

Exploring The Impact of Technology in Enhancing English Reading Skill

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Abstract. *This study aimed to explore the impact of technology in enhancing English reading skills at the sixth semester of English education at universitas hamzanwadi. This study used a qualitative descriptive design taken by purposive sampling. There are 34 participants of this study. Observation, interview, and documentation is used to gather the data. The result of the observation showed that mostly of students are comfortable to use the new technology to increase reading skills. It is because of the new era that needs technology to learn. It is supported by the result of interview. The students said that it is easier to use e-book than books because it can apply by phone and so on. Additionally, the documentation is used to add the information from observation and interview. In conclusion, technology gives a good impact to increase students' ability in reading skills.*

Keywords: *technology impact, English, reading skill*

Abstrak. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi dampak teknologi dalam meningkatkan keterampilan membaca bahasa Inggris pada semester enam pendidikan bahasa Inggris di universitas hamzanwadi. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain deskriptif kualitatif yang diambil secara purposive sampling. Ada 34 peserta penelitian ini. Observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data. Hasil observasi menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar siswa nyaman menggunakan teknologi baru untuk meningkatkan keterampilan membaca. Itu karena era baru yang membutuhkan teknologi untuk dipelajari. Hal itu didukung dengan hasil wawancara. Siswa mengatakan bahwa lebih mudah menggunakan e-book daripada buku karena dapat mendaftar melalui telepon dan sebagainya. Selain itu, dokumentasi digunakan untuk menambah informasi dari observasi dan wawancara. Kesimpulannya, teknologi memberikan dampak yang baik untuk meningkatkan kemampuan siswa dalam keterampilan membaca.

Kata kunci: dampak teknologi, English, skill membaca

INTRODUCTION

In the fast-paced and interconnected world of the 21st century, technology has become an indispensable tool in transforming various aspects of our lives, including education. One area that has experienced significant advancements through technology is language learning and teaching (Ahmadi, 2018), particularly when it comes to enhancing the acquisition and proficiency of the English language. English, being the lingua franca of the modern globalized world, plays a vital role in facilitating communication, cross-cultural understanding, and academic and professional opportunities for individuals worldwide.

According to (Eslit, 2023) exploration delves into the transformative role of technology in the realm of English language learning and teaching. We will examine the innovative methods and digital resources that have revolutionized traditional language classrooms, making language learning more accessible, engaging, and efficient for learners of all ages and proficiency levels. From interactive language apps and immersive virtual classrooms to artificial intelligence-driven language tutors, technology has paved the way for personalized and adaptive language learning experiences that cater to individual learners' needs and preferences.

Moreover, this exploration will address the challenges and opportunities technology presents to language educators. As pedagogical approaches continue to evolve, teachers are faced with the task of integrating digital tools effectively into their teaching practices while balancing the benefits of technology with the value of face-to-face interaction and personalized instruction (Rapanta et al., 2021). Throughout this exploration, we will also examine the impact of technology on language learners themselves. By harnessing the power of multimedia, gamification, and social learning platforms, technology fosters a dynamic and interactive environment that stimulates students' curiosity and motivation, promoting self-directed learning and collaborative efforts.

However, amidst the excitement and potential of technology in the realm of English language learning and teaching, we must also consider the digital divide and access disparities that may hinder some learners from fully benefiting from these advancements. Ensuring equitable access to technology and digital resources remains a critical challenge that must be addressed to bridge the educational gap and support learners from diverse backgrounds (Ferri et al., 2020). This exploration seeks to shed light on the ever-evolving role of technology in enhancing English language learning and teaching. By understanding how technology can be

effectively integrated into language education, we can harness its full potential to empower learners and educators alike, fostering a more interconnected and linguistically diverse world. As we navigate the digital landscape of language education, let us embrace innovation, inclusivity, and the pursuit of excellence in empowering individuals to become confident and proficient speakers of the global language: English.

While the role of technology in enhancing English language learning and teaching holds immense promise, several challenges and problems need to be addressed to ensure its effective integration and meaningful impact (Hakim, 2020). One of the most significant challenges is the digital divide, where not all students and educational institutions have equal access to technology and reliable internet connectivity (Lai & Widmar, 2021). In underprivileged areas or developing countries, limited access to computers, tablets, or smartphones can hinder learners' ability to participate fully in technology-driven language learning experiences. Although technology can enhance engagement through interactive activities, gamification, and multimedia content, it is not a guarantee that all learners will remain motivated throughout their language learning journey (Levshina, 2023). Maintaining learner engagement and enthusiasm over time remains a challenge.

The rapid advancement of technology can make it challenging to standardize language learning methods and assess their effectiveness consistently (Fleming et al., 2020). Rigorous evaluation and research are necessary to identify the most effective technological approaches for language learning and teaching. Addressing these problems requires a comprehensive approach involving educators, policymakers, technology developers, and other stakeholders to create inclusive, effective, and sustainable technology-enhanced English language learning environments (Meng, 2023). By recognizing and tackling these challenges, we can unlock the full potential of technology to revolutionize language education and empower learners worldwide.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Definition of English learning language

Language learning and teaching have undergone significant transformations due to the widespread integration of technology in educational settings. It aims to explore the role of technology in enhancing English language learning and teaching. It examines the impact of various technological tools, methodologies, and approaches on language acquisition, learner motivation, and teacher effectiveness. The review also addresses the challenges and considerations in incorporating technology in language classrooms.

English language learning refers to the process of acquiring the skills and knowledge necessary to understand, communicate, read, and write in the English language (Tursunovich, 2022). It is a journey undertaken by individuals who are not native speakers of English but seek to become proficient users of the language for various purposes, such as education, work, travel, or social interactions. .English language learning typically involves developing skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, along with an understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Learners engage in various language learning activities, exercises, and interactions to build their language proficiency progressively.

English language learning can take place in formal educational settings, such as language schools, colleges, or universities, or informally through self-study, language exchange programs, and online resources (Rosenfield, 2020). The methods and approaches used in language learning can vary, ranging from traditional classroom instruction to technologically enhanced learning experiences, depending on the learner's goals, preferences, and available resources. The process of English language learning is often dynamic and continuous, as learners continually improve their language skills and adapt to different contexts and communication situations. It involves active participation, practice, and exposure to the language in authentic contexts to become competent users of English for effective communication and successful integration into English-speaking communities.

Technology in enhancing English ability

The role of technology in enhancing English language ability is significant and has revolutionized the way individuals learn and improve their English language skills. Technology provides learners with diverse tools, resources, and opportunities to practice, engage, and immerse themselves in the language. Here are some key ways technology enhances English language ability. Technology enables learners to access a wealth of online learning resources, including language learning apps, websites, interactive exercises, and language courses. These resources offer comprehensive lessons on grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and communication skills, catering to learners of different levels and needs.

Mobile applications designed for language learning have become increasingly popular. These apps offer gamified learning experiences, daily practice exercises, and instant feedback, making language learning more enjoyable and motivating. Technology allows learners to engage with multimedia content such as videos, podcasts, and online articles (Yang, 2023). These authentic materials expose learners to natural language use, different accents, and cultural contexts, helping improve listening and comprehension skills. Language learners can connect with native English speakers and other language enthusiasts through language exchange platforms or social media. Virtual language exchange provides opportunities for real-time communication and practice, enhancing speaking and conversation skills.

Technology offers speech recognition software and pronunciation tools that provide feedback on learners' pronunciation accuracy. These tools help learners refine their pronunciation and speaking abilities. Virtual classrooms and online courses allow learners to receive instruction from qualified English language teachers, no matter their geographical location. These courses cover various aspects of language learning, including grammar, writing, and speaking practice. Technology enables adaptive learning platforms that customize the learning experience based on learners' strengths, weaknesses, and progress. Personalized learning paths can help learners focus on areas that need improvement, maximizing their language development.

METHOD

In this research, the researcher aimed to explore the impact of technology in English reading skill. It was employed a descriptive qualitative approach. Qualitative descriptive research is a type of qualitative research method that focuses on providing a comprehensive and detailed description of a phenomenon or a specific research topic. The participants in this study were 34 students of the sixth semester at English department. Purposive sampling was utilized to select participants based on their specific goals and positions, ensuring that the findings would align with the study's objectives.

The researchers collected data through interview, observation and documentation. The researchers posed several questions to the participants to gather information about the impact of technology in English reading skill. This direct interaction allowed the researchers to obtain valuable insights from the sources themselves. Additionally, documentation was utilized to analyze previous research findings, which served as a reference to supplement the information obtained in this study. The researchers meticulously recorded each response from the participants to bolster the credibility and reliability of the study's outcomes. Moreover, observation played a role in the research process, allowing the researchers to closely observe the dynamics and interactions during the cooperative learning sessions.

Overall, this research aimed to shed light on technology in English reading skill in the EFL classroom by considering the perspectives of students. The use of qualitative methods and multiple data sources provided a comprehensive understanding of this instructional approach.

RESULT

This study sought to investigate the impact of using technology to enhance reading skills in students. The research was conducted with a focus on understanding how technology integration positively affects students' reading abilities and fosters a love for reading. The use of technology in reading instruction was found to significantly improve students' reading comprehension. Interactive e-books, online reading platforms, and educational apps provided engaging and interactive reading experiences, helping students to better understand and analyze texts.

Technology allowed for personalized learning experiences, catering to individual students' reading levels, interests, and learning styles. Adaptive software and online reading tools tailored reading materials and activities to meet each student's specific needs, promoting self-paced learning. The incorporation of technology in reading activities positively impacted students' motivation to read. Interactive elements, multimedia features, and gamified approaches to reading materials made the learning process enjoyable and rewarding, fostering a passion for reading.

Technology-based reading programs exposed students to a wider range of vocabulary words. Through interactive vocabulary exercises, audio support, and contextual learning, students expanded their word knowledge, contributing to improved reading fluency and comprehension. Technology facilitated anytime, anywhere access to reading resources. Students could access e-books, articles, and digital libraries from various devices, enabling continuous practice and exploration of diverse reading materials beyond the classroom.

Integrating technology in reading activities enhanced student engagement. Multimedia elements, interactive quizzes, and online discussions motivated students to actively participate in reading tasks and collaborate with peers, fostering a sense of community around reading. Through technology-driven activities like speech recognition tools and audio support, students demonstrated improved reading fluency and pronunciation skills. Frequent exposure to audio-assisted reading materials helped build confidence in reading aloud. Technology-based interventions provided additional support for struggling readers. The adaptive nature of certain tools allowed these students to receive targeted assistance and scaffolded learning experiences to bridge their reading gaps.

The results of this study indicate that technology can be a powerful tool in enhancing reading skills among students. By providing engaging and interactive learning experiences, personalized instruction, and increased access to reading resources, technology contributes positively to students' reading comprehension, vocabulary development, fluency, and overall motivation to read. Incorporating technology into reading instruction can be an effective strategy to foster a love for reading and promote literacy skills in today's digital age.

DISCUSSION

Technology as a Motivational Tool

Technology serves as a powerful motivational tool in enhancing English language ability. Its interactive and innovative features not only engage learners but also foster enthusiasm and dedication to improving their English skills. Here's how technology acts as a motivational tool in this context. Language learning apps and online platforms often incorporate gamification elements such as points, badges, and leaderboards. These rewards create a sense of achievement and competition, motivating learners to complete tasks, challenges, and language exercises to earn recognition and move up in levels.

Technology enables the creation of interactive and visually appealing learning content. Engaging multimedia materials, such as videos, interactive quizzes, and storytelling, capture learners' attention and make the learning process enjoyable, encouraging them to explore and practice more. Adaptive learning technology tailors the learning experience to individual learners' needs, interests, and proficiency levels. Personalized learning paths ensure that learners receive content and exercises that align with their abilities, promoting a sense of progress and accomplishment. Technology provides learners with immediate feedback on their language performance. Whether it's correcting pronunciation, grammar, or vocabulary use, this timely feedback reinforces correct language usage and motivates learners to improve.

By leveraging technology as a motivational tool, learners can experience increased engagement, sustained interest, and improved language proficiency. Integrating technology thoughtfully and purposefully into language learning experiences empowers learners to take ownership of their learning journey and fosters a dynamic and effective learning environment

Personalized Learning through Technology:

By reading using technology, Personalized learning through technology has emerged as a promising approach to enhancing reading skills in students. This educational methodology leverages technological tools and platforms to tailor instruction according to individual students' unique needs, interests, and abilities. By incorporating personalized learning techniques into reading instruction, educators can create more effective and engaging learning experiences for students, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of reading. The following are some key aspects of how personalized learning through technology can enhance reading skills:

Technology-enabled adaptive reading platforms assess students' reading levels and progress, allowing them to access appropriate reading materials and activities. These platforms adjust the difficulty of texts and comprehension questions based on individual performance, ensuring students are challenged at an optimal level to promote growth. It allows students to follow individualized learning paths. They can explore various reading materials that align with their interests and strengths, which enhances their motivation and engagement in the learning process.

Technology can identify specific areas of difficulty in students' reading skills. With this information, educators can provide targeted intervention and support, such as tailored exercises, interactive games, and multimedia resources, to address students' unique needs. It accommodates different learning paces. Students can progress through reading activities at their own speed, promoting a deeper understanding of the content and preventing students from feeling rushed or bored. It provides valuable data on students' reading performance, allowing teachers to make informed instructional decisions. Educators can analyze data to identify trends, strengths, and areas for improvement, thus guiding their instructional strategies accordingly.

Online Language Exchange and Communication:

Online language exchange and communication using technology can be a valuable and effective method for enhancing English reading skills. This approach leverages digital platforms and tools to facilitate communication between language learners, providing them with opportunities to practice reading in an authentic and interactive environment. Here are some ways in which online language exchange and communication can enhance English reading skills. Language exchange platforms often provide a wide range of authentic reading materials, such as articles, blogs, news stories, and social media posts, which expose learners to real-life language usage and diverse topics.

Engaging in written conversations with language partners allows learners to practice reading and comprehending messages in English. This interactive practice enhances their ability to understand context, tone, and implied meanings. Regular exposure to various texts in an online language exchange helps learners encounter new words and phrases, contributing to their vocabulary expansion and language proficiency. Language exchange enables learners to gain insights into different cultures through reading materials shared by their language partners. This cultural exposure broadens their understanding of the English language in different contexts.

Engaging in online discussions with language partners fosters critical thinking and encourages learners to express their opinions, which further enhances their reading comprehension and interpretation skills. Online communication allows for real-time feedback from language partners. Learners can clarify doubts about the texts they read and receive corrections, which helps them improve their reading accuracy and language usage. It offers the flexibility of self-paced learning, allowing learners to choose reading materials and practice at their own convenience and comfort level.: Interacting with language partners in a supportive and encouraging environment can boost learners' motivation to read more in English. The social aspect of language exchange fosters a sense of community and shared learning goals.

Conclusion

online language exchange and communication using technology can be a powerful tool for enhancing English reading skills. By providing access to authentic reading materials, interactive discussions, immediate feedback, and a supportive learning community, language exchange platforms offer an effective and enjoyable way for learners to improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and overall language proficiency in English.

Students also can be easier to choose what they want to learn from online platforms. It is useful to support them in developing reading skill. Readers don't need to buy a book because there are lot of platforms that students can use such as youtube, wattpad, novel, and so on. If the students want to read scientific writing, they can open google scholar to read.

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