

INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

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Abstract: *The integration of technology in English Language Teaching (ELT) has transformed traditional classroom dynamics, offering innovative avenues for enhancing language acquisition. This paper examines the role of digital tools in ELT, including interactive platforms, language learning apps, and multimedia resources. It discusses the pedagogical benefits, such as increased student engagement, autonomous learning, and exposure to authentic language contexts, as well as the challenges, including digital inequality, teacher preparedness, and potential distractions. Drawing on contemporary research and practical classroom experiences, this study highlights best practices for effectively incorporating technology into ELT, emphasizing that technology serves as a facilitator rather than a replacement for effective teaching. The paper concludes with recommendations for maximizing the pedagogical potential of technological tools in both face-to-face and blended learning environments.*

Keywords: *ELT, educational technology, digital tools, language learning, blended learning, pedagogy*

1. Introduction

The emergence of digital technology has reshaped the landscape of education globally. In the context of English Language Teaching (ELT), technology provides opportunities to create interactive, engaging, and learner-centered environments. Traditional methods of teaching, which heavily relied on textbooks and teacher-led instruction, are increasingly complemented by digital platforms, online resources, and mobile applications. This paper aims to explore the integration of technology in ELT, assessing both its advantages and potential limitations, while providing practical insights for educators seeking to enhance their teaching

practices.

2. Literature Review

Research highlights that technology-enhanced ELT can lead to:

- Improved student engagement and motivation through gamified learning platforms and multimedia resources (Stockwell, 2012).
- Autonomous and self-directed learning, as students can access digital resources outside the classroom (Godwin-Jones, 2018).
- Exposure to authentic language contexts, including videos, podcasts, and online communication with native speakers (Hockly, 2013).

However, challenges persist, including the digital divide, uneven teacher training, and the need to ensure pedagogically meaningful integration rather than mere novelty (Reinders & White, 2016).

3. Technology Tools in ELT

- Interactive Whiteboards and Projectors: Facilitate collaborative learning and visual representation of language concepts.
- Language Learning Apps (Duolingo, Memrise, Quizlet) provide practice in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.
- Video Platforms (YouTube, Edpuzzle): Offer authentic listening experiences and cultural exposure.
- Learning Management Systems (Google Classroom, Moodle): Organize assignments, provide feedback, and support blended learning.
- AI Tools and Chatbots (ChatGPT, Grammarly): Aid in writing practice, error correction, and simulated conversations.

4. Pedagogical Benefits

The use of technology in English Language Teaching offers several pedagogical benefits. Interactive and gamified tools can significantly increase students' motivation, making them more willing to participate and engage with the learning process. Additionally, technology supports autonomous learning, allowing learners to study at their own pace and monitor their progress independently.

Exposure to authentic language contexts through videos, podcasts, and online communication enhances both comprehension and communication skills. Furthermore, online platforms facilitate collaboration and communication, enabling students to interact with peers not only within the classroom but also globally, promoting a more connected and dynamic learning experience.

5. Challenges and Limitations

Despite its many advantages, the integration of technology in ELT also presents several challenges. Digital inequality remains a significant concern, as not all students have equal access to devices or stable internet connections, which can limit participation and learning opportunities. Teacher preparedness is another critical factor; effective use of technology requires educators to be trained not only in technical skills but also in how to align digital tools with sound pedagogical practices. Additionally, technology can become a source of distraction, as students may be tempted to use devices for non-educational purposes. Therefore, it is essential that technology complements traditional teaching methods rather than replacing them, ensuring that instructional goals remain the primary focus.

6. Practical Recommendations

To maximize the benefits of technology in ELT, blended learning models can be implemented, combining traditional teaching methods with digital tools to create a more engaging and effective learning experience. Teacher training programs are essential to equip educators with both the necessary digital skills and the pedagogical strategies to integrate technology effectively. Carefully curated content should be selected to align with learning objectives and meet the specific needs of students. Moreover, adopting student-centered approaches encourages learners to take an active role in their education, promoting autonomy and collaborative use of digital tools.

7. Conclusion

Technology in ELT offers transformative potential for language teaching and learning. When thoughtfully integrated, it enhances motivation, facilitates autonomous learning, and provides access to authentic linguistic environments.

However, effective integration requires careful planning, teacher readiness, and consideration of students' access and needs. Technology should be viewed as a powerful pedagogical tool that supports, rather than replaces, the expertise of educators in cultivating communicative competence.

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