THE USAGE OF TECHNOLOGIES AND WIKI-TECHNOLOGIES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH

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Abstract. This article gives information about the importance of teaching English and some methods and usage of wiki-technologies during the process of learning and teaching English.

Key words. Education, technology, English, teaching, learning.

The advance of modern technology has unprecedentedly changed every aspect of our life, including education. Governments from all over the world have attached much importance to technology implementation in education, investing substantial funds in education to improve information technology infrastructure and systems and support increased access to educational technology. It has become an irresistible trend to integrate modern technology in education. Teachers at different teaching levels are demanded to be competent in using modern technology in teaching. However, research has indicated that classroom technology integration is not satisfactory. This paper analyzes the theoretical aspects of using modern technology in English education, the shortcomings of the traditional teaching methods, and the advantages of using modern technology in teaching and learning English as a foreign language. The previous studies published in journals and conference proceedings included in Web of Science and SCOPUS, regarding the benefits of using modern technology for English education, are discussed as references for integrating modern technology in teaching for English teachers. The aim of this paper is to provide English teachers and educators with a better understanding of the scientific aspects and the benefits of using modern technology in English education and encourage English teachers and educators to integrate modern technology in teaching practice. In addition, this paper also addresses the factors affecting the effective integration of modern technology in

educational settings, giving educational policy-makers enlightenment as to the effective integration of modern technology in education.

Technology has been used to both help and improve language learning. Technology enables teachers to adapt classroom activities, thus enhancing the language learning process. Technology continues to grow in importance as a tool to help teachers facilitate language learning for their learners.

The use of modern technology can greatly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of English teaching and learning, which has been proven by many studies. Integrating modern technology in education has become a national strategy of education worldwide.

Teachers can use technology to teach ESL students as it helps facilitate the development of language skills. Using multimedia like videos and podcasts, video and voice recorders, and online sharing platforms can help ESL students practice their written, oral, and reading skills in English.

For many years, English teaching methods in many countries are characterised by the traditional oneway teaching mode, known as test-oriented teaching methods. Words, expressions, and collocations are learned by memorization, which constitutes a heavy burden for learning. In addition, under the traditional teaching mode, there is a lack of authentic English-speaking environment which is important to language learning. Nowadays, teachers use modern technology to assist English teaching, enabling students to reach rich resources and have more opportunities for exposure to a foreign culture, which will improve students' interest in learning and in turn change students' attitudes towards English learning. Modern technology refers to any technologies that use computers and modern communication means to obtain, transfer, restore, process and allocate information. As for English education, modern technologies such as computers and networks are now being used in classrooms for instruction in composition, literature, decoding, reading comprehension, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, brainstorming, planning, reasoning, outlining, reference use, study skills, rhetoric, handwriting, drama, in short, for every area of language arts. Many studies conducted in recent years have indicated that modern technology can improve English teaching and

learning. In general, modern technology can benefit English teaching and learning in several ways. The development of modern technology enables teachers and students to access many online materials for English teaching and learning. There are many websites for English education, such as BBC English, VOA English, Ke Ke English, etc, and the websites will be updated each day. Teachers can use the information from them as valuable teaching materials. With the help of the internet, teachers can also download or find teaching materials from the technological device directly. For example, interactive whiteboards include various kinds of digital teaching materials, teachers can directly use these resources or utilize the materials to make individual teaching plans and courseware and most interactive whiteboards contain interactive textbooks containing videos, audio, hyperlinks and extra materials, helping teachers save time for preparing lessons. Additionally, there are many online courses in MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), YouTube, TEDx Talks, iTunes U, etc. Students not only can use them to broaden their vision, such as experiencing language culture which is important for language study, but also can use them to enhance English listening skills.

Many teachers and educators try hard to figure out a way that can help to increase learners' interest in learning. Modern technology can make this idea true. With the aid of modern technology, teachers can integrate pictures, images, animations, and videos into teaching materials, making learning more interesting. Hence, it can attract students' attention and increase students' participation in English learning.

Modern technology enables individual learning. Teachers can send videos or teaching materials to students, which often happens in a flipped class. Students can watch the videos and learn the teaching materials at their own pace. They can fast-forward, rewind, or replay the videos whenever they require. This is helpful for the less informed students. They can listen to a teacher's lecture again and again, which can not be realized in a traditional class. Particularly, for those students who cannot attend the class, technology-assisted learning is an aid. Furthermore, there are various kinds of Apps that can be downloaded onto phones. Students can use them, based on their needs, for learning English vocabulary or grammar. Some Apps may provide e-books, which are useful for the improvement of reading and

listening skills. Only if there is internet, students can study without time and place limits. Modern technology can help increase the interaction in the teaching process, which is important for the development of communicative competence in a language. For example, interactive whiteboards can increase interactions between teachers and students and among the students as the main function of an interactive whiteboard is its interactivity. Some linguists researched the effect of the interactive functions of whiteboards on elementary students' learning. The findings showed that teachers' use of the interactive whiteboards' basic interactive function helps to enhance students' willingness to learn and enjoyment of learning. It is an undeniable fact that through active involvement in instruction pupils learn more effectively. Whether the use of modern technology is to increase students' motivation of learning, or to make learning more interesting, or to increase the interactions in classroom teaching, the final goal of integrating technology in teaching is to improve the outcomes of learning.

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