative student app for free of charge.

Zoom. It is apparent that Zoom is the most popular app for online classes since it can provide a bunch of opportunities like sharing presentation,

audio and video files as well as demonstrating the monitor. One can also record the screen and see the recordings missed.

Online whiteboard. As an English teacher there is a big opportunity to use **online whiteboard** that allows the user explain any kind of concept. By the help of this amazing tool, one can create explainer videos and share them with their students. Additionally, teachers can easily create beautiful presentations by using audio with their own voice, pdf files, graphics, and ready-made clipart.

Turning to the benefits of educational technologies to foreign language teaching and learning process, we can initially report that students financially access to education while e-books, including workbooks, dictionaries, podcasts grammar applications and other types of language teaching applications are more affordable than their paper versions. Secondly, modern educational technologies can provide big opportunities of distance learning for non-full-time students, particularly in continuing education.

To conclude we can say, young generations are becoming increasingly advanced users of technology and it is impossible for them to imagine life without the internet. For that reason, educational technologies should be implemented in foreign language classrooms since it is really helpful to improve students' ability, their understandings of the content, linguistic skills, with the help of major features and a multitude of resources on the internet or apps which can be used in individual or group work. It assists students to advance and enhance what they can learn.

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