DIGITAL LITERACY AND TECHNOLOGY IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract: This article discusses the role of digital literacy and modern technologies in language learning. It emphasizes the importance of developing students' digital skills for effective communication, online collaboration, and autonomous learning. The paper also explores digital tools, platforms, and strategies that enhance motivation and efficiency in foreign language acquisition.

Keywords: digital literacy, technology, language learning, online tools, motivation, communication, innovation.

In the 21st century, technology has become an inseparable part of human life, influencing every sphere of society, including education. The process of language learning has undergone significant transformation due to the rapid development of digital technologies. Digital literacy is no longer an additional skill but a necessary component for successful communication and lifelong learning. Language learning is not limited to traditional textbooks and classroom interactions anymore. Digital technologies such as computers, smartphones, and the Internet provide learners with access to a variety of resources and global communication opportunities. According to researchers, students who possess strong digital literacy skills are more capable of engaging with authentic materials, collaborating online, and developing critical thinking. Digital literacy refers to the ability to use digital tools, platforms, and technologies effectively and responsibly. It includes not only technical skills

but also cognitive and social competencies such as evaluating online information, creating digital content, and maintaining online ethics. As Bawden (2008) noted, digital literacy combines traditional literacy, information literacy, and ICT literacy. In the context of language learning, digital literacy enables students to navigate multimedia materials, use online dictionaries, participate in digital discussions, and express their thoughts in diverse formats. Technology has revolutionized the way languages are taught and learned. It provides interactive, engaging, and personalized learning experiences. Some of the key benefits include: 1. Access to authentic materials. 2.Online communication tools. 3. Language learning applications. 4. Social media and forums. 5. Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

Motivation is one of the key factors in successful language acquisition. Digital tools increase students' engagement by making learning more interactive and meaningful. Visual and audio materials capture learners' attention, while online games and quizzes make practice enjoyable. Moreover, learners can track their progress, set goals, and receive instant feedback - all of which enhance motivation. Despite the advantages, there are also certain challenges in integrating technology into language learning: - Lack of digital competence among teachers and students. - Technical issues such as poor Internet connection or limited access to devices. - Information overload due to excessive online materials. - Digital distraction, which may decrease concentration.

Practical applications and pedagogical recommendations: Teachers should integrate technology in a meaningful way by: 1. Using multimedia tasks such as video projects or digital storytelling. 2. Encouraging students to participate in online discussions and collaborative writing. 3. Employing Learning Management Systems (LMS) like Moodle or Google Classroom. 4. Training students to evaluate online sources critically. 5. Promoting blended and hybrid learning environments.

Digital literacy and technology play an essential role in modern language education. They transform traditional teaching into a dynamic, interactive, and learner-centered process. By integrating digital tools, educators can foster autonomy, motivation, and global communication skills. However, successful implementation requires not only access to technology but also continuous development of digital competence among teachers and learners. In the modern era, technology plays a vital role in almost every aspect of human life, including education. One of the most significant changes in recent decades is the integration of digital literacy into language learning. Digital literacy refers to the ability to effectively find, evaluate, create, and communicate information using digital technologies. In language education, it enables both teachers and learners to use various online tools and resources to enhance communication and language acquisition.

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