

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Foreign language teaching has revolutionized by the advancement of technology and giving many opportunities to improve learning efficiency and engagement, accessibility as well. This article investigates the impact of innovative technologies on teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL). It highlights various technological tools, including mobile applications, online platforms, and virtual reality, that enhance language learning experiences. The findings demonstrate that these technologies improve student engagement, facilitate personalized learning, and support collaborative practices. Recommendations for integrating these technologies into EFL teaching are discussed.

Key words: *Foreign language learning, technology, AL, Virtual reality, adaptive learning, Tech-Enhanced Classroom, cultural context, real world application.*

INTRODUCTION

Technology should serve as a support system for educators rather than a replacement. For language teachers, digital tools can transform student engagement while also enhancing lesson planning and resource management. Adopt computer-assisted learning, web-based learning, virtual laboratories, case studies, group discussions, brainstorming, audiovisual presentations, assignments, seminars, quizzes, and project work assignments. Faculty prepares worksheets, manuals, and audiovisual aids. Students receive computer literacy and internet skills materials. A mixed-model approach combines satellite teleconferencing and hands-on activity sessions. Innovative assessment approaches like presentations, posters, dioramas, and project fairs are suggested (Natarajan M., 2005).

The country has developed new methods and requirements for foreign language teaching, following the European Framework for Assessment of Knowledge and

Skills of Foreign Language Teachers (CEFR). Textbooks and new information and communication technologies are being used in classrooms, catering to the growing demand for learning a foreign language. Educational technology aims to improve education quality and effectiveness (Qosimova D., 2021).

Cloud technology allows teachers to efficiently organize and store lesson materials in an online repository, making resources easily accessible from any location. These materials can be shared with students and colleagues via learning management systems, with due dates set through digital calendars. Additionally, technology simplifies student material management and automates grading, enabling teachers to provide instant feedback and reducing the administrative burden of teaching. In order to choose the optimal teaching method according to the level of knowledge and needs of students, it is important for a modern teacher to know special teaching techniques and methods, to use the latest methods of teaching a foreign language (Veremyuk, 2002). Technology also plays a crucial role in boosting student engagement and accommodating different learning styles, which is particularly important in language learning due to varying student abilities. For example, during listening exercises, students can adjust the playback speed of audio or enlarge text on the screen, allowing for a personalized learning experience. These digital adaptations make lessons more interactive and cater to individual needs. However, the hybrid teaching model enhances students' engagement, improves their soft skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, and computer skills, while also enhancing faculty effectiveness and encouraging out-of-class learning (Subramani, 2018).

Furthermore, technology supports more flexible teaching methods, giving students greater control over their learning. Through online resources and cloud-based tools, learners can decide when, where, and how they engage with the language, making language acquisition more adaptable to their personal schedules and preferences.

More broadly, incorporating technology into language education enhances the overall learning experience. Digital tools allow students to explore cultural aspects of a language, interact with native speakers, and connect with other learners globally. This immersive approach helps them progress more effectively toward fluency.

METHODOLOGY.

A comprehensive literature review was conducted, focusing on recent studies and reports related to technology in EFL teaching. Data were gathered from academic journals, educational technology publications, and case studies that highlight effective technological practices in language education. Qualitative analyses of teacher and student experiences with these technologies were also included.

RESULT. Key Technologies: *Language Learning Apps:* Platforms that integrate structured lessons with instant feedback to help learners improve vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar.

AI-based Tools: Tools like Google Translate, Chatbots, and AI-powered tutoring systems adapt to a student's needs and provide real-time corrections.

Virtual Reality (VR): VR immerses learners in real-life scenarios where they can practice their language skills in a more authentic and contextual environment.

Innovative technologies offer a variety of benefits that traditional teaching methods struggle to match.

The main advantages include:

- *Personalized Learning:* AI-driven programs can adapt lessons to suit the learner's pace and proficiency level, offering a personalized language learning experience.

- *Accessibility and Flexibility:* Online language programs are available 24/7, making language learning more accessible, especially for people in remote or underserved areas.

- *Engagement and Motivation:* Interactive exercises, gamification, and multimedia content engage students and motivate them to continue learning.

- *Real-world Applications:* VR and other immersive technologies simulate real-life situations, enhancing learners' ability to communicate in authentic settings.

Challenges.

Despite the numerous benefits, the integration of technology in language teaching also comes with challenges, such as:

- *Technical Issues:* Internet connectivity, access to devices, and compatibility issues can limit the effectiveness of digital tools.

- *Teacher Training:* Not all educators are adequately trained to use these technologies effectively. Professional development is crucial for teachers to incorporate technology into their teaching methods.

- *Over-reliance on Technology:* While technology can complement traditional methods, over-reliance on it may reduce face-to-face interactions and limit the development of conversational skills.

Technology is a powerful tool for language learning, but it should complement rather than replace human instruction. A well-balanced approach helps students develop both linguistic skills and cultural awareness. Teachers play a crucial role in guiding learners, facilitating real conversations, and adapting digital tools to meet individual needs.

The Teacher's Role in a Tech-Enhanced Classroom

While AI, apps, and virtual reality enhance learning, teachers provide unique value in several key. Encouragement and Feedback: Teachers motivate students, offer support, and provide constructive corrections.

- Cultural Context: Language is deeply connected to culture, and teachers explain expressions, gestures, and social customs.

- Engaging Activities: Group discussions, role-playing, and peer interactions help build fluency and confidence.

- Integrating Technology with Traditional Teaching

- To maximize learning, technology should support rather than replace traditional teaching methods.

Effective approaches include:

- Flipped Classrooms: Students use apps or videos to learn new concepts before class, then apply them through discussions.

- AI with Teacher Oversight: AI tools assist with pronunciation, but teachers refine and correct errors within context.

- Blended Learning: A mix of digital resources and in-person instruction ensures flexibility while maintaining human interaction.

Challenges in Balancing Technology and Teaching

- Overdependence on AI: Relying too much on digital tools can reduce independent thinking and real-world communication skills.

- Technology Access Gaps: Not all students have equal access to digital resources, so teachers must ensure inclusivity.

- Training for Educators: Teachers need continuous training to effectively integrate technology while maintaining personal engagement.

A harmonized approach is essential – while technology enhances learning, teachers remain irreplaceable in guiding students, fostering engagement, and providing real-world context. The most effective language education combines digital tools with meaningful human interaction. The findings indicate that teachers are eager to incorporate new technologies into foreign language instruction, recognizing their significance for today’s digital-native students. They are open to learning and adapting to make lessons more engaging. However, they often lack support from school administration and local communities.

Here’s a table summarizing the innovative technologies used in teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) along with their benefits:

Technology	Examples	Benefits
Artificial Intelligence	ChatGPT, Duolingo	Personalized learning, instant feedback,

Technology	Examples	Benefits
(AI) & Chatbots	AI Tutor	adaptive learning paths
Virtual Reality (VR) & Augmented Reality (AR)	Mondly VR, Google Lens	Immersive learning, real-world simulations, interactive vocabulary building
Gamification & Mobile Apps	Duolingo, Kahoot!, Memrise	Engaging, motivational, promotes consistent practice
Online Learning Platforms & MOOCs	Coursera, Udemy, edX, Moodle	Access to expert courses, multimedia integration, flexible learning
Speech Recognition & Pronunciation Tools	ELSA Speak, Speechling	Real-time pronunciation feedback, improved fluency
Digital Storytelling & AI-Generated Content	Book Creator, Storybird, ChatGPT	Enhances creativity, writing assistance, interactive learning
Social Media & Online Collaboration	YouTube, TikTok, Padlet, Microsoft Teams	Interactive content, peer collaboration, community learning

DISCUSSION

The integration of innovative technologies in EFL teaching presents numerous advantages, including increased engagement and motivation among learners. However, challenges such as access to technology, teacher training, and the need for curriculum alignment must be addressed. Educators should be equipped with the skills and knowledge to effectively integrate these tools into their teaching practices.

Many teachers feel overwhelmed by the rapid advancements in educational technology and struggle with limited technical skills. While they are willing to use digital tools, frequent technical issues cause frustration and reduce teaching effectiveness. With the average teacher in Poland being around 45 years old, many educators had little exposure to technology during their training, making professional support essential.

There is a clear need for specialized IT training, technical assistance, and ongoing support to help teachers integrate technology smoothly and confidently. Establishing a teacher support hotline could also provide guidance and mental health support, reducing stress and burnout.

In conclusion, investing in teacher training, better working conditions, and equipping classrooms with quality digital tools is crucial to improving the effectiveness of technology-based language teaching while ensuring teacher well-

being. Both innovative technology and teacher are closely depend on each other and can make young professor from the young age

CONCLUSION

Looking ahead, there are exciting possibilities for the future of language education. The continuous evolution of AI, machine learning, and VR/AR technologies will further enhance the learning experience. Innovations such as AI-based speech recognition systems can provide learners with real-time feedback on their pronunciation, and more immersive virtual environments can simulate conversations with native speakers. Moreover, the use of data analytics can offer deeper insights into individual learning patterns, helping educators and learners optimize the learning process.

Innovative technologies are significantly shaping the future of foreign language education. While they offer numerous advantages, such as personalized learning and increased engagement, it is essential to ensure that these tools complement, rather than replace, traditional teaching methods. With proper implementation, these technologies have the potential to transform language learning into a more effective, accessible, and enjoyable experience.

Innovative technologies play a crucial role in enhancing the teaching and learning of English as a Foreign Language. By leveraging mobile applications, online platforms, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence, educators can create more engaging and personalized learning experiences. Future research should focus on the long-term effects of these technologies on language acquisition and the development of best practices for their implementation in diverse educational settings.

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