

# Use of Smart Technology in Language Learning and Communication Skills

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## ABSTRACT

*Today is the world of Facebook, Twitter, Google, Yahoo, I-pods, I- pads. Gadgets reign supreme even in a developing country and so technology is fused in every part of our lives, in fact, technology is no longer a tool to create an alternative environment- it is the environment. Academic institutions are, therefore, expected to prepare students for a technological era that awaits them. As an inevitable consequence, there is an expectation from administrators and students alike that a teacher will use technology to sophisticate teaching. As language teaching professionals our life is also intertwined with technology: for administrative purposes, materials development and storage, grading, professional communication, photocopies, scanning and so on. Technology, whether for the classroom or for official purpose, has to be implemented for its pedagogical value and relevance-not just to jump into the bandwagon. This research paper is a brief overview of technologies and tools considered necessary for the language teacher of today especially in the context of learning language and communication skills. It also tries to summarize dominant emerging trends in the field of technology enhanced language learning.*

*Keywords: Language learning, communication skill, applied technologies.*

## INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the significant elements that affect communication activities. Computer technology is regarded by a lot of teachers to be a significant part of providing a high-quality education. Through using technology, many authentic materials can be provided to learners and they can be motivated in learning language. Technology has always been an important part of teaching and learning environment. It is an essential part of the teachers' profession through which they can use it to facilitate learners' learning. When we talk about technology in teaching and learning, the word 'integration' is used. With **TECHNOLOGY** being part of our everyday lives, it is time to rethink the idea of integrating technology into the curriculum and aim to embed technology into teaching to support the learning process. Technology has become an integral part of the learning experience and a significant issue for teachers, from the beginning of preparing learning experiences through teaching and learning process. Technology-enhanced teaching environment and is more effective than lecture-based class. Teachers should find methods of applying technology as a useful learning instrument for their learners although they have not learnt technology and are not able to use it like a computer expert. The application of technology has considerably changed English teaching methods. In traditional classrooms, teachers stand in front of learners and give lecture, explanation, and instruction through using blackboard or whiteboard these methods must be changed concerning the development of technology. The usage of multimedia texts in classroom assists learners in become familiar with vocabulary and language structures. The application of multimedia also makes use of print texts, film, and internet to enhance learners' linguistic knowledge. The use of print, film, and internet gives learners the chance to collect information and offers them different materials for the analysis and interpretation of both language and contexts.

Some recommendations for learners to improve their language skills through using technology:

- Professional development should be specifically considered in order to assure learners' learning and to change the attitudes of teachers unfamiliar with the advantages that technology provides.
- The technology plan must be closely aligned with the curriculum standards. Teachers should know what educational approach is the most effective one when integrating technologies in the classroom.



- The computer technology is an integral part of the learning activity through which skills are transferred to learners.
- Language teachers should urge their learners to use technology in developing their language skills.
- Universities should regard technology as a significant part of teaching and learning programs.
- Technology experts should provide extra assistance for teachers who use it in teaching their English courses.
- Teachers should create technology-integrated lesson materials. These materials should concentrate on teaching and learning, not just on technology issues.
- Teachers should find the ways that technology can help them towards learner-centered instruction as opposed to teacher-centered instruction.
- Training should be provided for teachers to learn how to use and teach effectively using technology.

The era where computers rule the world is here. Just as technology plays a major key role in business relations, entertainment, music, movies, and almost every aspect of our everyday lives, it plays an equally important role in education. New, technology-integrated classroom systems have become popular for language learning in the recent years. Blended learning, virtual classrooms, and learning management systems are all examples of this new era of teaching methodology. These methods incorporate the use of technology in language learning to strengthen learner engagement, facilitate the instructor's role, and provide a structured, comprehensive learning experience for everyone involved. It's easy to see that educational institutes need to begin transitioning to a more tech savvy way of language teaching or risk falling behind to more advanced competitors. benefits of technology in language learning and communication skills:

- **Remote Access to Language Education**

The most inspiring aspect of technology is its ability to reach audiences all over the world. In language learning, it means teachers can be hired locally and students access courses that are taught by native language speakers – ensuring proper language immersion. Taking language education online opens a door that allows virtually anyone to have access to that course and its resources. Without technology, teaching is restricted to a geographical area, a specific school, or a specific classroom; with it, the reach is endless.

- **Blended Language Learning Courses**

Blended Learning courses combine in-class and online language learning to increase student engagement. In this way, classroom teaching and online training are complementary to each other. The role of the instructor moves from a teacher to a facilitator. Students complete structured, comprehensive eLearning modules that teach them the language then attend classroom discussions where the teacher can focus on class weaknesses rather than simply reciting language rules to the students. Technology makes blended learning a reality and promotes an intuitive language learning methodology that is proven to be successful for language development.

- **Interactive Language Learning is Crucial**

Experts have studied and debated that language learning through input only is not only ineffective but is also not successful at achieving learner language development. The best way to learn something is through an interactive learning environment created by technological tools and resources. For students learning a language, it's key to 'do' things with language rather than just learning about language from your teacher. Technology makes it possible for students to interact with their language courses and gather a more complete understanding of all of the language components. Some students feel more comfortable, less embarrassed to make mistakes and learn from them in this interactive, intuitive model.

- **Real World Problem Solving Made Possible**

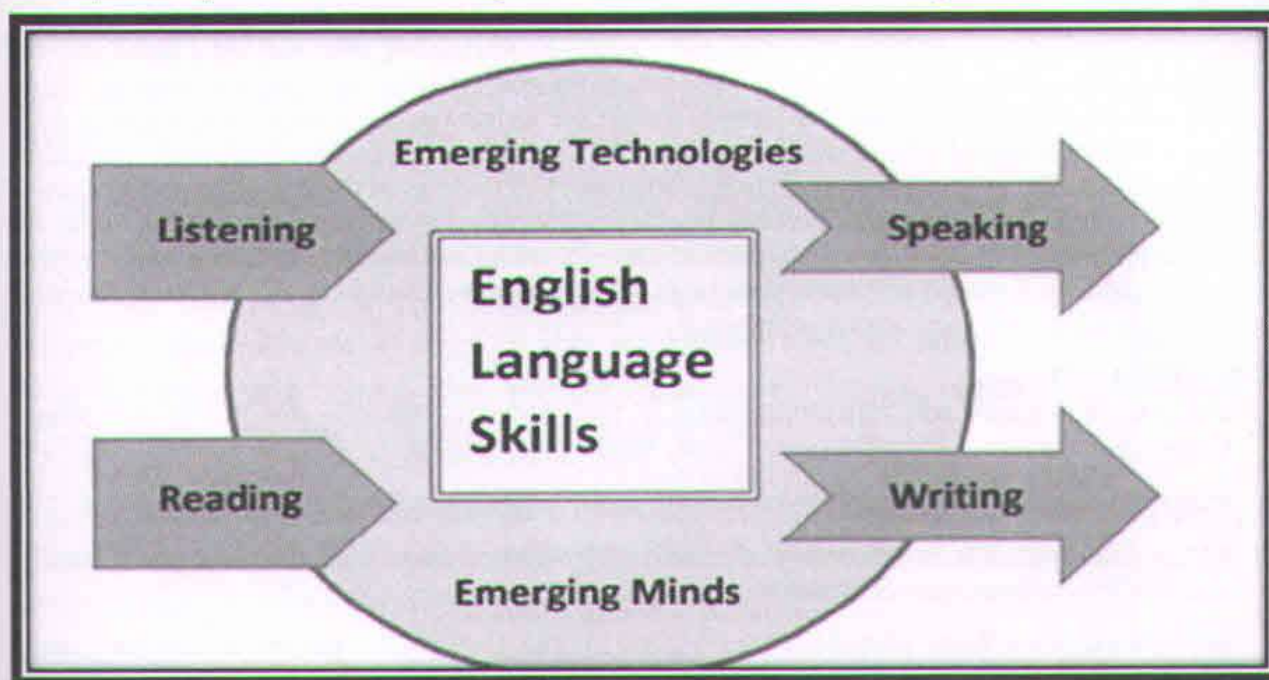
Most of us have opened a text book and realized how outdated it was; featuring topics that are no longer relevant with pictures and graphics that have long gone out of education style. On the contrast, language learning platforms, especially cloud-based ones, are easily updated on a regular basis. The course



content, material, tools, resources, format, etc., can all be refreshed and re-uploaded onto the cloud to guarantee students always have the most up-to-date content available to them. Simultaneously, they are also interactively learning in a virtual environment that mimics real-world situations they can experience outside of the classroom.

- **Encourages Student Collaboration**

It's a common misconception that mixing education and technology individualizes and singles out students in classroom. Students nowadays are extremely technologically adept and experts agree that the use of tech savvy educational methods in classrooms create a collaborative language learning environment where students can live in a world of learner's autonomy and learn from one another. Via technological platforms, students and instructors can share ideas, documents, host online courses, run training seminars, and give each other honest individual feedback. Technology creates a bridge for a gap in the language learning world by creating a community of like-minded learners with the same language development objectives and interactively connects them to the resources they need to succeed.



Every facet of our daily lives is in one way or another saturated by the use of technology tools which have proven to enrich and make our lives a little easier every day. Technological advancements have made everything a little better for citizens of the modern age.

The application of modern technology represents a significant advance in contemporary English language teaching methods. Most contemporary English language teachers now actively incorporate a range of technological aids designed to facilitate optimum teaching delivery. The current research therefore addresses various elements of the technology used in English teaching by devising innovative curricula which harnesses recent scientific and technical developments, equip instructors with the technological skills to ensure effective and quality subject delivery, provide technical media such as audio-visual and modern technical programmes, and create student-teacher platforms which maximize positive language learning outcomes. For the purposes of this study, the relevant literature has been reviewed, technology defined linguistically and conventionally, and correlation with modern teaching skills fully evaluated. In light of this, the researcher outlines the fundamental research problem, elucidates the significance of the research objectives and hypotheses, and presents the findings. The paper concludes by offering a number of recommendations which may further contribute to the improvement of teaching methods by advancing the widespread application of modern technology.

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The subsequent literature review synthesizes current research involving the use of technology in learning language and communication skills as an instructional tool to promote vocabulary learning for



English-language learners. Within each of the three thematic sections, research on vocabulary instruction and technology will be discussed. The first section concentrates on vocabulary instruction and the use of technology as a means of bridging the gap between in-and-out of school literacies. The research explore how technology may affect motivation and focuses on the idea that technology creates a learning environment that is student-centered which promotes learner autonomy. Technology and technological devices can be used to motivate and engage English language learners' in the development of literacy and language skills

### **CONCLUSION**

Teachers should be convinced of the usefulness and advantages of technology in improving learners' learning. This means that teachers need support and training for integrating technology into language teaching. The review revealed that when technology is used appropriately, it can bring about a lot of advantages to teachers and learners. It is a resource that can be used by learners because it helps them solve their learning problems and find methods to use what they have learnt in ways that are effective and meaningful. In addition, the review literature indicated that the use of technologies plays a key role in language learning based on their own pace, helps in self-understanding, does not stop interaction with the teacher, and creates high motivation in learners for the effective learning of language skills. Furthermore, the paper represented that learners should use technology to enhance their language skills because it has as a crucial role in developing learners' creativity and provides them with interesting, enjoyable, and exciting alternatives to study the language. The findings of this literature review showed that technology provides interaction between teachers and learners, provides comprehensible input and output, helps learners to develop thinking skills, makes learning and teaching becomes more student-centered, promotes learners' autonomy and helps them feel more confident, and increases learners' motivation to effectively learn a foreign language.

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