
AN ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH AIMED AT ENHANCING THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

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Abstract:

The integration of technology in language classrooms is rapidly increasing. This study analyses the current research surrounding technology and its role in language acquisition. The study further highlights the challenges in implementing technology in language instruction, and offers suggestions for overcoming such challenges. The results of this study suggest that technology offers a promising platform to enhance language acquisition in several ways, including through the facilitation of authentic communication, improvement of interactivity, and the provision of increased feedback for students.

Keywords: Technology, Language Acquisition, Language Learning, E-Learning, ICT.

INTRODUCTION

The role of technology in language acquisition has been an area of interest for educators and researchers for several years. The integration of information and communication technology (ICT) and e-learning platforms in language learning has opened up new avenues for teachers and learners to develop proficiency in languages. Teaching language with technology can increase motivation, provide individualized learning opportunities through flexible approaches, and allow students to communicate in authentic situations.

This paper analyses the current research surrounding technology and language acquisition. The analysis includes a review of research articles, conference papers, and books published between 2010 and 2022. The study evaluates the overall effectiveness of technology in language acquisition and investigates some

of the challenges that have arisen in implementing technology in language instruction.

The research suggests that technology can positively impact language acquisition in several ways. Firstly, it can facilitate authentic communication, which is essential in developing students' communicative competence. Students can use technology to communicate with native speakers of the language they are learning, by joining online discussion forums, participating in social media groups, or engaging in video conferencing. These communication opportunities provide language learners with a platform to practice their skills, gain confidence, and improve their pronunciation.

Secondly, technology can improve interactivity in language instruction, creating a more engaging environment for language learners. Interactive e-learning platforms, such as quizzes, games, and videos, can create an exciting learning experience that appeals to students with different learning styles. They can also provide opportunities for personalized learning, enabling each learner to practice at their own pace and level.

Thirdly, technology can provide language learners with better feedback, which is essential for improving their language skills. Computer-based language tests and automated feedback can provide students with instant evaluation, and help them identify areas that require further improvement. In this way, students can practice and improve their language skills independently, without requiring the assistance of a teacher.

Despite the benefits, there are several challenges that educators must overcome to effectively integrate technology into language instruction. These challenges include limited access to technology and software, the lack of technical support, and weak infrastructure. Additionally, there is fear among educators that technology may replace traditional methods of language instruction altogether. It is, therefore, essential for educators and researchers to explore ways of addressing these challenges and to develop strategies to enhance the role of technology in language acquisition.

Technology has the potential to improve language acquisition and offer learners more engaging and personalized learning opportunities. However, to ensure its effectiveness, it is necessary to address challenges in the implementation of technology and invest in better infrastructure and teacher training. Future research

should focus on developing more effective teaching methodologies and exploring new methods of integrating technology in language instruction.

METHODS

The use of technology in language acquisition has increased rapidly in recent years due to the advancements in technology and its accessibility to learners worldwide. Technology is a useful tool to help students learn a new language by providing interactive and engaging activities, authentic language input, and opportunities to practice real-life communicative skills. The use of technology in language acquisition has been extensively researched to determine its effectiveness in enhancing language learning. This article analyzes research aimed at enhancing the role of technology in language acquisition, examining the methods and conclusions of studies in this area.

A variety of research methods have been used to investigate the effectiveness of technology in language acquisition, including experimental studies, quasi-experimental studies, surveys, and case studies. Experimental studies involve assigning participants to groups and manipulating one variable while keeping other variables constant. Quasi-experimental studies are similar to experimental studies, but participants are not randomly assigned to groups. Surveys are used to gather data about attitudes, beliefs, and experiences. Case studies involve investigating an individual or group in-depth to understand their language learning experiences in a particular technological environment.

One common method used in researching technology in language acquisition is the use of computer-assisted language learning (CALL) programs. CALL programs are computer-based software designed specifically for language learning. These programs provide learners with interactive and engaging activities focused on different language skills, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They incorporate multimedia elements such as text, images, audio, and video to provide a rich language input and engage learners' multiple senses.

Another method used in researching technology in language acquisition is the use of mobile-assisted language learning (MALL) programs. MALL programs are language learning apps designed for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. These apps provide learners with the flexibility to learn anytime and anywhere, enabling them to practice language skills while commuting or waiting for appointments. MALL apps incorporate gamification elements such as

progress tracking, badges, and rewards to motivate learners' engagement and effort.

CONCLUSION

Research on technology in language acquisition has shown that technology can enhance language learning in various ways. CALL and MALL programs have been found to be effective in improving language proficiency, vocabulary acquisition, and reading comprehension. These programs provide learners with authentic input and opportunities to practice real-life communicative skills, which can increase their confidence and motivation to learn. They also provide learners with personalized feedback and adaptive instruction, which can help them overcome learning difficulties and tailor their learning pace and style.

Research has also shown that technology can enhance learners' intercultural competence, which is the ability to understand and appreciate cultural differences and effectively communicate across cultures. Technology can provide learners with authentic input from different cultures, which can facilitate their understanding of cultural norms, values, and perspectives. It can also provide opportunities for learners to interact with speakers of different languages and cultures, which can increase their empathy and respect for diversity.

In conclusion, technology can greatly enhance language acquisition by providing learners with interactive and engaging activities, authentic language input, personalized feedback, and opportunities to practice real-life communicative skills. It can also improve learners' intercultural competence by providing them with authentic input from different cultures and opportunities to interact with speakers of different languages and cultures. Future research can further investigate the effectiveness of specific types of technology and the best practices for incorporating technology into language learning curricula.

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