

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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Abstract: In the present era of rapid development, technology plays a crucial role in every field. Similarly, these technologies are also making their mark in language learning. This article highlights the advantages and significant aspects of technology, especially in learning the English language.

Keywords: innovative technologies, smartphones, gadgets, Google Translate, Duolingo, robot technologies.

In the rapidly advancing 21st century, it is impossible to imagine a field untouched by technology. Every moment of our lives, intentionally or unintentionally, we benefit from various technological advancements. On one hand, technology has greatly facilitated and improved our lives, but on the other hand, it has also made us excessively reliant on it, to the extent that we sometimes struggle to perform even simple tasks without technology. Undoubtedly, the enhancement of our lives is positive, but sometimes excessive reliance on physical movement or minimal mental effort can lead to negative consequences. This calls for a reassessment of the notion that all tasks can only be accomplished with the help of technology. It is well known that in the past, agriculture and, of course, the industrial sector relied more on human labor, and this provided employment for many. However, in recent years, in place of human labor, the term "robot technologies" has emerged in almost every field. It has also made its impact in the fields of translation and language learning. Nowadays, every language learner, student, or applicant uses smartphones or various gadgets to learn a language, and they also widely use applications like "Google Translate" that have become popular among the general public. Below, detailed information is provided about such applications, smartphones, gadgets, and technologies.

"Google Translate" is a multilingual neural machine translation service developed by Google for translating texts, documents, and websites from one language to another. It was introduced in April 2006 as a statistical machine translation service, utilizing linguistic information from documents and transcripts of the United Nations and the European Parliament. Instead of directly translating languages, it first translates the text into English and then translates the English version into the target language, except for a few exceptions where it directly translates between Catalan-Spanish language pairs. In May 2013, the company announced that the service was serving over 200 million people, and by April 2016, the number of users had increased to over 500 million, with over 100 billion words translated daily. According to its 2022 data, "Google Translate" supports 133 languages to varying degrees and is used by up to 200 million users daily. It can be observed that the usage statistics of "Google Translate" are increasing year by year, and the quality of translation is also improving accordingly. Sometimes, using this platform can be beneficial, but in many cases, such as conferences and similar events, human translation is still required, indicating that the platform does not possess the ability to accurately translate certain expressions and idioms. This highlights the need for further advancements in the platform.

If we talk about various types of applications and gadgets that are available worldwide, through the well-known "Play Store" or "App Store," many language learning apps can be

downloaded and used to learn languages. Similarly, various types of gadgets are being produced specifically for language learning. Let's discuss some of the most popular ones.

"Duolingo" is an American education technology company that develops language-learning applications and provides language certification. It offers courses in more than 40 languages, ranging from widely spoken ones like English and Spanish to less commonly studied languages like Welsh, Irish, and Swahili. According to the 2022 data, it has a monthly active user base of 60.7 million people, and undoubtedly, these numbers have continued to grow significantly to this day. Certainly, the app has many beneficial aspects, which is why the number of users has been increasing year after year. Additionally, the "Duolingo" certificate has gained recognition worldwide and is now accepted by many universities globally. This further contributes to its popularity. Undoubtedly, the app's success lies in its effective approach. Users can learn languages easily through various engaging methods, including games and interactive exercises. However, sometimes, young children may become addicted to using these types of apps, leading to potential issues with excessive screen time and potential health concerns. To prevent this, it is important for parents to ensure that their children, or anyone learning a language for that matter, also participate in offline classes or activities. It's not about the impossibility of using the app, but rather about using it in a purposeful manner, aligned with specific goals or a balanced approach. It would be beneficial not only to use this app but also to utilize similar apps and gadgets in a way that aligns with a specific purpose or approach, as it would bring even brighter results.

"We live in the era of robotics, and in recent years, this field has been developing rapidly. Because each field, including the field of language, is being taken over by robots year after year. Although translation or language learning through robots may seem convenient, it has its limitations. One of the main drawbacks is the lack of independent engagement and interactivity. But if you want to learn any word or language, a teacher becomes necessary for you! Why? Because a teacher can easily teach you something that you haven't learned through this or that robot technology. It becomes apparent that in the process of language learning, there are certain aspects that no technology or robotics can teach. This means that human involvement undoubtedly plays a significant role in language learning.

Conclusion: To summarize, in our language learning, both technology and human presence have their own place and significance. Over the years, no matter how much the world of technology advances, there will always be stages in which technology cannot replace human beings in language learning. Therefore, it is evident that the level and quality of language learning increase globally when using technology or any application according to certain rules, regulations, or a specific regime, and the difficulties in language learning decrease significantly".

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