The Effectiveness of the Usage of Technologies in Teaching Reading Skill in EFL Classes

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ABSTRACT

Learning a language requires mastering reading, which is linked to other language skills. Various methods can be suggested for teaching reading in EFL classes. Reading comprehension is crucial for academic and personal success, but some students struggle with it and may hinder their progress. It is obvious that technology can provide solutions to improve reading comprehension, which this article will explore.

Introduction

As English has become more popular, there is a greater need for qualified teachers to instruct students in the language. Although some teachers use advanced technology, most still teach in a traditional manner, which is not harmful to students and has proven useful. Nevertheless, there are additional opportunities for ESL students to gain confidence and extend themselves, particularly those who are learning English for more than just enjoyment. To keep up with ELT and build their skills, these students must embrace multimedia technology.

Reading is a crucial method for individuals of all ages to acquire fresh knowledge. Enhancing one's ability to comprehend written material can also help those who struggle with reading to develop a greater appreciation for it and engage more effectively in educational settings. This improvement can have long-lasting benefits both inside and outside the classroom. However, reading comprehension is a complex process that is influenced by factors such as language and cognitive abilities, cultural and societal contexts, and various environmental factors.

Methods

The two main components of reading comprehension are vocabulary and text comprehension. Both of these skills should be merged to assist students get the most out of a text. However, contemporary technological enhancements are opening up a great many incredible opportunities to facilitate and increase the effectiveness of the language learning, especially reading competence improvement.

According to some research findings, the usage of technology in teaching language skills not only effective, but also motivational as the learners find interaction with technology really straightforward as well as useful.

Okueso holds the opinion that reading comprehension is a crucial aspect of language learning, as it involves the ability to comprehend and analyze a written text, as well as to connect new vocabulary with prior knowledge. However, nowadays, students tend to rely on digital devices such as smartphones and computers for reading instead of books. As a result, it is crucial for educators to encourage students to read and understand texts. To achieve this goal, teachers should incorporate technology into their teaching strategies for reading skills.

Ahmad and Gilakjani [1] supported the standpoint that technology has altered language teaching approaches. The experts deem that use of technology enables children to learn about topics that are interesting for them. It also provides the visual and auditory learners. Furthermore, Wei considers that the usage of technology in education has been proven fruitful and it has constructive influence, especially with careful and reflective lesson plans. Some scientists think that technology-implemented education supports more innovative and engaging types of teaching and learning, enhancing students' motivation as well as enhancing their efficiency in real-life learning situations.

Technology is also regarded as one of the tools for teachers in non-performing schools to ease language learning, especially, English language when learners or teachers are not available due to undeniable reasons such as illness or some urgent work. For instance, learners can use some applications such as Google Meet or Zoom to connect and take part in online lessons conducted by the teachers.

Utilizing technology in language classes to teach reading has several benefits. Primarily, it makes the reading and comprehension process simpler for learners. Software programs and mobile applications enable learners to fully utilize reading materials, highlighting new or significant words and bookmarking important sections. Additionally, teachers can enhance learners' reading comprehension by utilizing technology during lessons such as projectors, which are particularly useful for visual learners as they can observe changes and tasks being performed on the reading passages.

Moreover, the use of technology has made the learning environment more motivational, interactive, genuine, as well as amusing. Wei [10] states that Multimedia, the Internet, mobile technologies, the Internet of Things (IoT), virtual application, and augmented reality (AR) are mainly used in the education. The AR was introduced by Sutherland He discovered and made popular the augmented reality interface, which applied a head-mounted display to display 3D images.

Research and discussion

According to Biancarosa & Griffiths [2] think that many teachers point out that technological devices provide with great effort for language education, owing to technological advancements. Many students' learning could be notably enhanced by simple application of modern e-reading technology, such as modifying font size on-screen, utilizing text-to-speech functions to give constructive feedback of text, or working together on learning activities by the Internet.

Several reading apps such as Readability, Epic, and Newsela provide targeted reading materials based on a student's reading level. These apps offer interactive features such as quizzes, games, and progress tracking. This technology uses computer-generated voices to read text aloud. It helps struggling readers comprehend text better by simultaneously seeing and hearing the words. AR books use technology to enhance the reading experience by providing interactive elements such as animations, sounds, and 3D models that appear when viewed through a device's camera.

There are several games that are used in lessons to enhance learner's reading. Educational games are designed to help students improve their reading skills while making learning fun. Games such as Lexia Core5 Reading use adaptive technology that adjusts difficulty levels according to the student's performance.

In language learning situations, there are numerous techniques that can be applied to varying degrees. Some of these techniques are particularly useful for testing and distance learning, while others are more suited to teaching business English, spoken English, reading, listening, or interpreting.

It is important for teachers to appreciate new technologies in areas where they provide something decisively new and useful without allowing machines to take over the role of the teacher or limit functions where traditional methods may be superior. All language learners and teachers should have an understanding of how to utilize new technologies. It is also important to note that these technologies evolve and spread so quickly that it is impossible to avoid their influence in any form.

Multimedia teachings enhance the quality of teaching materials and optimize classroom time by moving away from a teacher-centered approach, resulting in improved class efficiency. With large class sizes, it can be difficult for students to have speaking communication opportunities.

However, multi-media sound labs allow for individualized and collaborative teaching methods. Traditional teaching models tend to focus on teacher instruction and provide limited information in a traditional classroom setting. In contrast, multimedia technology transcends time and space, creating more immersive and authentic environments for English language learning. This encourages students' creativity and initiative while conserving class time and increasing information access.

Conclusion

In conclusion, usage of technology in teaching is very significant and fruitful. the usage of technology in teaching language skills not only effective, but also motivational as the learners find interaction with technology really straightforward as well as useful.

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