

Transformation in English Language Teaching: A Post Pandemic Perspective

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Abstract

In today's technology-driven global environment, the emergence and evolution of English as a universal language have reshaped the approaches to teaching English. The integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in English language education has received an overwhelming response since the early 21st century. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the traditional classroom paradigm experienced a significant shift from teacher-centered, physically interactive instruction to learner-centered, online learning methods. Recent global trends indicate the increasing importance and effectiveness of technology enhancements in e-learning. Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) has become indispensable, and teachers have undergone a profound transformation in their roles due to the increased reliance on virtual connections.

Keywords: pandemic; technology; reliance; indispensable; transformation

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Introduction

In today's technology-driven global environment, the rise and evolution of English as a worldwide language has significantly impacted the methods and approaches used in English language education. English has transcended its status as a language solely for study purposes and has become a language of instruction in various fields, including education, commerce, and daily life. This linguistic transformation can be attributed to historical factors such as colonialism, which laid the foundation for English's global reach, as well as the forces of globalization that have propelled it forward.

As the world becomes more interconnected, the demand for English language skills continues to grow. People from diverse backgrounds are increasingly recognizing the importance of acquiring proficiency in English, and the accessibility of learning resources has expanded

real-time communication tools, thereby promoting an immersive language learning environment. Furthermore, technology enables personalized learning, catering to individual learner needs and promoting self-paced progress. Incorporating technology into ELT not only expands the range of resources available but also fosters learner autonomy and engagement.

Effect of Covid-19 Pandemic on Teaching: The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about a trans-formative impact on education, elevating the role of technology in teaching and learning across various disciplines, including English language education. The closure of educational institutions due to the ongoing pandemic has necessitated a radical shift in the way people perceive and engage in learning. Technology, which was once viewed as an optional tool, has suddenly become pervasive and indispensable in the educational landscape.

The sudden and abrupt transition from traditional classroom instruction to e-learning and online teaching approaches has become the “new normal” in education. The web-based virtual classroom has emerged as a vital platform, offering unprecedented opportunities for digitally embedded English language teaching and learning. This unexpected shift has not only reshaped the educational system but has also redirected global attention towards the potential of technology in education. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the impact of technological innovation in mainstream higher education was relatively limited and often left at the discretion of individual instructors. However, the current crisis has accelerated the adoption of technology across the education sector, making it an essential component of the teaching and learning process.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only expanded the educational implications of technology in English language education but has also catalyzed a broader transformation of the entire educational system. The sudden shift to e-learning and online teaching approaches has made technology an indispensable tool in the “new normal” of education. The web-based virtual classroom has unlocked unprecedented possibilities for digitally embedded English language teaching and learning, allowing educators to adapt and innovate in delivering effective language instruction in a remote and interconnected world.

New Approaches in English Language Teaching

The English language has long been recognized for its adaptability, constantly evolving and transforming to meet the demands of a changing world. The Covid-19 pandemic has served as a catalyst for a remarkable wave of technological advancements that have revolutionized English Language Teaching (ELT). In order to achieve the desired program outcomes, the integration of technology has given rise to innovative approaches in ELT, particularly through technology-enhanced teaching and learning in online modes.

The incorporation of technology in ELT has opened up new avenues for conducting engaging and interactive learning activities. It goes beyond traditional classroom settings, providing learners with opportunities to develop higher-order thinking skills and fostering effective communication abilities. With the aid of technology, learners can delve deeper into the intricacies of grammar and syntax, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the technicalities involved. Moreover, technology-enhanced ELT also equips learners with market-oriented professional English skills, ensuring they are prepared to thrive in today's globalized and interconnected world.

Through technology-enhanced teaching and learning, educators can leverage a wide range of digital tools and resources to create immersive and dynamic learning experiences. Online platforms, interactive multimedia content, and communication tools enable learners to actively engage with the English language, practice their language skills, and receive immediate feedback. This active involvement not only enhances language acquisition but also cultivates critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities.

This integration of technology in ELT proves particularly valuable for English second language learners. The utilization of technological platforms provides them with diverse learning strategies, opportunities, resources, and objectives, as highlighted by Cook in *Applied Linguistics* (54). The availability of online ELT supports self-study, enabling learners to carefully research and comprehend topics at their own pace. Moreover, the immediate application of knowledge in real-life circumstances becomes more achievable through technological advancements. The advent of computer-assisted language learning (CALL), e-learning, and online learning platforms has revolutionized ELT, making it more effective and vibrant. Learners today benefit from a wealth of innovative learning approaches and resources that cater to their unique needs and preferences. Through interactive activities and multimedia-rich content, learners can engage with English language materials in ways that actively stimulate their learning process.

The integration of internet teaching resources and technology in ELT has revolutionized language learning by enhancing engagement, promoting collaboration, and providing access to diverse and interactive learning materials. Learners, particularly those learning English as a second language, benefit from the opportunities for self-study, the development of higher-order thinking capabilities, and the acquisition of market-oriented professional English skills. As technology continues to advance, the potential for innovative approaches in ELT will only grow, further enriching the language learning experience and empowering learners on their journey to English proficiency.

Challenges

• Inventive ELT Applications

In today's digital era, the field of English Language Teaching (ELT) has witnessed an abundance of resources available on the Internet. However, to truly enhance language learning experiences, it is imperative for didactic technology to advance further by incorporating cutting-edge software and tools integrated with artificial intelligence capabilities. Such advancements will enable the tracking of language learning progress at both the group and individual levels. It calls for a collaborative effort between educationists and computer scientists to pave the way for innovative applications and systems that offer high-quality language instruction, overcoming geographical barriers and time constraints.

Furthermore, the collaborative effort between educationists and computer scientists is essential to develop inventive language learning applications that transcend physical boundaries. With the integration of video conferencing, virtual reality (VR), and augmented reality (AR) technologies, students can engage in immersive language learning experiences,

regardless of their location. Language learners can interact with virtual environments, practice real-life scenarios, and receive instant feedback from AI-powered language tutors.

- Additionally, the advancement of mobile technology has opened up new avenues for language learning. Mobile applications equipped with AI can provide on-the-go language instruction, enabling learners to practice and improve their language skills at their convenience. These applications can incorporate speech recognition technology, enabling learners to practice pronunciation and receive real-time feedback. They can also offer interactive exercises, vocabulary builders, and grammar drills, making language learning engaging and accessible to learners anytime, anywhere.

- **Video Observing Skills**

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the importance of video observation skills has emerged as a valuable addition to the essential three competencies of reading, writing, and listening (RWL). In order to effectively navigate the current educational landscape, it has become imperative to equip students with the technical understanding necessary for comprehending visual media. In today's digital age, where information is increasingly communicated through multimedia platforms, the ability to decode and analyze visual content has become crucial for knowledge acquisition. Beyond mere pronunciation and writing proficiency, language learners must now be trained in effectively absorbing the linguistic aspects conveyed through visual images.

The current state of the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of video observation skills as a vital component of language acquisition and knowledge acquisition in general. By incorporating visual media comprehension into language learning, students can improve their overall language proficiency, enhance their critical thinking abilities, and gain a deeper understanding of various subjects. It is crucial for educators to facilitate the development of these skills and ensure students are equipped with the technical understanding needed to navigate and interpret visual content effectively.

- **Digital Learning:**

The rapid progress of technology and research has ushered in a new era of digital learning, revolutionizing the educational landscape in ways previously unimaginable. Traditional classrooms are being increasingly supplemented, and in some cases, even replaced, by e-learning and related instructional methods. As a result, English Language Teaching (ELT) has embraced various technological tools such as online computer-based software, mobile phones, and language learning applications to effectively communicate, generate, and present learning materials and information.

In order for ELT to thrive in the online realm, digital literacy has become an essential requirement. Computer proficiency should be integrated into all levels of education, spanning from primary to higher schooling. By incorporating computer-based teaching methodologies, students' attitudes are positively influenced, and motivation to learn is enhanced. Furthermore, digital learning platforms provide ample opportunities for students to practice the language without fear of judgment or embarrassment.

The advent of digital learning has transformed the educational landscape, particularly in the

realm of English Language Teaching. By leveraging technology and integrating digital literacy into education, students can experience enhanced motivation, flexible learning opportunities, and personalized learning experiences. However, it is imperative to address the challenges of the digital divide and strike a balance between technology and human interaction to ensure the best possible educational outcomes.

- **Train the Instructors:**

The ongoing scientific and educational revolution, with its user-friendly study materials made available through various online ICT technologies, has significantly impacted English language teaching and learning. However, an important question arises regarding the level of training and expertise possessed by instructors in the field of technology-enhanced English language education. Teachers of English as a Second Language (ESL) need to possess the necessary skills to effectively manage and utilize the latest tools in English Language Teaching (ELT).

Training instructors in technology-enhanced ELT is essential for several reasons. Firstly, it empowers educators to adapt to the evolving educational landscape and meet the demands of digital learning environments. They can utilize various multimedia elements, such as videos, audio clips, and online collaboration platforms, to cater to different learning styles and promote active engagement among students. With proper training, instructors can harness the potential of technology to create dynamic and immersive learning experiences that foster critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving.

Conclusions

The world is currently grappling with an unprecedented crisis in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is reshaping the foundations of the global education system. Traditional approaches to English Language Teaching (ELT) are being phased out, making way for new possibilities in language learning through online platforms. Recent global trends indicate the increasing significance and effectiveness of technology advancements in e-learning.

Looking ahead, the future of ELT is poised to be influenced by artificial intelligence (AI). Clever and interactive language learning approaches driven by AI have the potential to revolutionize ELT methods and modes. AI-powered platforms can provide personalized feedback, adaptive learning paths, and intelligent language assessment, thereby enhancing the efficacy and efficiency of language learning processes. However, it is crucial for ELT educators to actively embrace these technological advancements and equip themselves with the necessary skills and knowledge. Professional development programs should include training on the effective integration of technology in language teaching. Educators need to familiarize themselves with various online tools, digital resources, and emerging technologies to effectively engage and facilitate learning in the virtual environment.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of technology in ELT, opening up new possibilities for language learning. The use of CALL and the increasing prevalence of virtual interactions have transformed the role of instructors. To meet the demands of the evolving pedagogical landscape, ELT educators must upgrade their technological competencies. As AI continues to advance, it holds great potential to further revolutionize language learning approaches. By embracing technology and staying abreast of

emerging trends, educators can effectively adapt to the changing needs of the ELT field and provide enriching language learning experiences to their students.

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