THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN MODERN TESOL CLASSROOMS

Karshi International University

English Philology and Languages

Second year student

Abdullayeva Hulkar Khushvakt qizi

ABSTRACT. The integration of technology in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) has revolutionized language education. This article examines the impact of digital tools and artificial intelligence (AI) on TESOL methodologies, highlighting benefits, challenges, and future prospects.

INTRODUCTION. The digital age has transformed educational landscapes, with technology playing a pivotal role in language instruction. In TESOL classrooms, technological advancements have introduced innovative teaching methods, reshaping traditional paradigms.

Blended Learning Environments

Blended learning combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online components, offering flexibility and personalized learning experiences. This approach caters to diverse learning styles and paces, enhancing student engagement and autonomy. Tools such as learning management systems (LMS) facilitate resource sharing, assignment submissions, and communication, creating a cohesive learning environment.

AI-Enhanced Platforms

Artificial intelligence has introduced tools that adapt to individual learner needs. AI-driven applications provide instant feedback, personalized content, and interactive exercises, promoting active learning. For instance, AI-powered chatbots simulate real-

life conversations, aiding in the development of communicative competence. Additionally, AI tools assist educators in creating engaging materials and assessments, streamlining instructional design.

Benefits of Technology Integration

Technology in TESOL classrooms offers several advantages:
1. Personalized Learning: Technology enables tailored instruction that addresses individual strengths and weaknesses.
2. Enhanced Engagement: Interactive tools and multimedia resources make learning more engaging and motivating.
3. Accessibility: Online platforms provide access to resources beyond the classroom, supporting continuous learning.
4. Collaboration: Digital tools facilitate communication and collaboration among students, fostering a sense of community.

Challenges

Despite its advantages, technology integration presents challenges:
- Digital Divide: Disparities in access to technology can exacerbate educational inequalities.
- Teacher Training: Educators require ongoing professional development to effectively utilize technological tools.
- Overreliance: Excessive dependence on technology may undermine fundamental language skills.

Emerging Trends in TESOL Technology

As AR and VR technologies become more accessible, their potential in TESOL classrooms is expanding. VR platforms like Mondly VR allow learners to practice conversational English in simulated real-world settings, while AR applications overlay digital elements onto physical spaces, making vocabulary and grammar lessons more engaging. Moreover, AI-driven platforms such as ChatGPT are now being integrated

into TESOL curricula, enabling students to engage in dynamic conversations and receive contextually relevant feedback.

CONCLUSION. While technology has brought transformative changes to TESOL, its success hinges on thoughtful implementation. Teachers must balance technological tools with traditional methods, ensuring that learners develop core linguistic competencies alongside digital fluency. As research and innovations continue to unfold, the future of TESOL promises to be a blend of tradition and innovation, creating opportunities for learners worldwide.

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