DIGITAL LITERACY AND TECHNOLOGY IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract: This article explores the role of digital literacy and the use of technology in teaching the English language. In today's educational context, students are expected not only to learn the language but also to develop the ability to effectively use modern technologies in the process of learning. Digital literacy enables teachers to integrate technology wisely in the classroom, while students benefit from opportunities for independent learning, interactive tasks, and access to global resources. The study analyzes the advantages and challenges of using online platforms, mobile applications, and multimedia tools in English language education. The findings indicate that developing digital literacy and integrating technology appropriately increases learning efficiency and creates new opportunities for language acquisition.

Keywords: digital literacy, technology, English language, education, innovative, methods.

The 21st century has radically transformed the way education is approached worldwide. One of the most remarkable changes is the role of digital literacy and technology in teaching and learning languages. English, as the leading global language, has become inseparable from digital resources and tools. Traditional methods of teaching English, while still valuable, are no longer sufficient to address the needs of students who live in a digital environment.

Digital literacy is not limited to basic computer skills. It involves the ability to critically evaluate online resources, use interactive tools, and participate in global digital communication. Teachers who are digitally literate can design more engaging lessons, incorporate multimedia resources, and ensure that students are prepared for real-world communication. At the same time, students who develop digital literacy skills gain autonomy, creativity, and motivation in their learning.

The significance of this topic is evident: without digital literacy, both teachers and learners may face difficulties in adapting to modern education. This paper discusses how technology can be effectively used in English language teaching and why digital literacy is an essential component of education today.

This article is based on a qualitative analysis of classroom practices and observations of how technology is integrated into English language teaching. The methodology involves reviewing different tools and approaches, including:

1. Online platforms such as Google Classroom, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams, which allow teachers to deliver virtual lessons, share resources, and maintain communication.

2. Mobile applications like Duolingo, Quizlet, and Kahoot, which provide learners with opportunities for self-study, gamification, and immediate feedback.

3. Multimedia resources such as videos, podcasts, and digital storytelling tools, which enhance learners' skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

4. Learning Management Systems (LMS) that track progress and personalize the learning experience for individual students.

The study also considers feedback from teachers and learners on the benefits and challenges of using digital tools in language teaching. The focus is on understanding how digital literacy influences both teaching efficiency and student learning outcomes.

The integration of digital literacy into language learning has become increasingly recognized as a critical factor in enhancing students' language skills. Digital literacy immerses learners in diverse multimedia content, enriching linguistic and cultural exposure while enhancing language proficiency.

While existing research underscores the importance of digital literacy in language learning.its specific role in fostering learner engagement, particularly in EFL contexts, remains underexplored. Addressing this gap is crucial for optimizing digital language education in contemporary learning environments. Digital literacy has emerged as a critical factor in enhancing language learning. Despite its significance, research on how digital literacy impacts engagement in EFL learning remains limited, particularly in the increasingly digitalized educational landscape.

Digital literacy and technology are no longer optional in modern education; they are essential components of effective language teaching. By developing digital literacy skills, teachers can use technology strategically to enhance lessons, while students can learn independently and creatively. The integration of digital tools increases engagement, provides access to authentic materials, and prepares learners for communication in the globalized world.

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