USING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE EFL LEARNERS☐ LISTENING COMPREHENSION

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Annotation: This research examines how digital technologies☐such as podcasts, online films, and mobile applications☐can help EFL learners improve their listening comprehension. It emphasizes the value of real materials and self-directed learning in improving listening skills.

Keywords: technology in education, listening comprehension, EFL learners, digital learning, authentic materials

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada podkastlar, onlayn videolar va mobil ilovalar kabi raqamli texnologiyalar yordamida EFL o☐quvchilarining tinglab tushunish ko☐nikmasini rivojlantirish masalasi tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, autentik materiallardan foydalanish va mustaqil o☐rganishning ahamiyati yoritilgan.

Kalit so☐zlar: ta☐lim texnologiyalari, tinglab tushunish, EFL o☐quvchilari, raqamli ta☐lim, hayotiy materiallar

Аннотация: В данной статье анализируется использование цифровых технологий, таких как подкасты, онлайн-видео и мобильные приложения, для развития навыков аудирования у студентов, изучающих английский язык как иностранный. Особое внимание уделяется роли аутентичных материалов и самостоятельного обучения.

Ключевые слова: образовательные технологии, аудирование, студенты EFL, цифровое обучение, аутентичные материалы

The rapid development of modern technologies has had a considerable impact on listening comprehension in EFL classrooms. Traditional listening exercises, which rely solely on audio CDs and teacher explanations, are no longer enough for digital-age learners. Today's pupils are surrounded by technology and frequently prefer multimedia tools that are visual, interactive, and authentic. As a result, incorporating technology into listening classes has become not only advantageous, but also necessary for effective language learning (Rost 2011).

Podcasts, online video platforms, and mobile applications can all help learners improve their listening skills. They give students access to realistic speech, different accents, and real-life scenarios, bridging the gap between classroom education and real-world communication.

1. Podcasts and Audiobooks

Podcasts and audiobooks are effective tools for increasing listening comprehension because they expose students to authentic English and genuine pronunciation. For example, EFL students can listen to educational podcasts produced exclusively for language learners, such as BBC Learning English or 6 Minute English.

Podcasts allow students to chose topics that interest them, such as culture, news, science, or lifestyle, making studying more enjoyable. Furthermore, learners can modify playback speed, pause, and replay sections, allowing for self-paced learning (Renandya & Farrell, 2011).

2. YouTube and TEDTalks

YouTube and TED Talks are fantastic sources for honest listening. Unlike scripted textbook audios, these platforms use genuine speakers, authentic intonation, and a variety of speaking styles. Facial expressions, gestures, and on-screen writing can assist learners comprehend meaning even when the terminology is unknown.

Teachers can provide pre-listening activities (for example, guessing the subject), while during-listening tasks could involve taking notes or highlighting significant points. After listening, students might discuss concepts, summarise information, or provide brief presentations. Such multimodal involvement boosts understanding and critical thinking (Gilakjani & Sabouri, 2016).

3. Mobile Applications and Online Platforms

Mobile applications like Duolingo, EWA, BBC Learning English App, and Elsa Speak have revolutionized independent listening practice. These apps allow learners to practice anytime and anywhere, offering personalized exercises and instant feedback.

Teachers can assign app-based listening tasks as homework, enabling continuous learning outside the classroom. This blended approach☐combining in-class and digital learning☐has proven to increase motivation and consistency among learners (Vandergrift, 2004).

4. The Role of Authentic Materials

Authentic resources, including as movie snippets, radio shows, news broadcasts, and interviews, are essential for helping students grasp natural language. Exposure to actual speech helps pupils become used to different accents, idiomatic idioms, and cultural allusions. For example, brief movie scenes or news stories can be utilised to show how English is used in everyday communication.

Using such resources also increases learners' confidence when engaging with native speakers since they get comfortable with proper pronunciation, pace, and rhythm.

5. The teacher's role in technology integration

While technology has several benefits, instructors must stay at the forefront of properly leading its application. EFL instructors must carefully pick resources that are appropriate for their students' levels and learning objectives. They should also educate pupils how to utilise digital technologies critically, such as judging source credibility and prioritising language progress above amusement.

Conclusion

Technology has transformed the way listening skills are taught and learnt in EFL classes. Teachers may create an engaging listening environment by including podcasts, movies, mobile applications, and real materials. Learners become more independent, exposed to real-world English, and capable of setting their own learning pace. Finally, technology is not a replacement for instructors, but rather a great tool for making listening teaching more interesting, adaptable, and successful.

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