

Technology Enhanced Language Learning and the Evolution of Learning Strategy

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Abstract

The development of modern technology has brought changes to our lives. It has made a huge impact on education, science, business, communication, medicine, skills and more. It has also contributed significantly to the access and acquisition of information in language learning where everyone can access everything in time. One of the most dominant technologies is computer and smartphone technology. Because it has brought many changes in language learning and has become ecological and normalized as a support tool in the language classroom. Therefore, the landscape of language learning has changed rapidly and largely changed with the normalization of technology in everyday communication. The widespread use of technology and easy access to online resources require digital language learners to understand and use appropriate learning strategies for learning effectiveness. This article focuses on the important role of Technology Enhancement in Language Learning, especially in English language learning and how technology helps us improve memory and thinking processes in language learning. It also examines various strategies for learning languages and improving language skills in a technology-enabled language-learning environment. The strategies examined include strategies for language learning skill areas, language subsystems, and self-regulated learning.

Keywords: Technology-enhanced language learning, evolution of learning strategy

1. Introduction

In today's digital era, technology has become an integral part of the language learning process that can not be avoided by any educational segment. With rapid advances in information and communication technology, language learning methods have undergone significant changes. The concept of Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL) refers to the use of technology to enhance the language learning process and experience. TELL is not just a tool, but also provides a new approach to language teaching and learning. According to research by Warschauer, (2004), TELL can increase student motivation, expand access to learning resources, and enable better interaction between students and teachers.

In this context, the evolution of learning strategies is also very important. In the past, learning strategies were more conventional, often focusing on face-to-face teaching. However, with the emergence of online learning platforms and mobile applications, these strategies are beginning to change. Research by Hockly, (2018) shows that the use of interactive technology can help students learn in a way that better suits their individual learning styles. For example, the use of interactive videos, podcasts and social media as learning tools not only makes learning more engaging but also allows students to practice language skills in contexts that are more real and relevant to everyday life. This is a significant step forward in understanding how technology can modify and enhance the learning process.

However, while technology offers many benefits, there are also challenges to be aware of. Students who learn independently often face difficulties in maintaining motivation and discipline. A study by Dabbagh et al., (2019) showed that although students have access to technology, many of them do not use it effectively. Not only that, technology also raises concerns about equity and access. Students from underprivileged backgrounds may not have access to reliable technology or high-speed internet, limiting their ability to fully benefit from TELL. Therefore, it is important to explore learning strategies that can increase student engagement in the learning process.

In short, the aim of this journal is to explore more about TELL and the evolution of learning strategies, highlighting how these two elements interact and contribute to the development of language proficiency. The researcher will discuss the methods used in this study and analyze the results and relevant discussions to understand how TELL and the evolution of strategies shape the future of language learning.

2. Methods

The research design will be a qualitative method. According to Gay et al., (2012) qualitative research is the collection, analysis, and interpretation of comprehensive narrative and visual (i.e., nonnumerical) data to gain insight into a particular phenomenon of interest. In addition, according to Creswell, (2009) Qualitative research is a means of exploring and understanding the meaning that individuals or groups give to social or human problems. The researcher used this qualitative approach to analyze the impact of TELL on language learning strategies. Qualitative methods also allow for more in-depth data collection and a better understanding of individuals' experiences of using technology for language learning. The researcher conducted interviews with several language learners and teachers to obtain official information concerning the use of technology for language learning since they are the actors who experience a direct impact of daily activities in the classroom by utilizing technology.

The interviews are going to be semi-structured, which allows the researcher to explore the teachers' views and experiences of technology use in the classroom. In addition, the researcher also conducted observations to collect data on the technology that students use most frequently, the impact it has on their motivation, and how they feel technology affects their language comprehension. The data obtained from these interviews and observations will be then thematically analyzed to identify emerging patterns and trends.

The researcher also collects secondary data from various sources, including academic journals, research reports and articles related to TELL and language learning strategies. By combining primary and secondary data, researchers hope to provide a comprehensive picture of how technology has affected the way we learn languages.

To strengthen this research, some relevant research will be presented to make this research more comprehensive. In terms of research Zhou & Wei, (2018), L2 learners in the 21st century - especially in countries with advanced technology, are not always proficient in using technology, especially when it comes to language acquisition. As most language learning takes place outside the classroom due to the widespread use of multimodal technologies, learners may not be able to self-regulate unless they are efficiently taught to use learning strategies. Learners in the Digital Age who benefit from proper language learning strategy instruction will outperform their peers who have not received such training, both in terms of language learning efficiency and language skills. In addition, Gangavarapu, (2022) reviews and analyzes existing research on language learning strategies in TELL environments, first on specific language skills (i.e., listening, speaking, reading, and writing), then linked to target language subsystems, such as vocabulary and grammar, and finally, linked to strategic, self-regulated language learning. Technology-enhanced language learning strategies are reviewed to show specifically what learners and teachers do with technology in the Digital Age.

4. Discussion

The results of this study show that the use of technology in language learning not only increases students' motivation, but also enriches their learning experience. Through social media, interactive apps, and learning videos, students showed higher motivation to practice language skills consistently. This data is in line with a study by Godwin-Jones, (2018), which shows that mobile-based applications can make language learning more interactive and engaging, and allow students to learn anytime and anywhere. Technology has also contributed to more diverse and adaptive learning strategies, enabling self-paced learning, mobile-assisted language learning and task-based approaches. Stockwell, (2022) point out that mobile-assisted language learning (MALL) has expanded beyond vocabulary exercises, including context-based tasks that enhance strategic skills in real-world language use. The evolution of learning strategies in language learning through technological improvements underscores the transformative impact on the dynamics of teaching and learning. The availability of technology has led to the development of new learning strategies, such as mobile-assisted language learning has shown benefits in vocabulary acquisition and language retention due to its ease and accessibility (Burston, 2014).

While technology provides many benefits, it also raises concerns about equity and access. Students from underprivileged backgrounds may not have access to reliable technology or high-speed internet, limiting their ability to fully benefit from TELL and self-learning students often face difficulties in maintaining motivation and discipline. Addressing these gaps and caring for students remains a key issue for educators and policymakers.

Overall, the combination of these findings suggests that TELL has great potential to revolutionize the way we teach and learn languages. However, there needs to be a collaborative effort from educators, educational institutions, and policymakers to ensure that the technology is accessible and effectively utilized by all students.

5. Conclusion

With the development of technology, the way we learn languages has also changed drastically. TELL has opened many doors for more innovative and engaging learning methods, by intelligently integrating technology into the curriculum, educators can create a more interesting and relevant learning environment. Furthermore, it is important to continuously evaluate and adjust learning strategies according to the rapid development of technology. Although there are challenges to be faced, such as distractions from devices or inattention, the advantages offered by technology are far greater. Therefore, further research should be conducted to understand the long-term impact of TELL on language learning, as well as how educators can utilize technology more effectively. By doing so, we can ensure that language learning in this digital age is not only effective but also fun and rewarding for all learners.

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