

The Impact of Social Media and Technology on Learning English

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Abstract: This research paper explores the influence of media and technology on English language learning. In an era marked by globalization and technological advancements, the role of technology in education, particularly in language acquisition, has gained prominence. The paper begins by examining the different technological tools and platforms that facilitate the development of English language skills, including reading, writing, and listening. It provides an overview of prevalent technologies used in language learning, shedding light on their benefits and challenges. Furthermore, the paper investigates the impact of media and technology on language education, drawing insights from scholarly sources.

Keywords: media and technology, technological advancements, technological tools English language learning.

1. INTRODUCTION

The term "globalization" has become incredibly pervasive in recent years, bordering on cliché, despite being a relatively recent phenomenon in human history. Globalization signifies the remarkable shrinking of our world, facilitated by technological advancements that have brought people closer together to the point where our planet is often referred to as a 'global village.' Breakthroughs in Information Communication Technology (ICT) have revolutionized human interactions, improving efficiency across various aspects of life, including education and instructional delivery. Furthermore, the increased interconnectedness among global citizens has necessitated the adoption of a common language that individuals from diverse cultures can use for communication. English has emerged as the primary lingua franca for this purpose, leading to a growing number of people worldwide pursuing English language proficiency, making them English as a Second Language (ESL) learners.

Consequently, there is a growing demand to harness technology in ESL teaching and learning, leveraging platforms like social media and other technological resources of the information age. This research paper aims to explore the impact of social media and technology on the process of learning English. The paper delves into relevant learning theories underpinning technology integration into English language learning. It will subsequently discuss today's prevalent technological methods and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of using media and technology in English education.

Influence of Media and Technology on English Language Learning

Integrating technology into education entails the meaningful utilization of technology for learning purposes. This chapter delves into the question of what constitutes effective technology integration. It may appear simple, but it is a complex inquiry influenced by beliefs, values, perceptions of learning, and technology's role in the educational process (Kimmons, 2020). The discourse surrounding learning theories has persisted throughout history, and diverse perspectives still exist among scientists, psychologists, and educators. Several learning theories inform contemporary discussions about technology integration in education, including behaviorism, Cognitivism, and constructivism. Exploring these competing theories and developing their understanding of learning processes is necessary.

Behaviorism

Behaviorism emerged in the mid-20th century as researchers studied human and animal behavior patterns and response mechanisms. This theory considers learning a response to stimuli. Individuals are conditioned to respond to particular stimuli in specific ways (Graham, 2000). Thus, teaching and learning are perceived as conditioning individuals to respond correctly to stimuli. Technology facilitates this training by offering learning incentives, such as games or rewards, or providing systems for efficient stimulus-response conditioning.

Cognitivism

Cognitivism emerged as an alternative to behaviorism, partly because the latter treated brain processes as an indecipherable "black box" without understanding brain mechanics in the learning process. Conversely, Cognitivism focuses on brain functions, information processing, storage, retrieval, and application (Clark, 2018). By appreciating humans' thinking capacities instead of trainable creatures, cognitivism inquires how individuals can develop effective teaching and learning strategies that optimize their brain's ability to make meaningful use of presented information. Within this framework, technology aids in information delivery and study resources that enhance the brain's efficient information storage and retrieval.

Learning English has been significantly enriched by various media and technology resources catering to different language skills: reading, writing, and listening. Here's an overview of some of the most common media and technology tools associated with English learning.

2. READING

Social Apps Twitter and Instagram

Social Media Platforms combine visuals, text, images, gifs, and videos. Users engage with text by reading posts, comments, and captions, helping them learn English in context. Instagram and Twitter are effective platforms for English language learning by immersing learners in an authentic environment, enhancing their interest and motivation to learn, and promoting active engagement through social constructivist principles (Fadda, 2020). These social media platforms align with the constructivist theory, where learners actively build knowledge by connecting new information to existing concepts, interpreting ideas within their interests and experiences, and engaging in dialogues with others.

On Instagram, learners actively construct knowledge by using English to respond to questions or comments from teachers or peers and share posts related to their interests. This immersion in authentic English usage fosters an environment where language learning becomes a meaningful and engaging experience. Twitter, known for its concise messaging and interactive nature, facilitates communication with a wide range of people, making it an ideal platform for English learners to practice conversational skills. Public interactions on Twitter allow learners to engage with native English speakers, expanding their language proficiency as they communicate about diverse topics, connect with colleagues, and promote products and blog posts (Arumugam, 2022). Both social networking sites offer valuable opportunities for English learners to actively engage with the language and interact with native speakers in their language learning journey. These platforms create environments where the practical use of English becomes a central component of the learning process, leading to improved language proficiency and communication skills.

Q&A Communities (Quora, Reddit)

These text-heavy platforms encourage users to read and engage in discussions, exposing them to various English textual content. Users often become more versatile in their English usage due to their exposure to diverse language styles. Quora and Reddit offer valuable resources for individuals looking to enhance their English language skills. Quora hosts a community of knowledgeable individuals covering diverse subject areas, making it an invaluable supplement for language learners. Users can utilize the platform's question-and-answer feature to practice reading and writing skills while seeking clarification on challenging language components (Buckley, 2020). Initially, reading questions and answers from other users is a comprehension test. As users become more engaged with the platform, they can transition from passive consumption to active participation by responding to questions in their areas of interest, thereby honing their writing skills. Native speakers often provide feedback and corrections, offering valuable learning opportunities. Quora's primary purpose is to facilitate asking questions and sourcing answers from knowledgeable individuals, making it an ideal platform for users seeking guidance on word meanings, phrase usage, or grammatical questions.

On the other hand, Reddit provides various avenues for English language learners to expand their vocabulary and engage in one-on-one conversations to sharpen their language skills. Subreddits like /r/AlienExchange and /r/Penpals offer opportunities to connect with individuals for language practice and discussions on shared interests (Isadora, 2016). These interactions can range from focused language practice to more casual conversations, allowing learners to tailor their experience. The platform even includes subreddits like r/WhatsTheWord, a crowdsourced reverse dictionary, where users can seek help in finding the right words when they know the concept but struggle with the exact term. Additionally, r/Proofreading is a valuable resource for individuals seeking proofreading assistance for their texts, providing collaborative feedback on Google Docs. Quora and Reddit are valuable tools for English language learners, offering opportunities to practice reading and writing, expand vocabulary, and engage in meaningful language interactions with native speakers and knowledgeable individuals. These platforms contribute to a well-rounded language learning experience by combining comprehension, active participation, and collaborative learning opportunities.

Online Dictionaries

Online dictionaries like Merriam-Webster, Cambridge, and Macmillan are invaluable resources for English learners, aiding their comprehension of word meanings, phrases, and idioms. Designed for ESL/EFL students, learner dictionaries offer a comprehensive understanding of words, including various meanings, word combinations, example sentences, and explanatory notes. These resources come in multiple formats, online platforms, and mobile applications for smartphones and tablets. Most modern learner dictionaries are available online, offering additional features such as pronunciation guides, electronic writing tools, quick-find options, picture dictionaries, extra grammar and vocabulary exercises, vocabulary notes, and wildcard functions (Nurmukhamedov, 2012). These features are strategically designed to aid efficient dictionary use and effective vocabulary learning, ultimately enhancing the learning experience.

Online dictionaries vary in information presentation, usability, interface, and user-friendliness. However, despite these differences, online dictionaries available on the Internet share core features such as word meanings, word frequency, precise definitions, word combinations, and explanatory notes. These resources assist learners in building their vocabulary strategically and enjoyably (Zheng & Wang, 2016). One notable advantage of learner dictionaries, especially for EFL learners, is the abundance of example sentences. In addition to definitions, these dictionaries include "authentic examples to illustrate the use of words in context." This contextual information provided through example sentences is a valuable tool for learning new words, enriching the language acquisition process.

E-books

E-books offer a versatile and accessible resource for English learners, allowing for own-pace reading and studying. However, their impact goes beyond traditional reading materials. Extensive reading, a practice encouraged by e-books, plays a significant role in enhancing the grammatical knowledge of second language learners (Park & Lee, 2021). By engaging with extensive written texts with diverse sentence structures, readers repeatedly receive language input and grasp its contextual nuances. This exposure fosters greater familiarity with sentence structures in real-life situations, distinct from the conventional grammar teaching approach of presenting, practicing, and producing target language rules.

Furthermore, e-books offer a range of interactive features that enrich the learning experience. Readers can make annotations, highlight content, and utilize tools like page zoom, search functions, and read-aloud options. The search tool, in particular, stands out for its ability to swiftly locate specific words or topics, eliminating the need to flip through pages (Nasir et al., 2022). Users can bookmark pages, access an online dictionary for quick word meanings, and customize font size, style, and device brightness to suit their preferences. E-books, in essence, provide a comprehensive learning platform that goes beyond traditional text-based learning.

Moreover, e-books extend beyond mere text, incorporating multimedia elements like music, animations, videos, and audio explanations into the learning module. Videos enhance the learning process, allowing students to pause, rewind, and review content at their own pace. Animations add an engaging and memorable dimension to learning, improving information retention. Many publishers now integrate videos into e-books to keep students engaged and informed simultaneously. Combining entertainment value with educational content, videos, and animations enhances students' learning and recall abilities, offering a multifaceted approach to education.

3. WRITING

Autocorrect and Speech-to-text technology

Word processors like Google Docs offer a range of features that save time and support English language learning. One such feature is speech-to-text, which enhances writing efficiency by allowing users to speak their thoughts and have them converted into text. This tool is particularly beneficial for learners looking to improve their writing skills as it aids transcription. Additionally, text-to-speech (TTS) technology plays a crucial role in language acquisition (Lin and Paas, 2017). For English learners, TTS offers multiple advantages. First, as a pronunciation guide, TTS helps learners practice and master pronunciation, offering a variety of accents and reading speeds. This assistive technology provides a natural-sounding rendition of English texts, allowing learners to focus on word pronunciation. Interactive TTS software, such as Natural Reader and Speechify, enhances motivation and self-esteem by making language learning more engaging and lifelike (Ismael et al., 2022). It allows learners to access the language anytime and listen to various types of content, like audiobooks.

Moreover, using word processors like Google Docs offers time-saving benefits for students. These tools allow students to focus on critical aspects of writing, such as planning, organization, and reflection, rather than following a linear writing process. Students who write with word processors can seamlessly combine brainstorming, drafting, revising, and proofreading, resulting in a more efficient writing workflow. Additionally, auto-correct (AC) features on smartphones and touchpad devices simplify the writing process, making it more convenient for language learners (Ismael et al., 2022). AC technology automatically checks and suggests corrections for misspelled words, streamlining the text entry process and minimizing the need for precise spelling. Spellcheckers transformed the lives of people with dyslexia and have proven to be a valuable aid for overwhelmed editors.

Paraphrasing Tools

AI-driven paraphrasing tools are invaluable aids for learners seeking to rephrase text while preserving its original meaning, providing essential guidance on language mechanics and preventing plagiarism. The advantages of paraphrasing tools for English learners are manifold. Most notably, these tools offer remarkable time-saving capabilities. Tasks that once devoured hours can now be swiftly accomplished in mere minutes with the aid of these tools. The process is straightforward: identify a pertinent source related to the topic, then effortlessly copy and paste the text into the chosen paraphrasing tool. Following this, users can select their preferred style and language for the paraphrased content (Sulistyaningrum, 2021). It is worth noting, however, that paraphrasing tools may not invariably guarantee absolute accuracy. Hence, it is prudent to meticulously review the output for any necessary corrections before utilizing or submitting it.

Furthermore, paraphrasing tools are pivotal in honing writing skills, particularly for students grappling with time constraints. In scenarios where time is a precious commodity, students might incorporate monotonous, repetitive, or redundant sentences to meet stringent word count requirements. Paraphrasing tools come to the rescue by proposing innovative sentence structures, empowering students to infuse well-structured and compelling content into their theses or papers.

Another compelling advantage of harnessing paraphrasing tools is the enhancement of vocabulary. Native English speakers typically boast expansive lexicons, ranging from 20,000 to 30,000 words, while non-native English speakers might contend with more limited vocabularies (Dinneen, 2021). Composing text with a confined vocabulary can breed monotony and redundancy. Paraphrasing tools often offer synonyms and alternative phrasings when rewording text, thus broadening one's lexical horizons. These freshly introduced words can seamlessly integrate into future writing endeavors, culminating in improved word choice and a more affluent vocabulary. AI-powered paraphrasing tools are indispensable companions for English learners, facilitating time efficiency and substantial assistance in refining writing skills and enriching one's vocabulary.

Grammarly

Grammarly is a tool that helps learners catch spelling errors, punctuation mistakes, and unclear sentences, ultimately improving the clarity and coherence of their writing. Grammarly offers a premium version that can detect dozens of errors and implement 250 grammar rules to give writers a two-fold grading system. The initial score is based on the accuracy percentage, while the software's error count influences the second score. Interestingly, students seem to favor the free service over the premium despite the latter's more extensive features (Soegiyarto et al., 2022). It is worth noting that Grammarly

users' writing endeavors pursue distinct objectives. When users establish specific goals for a given piece of writing, Grammarly customizes suggestions to align with their intended audience and writing style. Upon uploading a new document to Grammarly, users encounter a "Set Goals" page, which presents various options for customizing their writing approach. This feature enables adjustments in terms of audience, formality, domain, text tone, and intent (Daroina et al., 2022). However, the goal-setting capabilities for free users are somewhat limited. Grammarly is a valuable resource for students seeking to rectify grammar errors or sentence structures. The editing process not only corrects errors but also educates students about the nature of the mistakes, fostering a deeper understanding. The software also enhances sentence structures by eliminating redundancy and suggesting alternative words that can enrich students' vocabulary. These new words can be incorporated into future assignments, bolstering language proficiency. Forming coherent sentences can be challenging for students whose first language is not English, and Grammarly provides crucial support. Beyond aiding with assignments, Grammarly plays a pivotal role in boosting students' self-assurance regarding their future academic achievements.

Chatbots (e.g., Chat GPT)

AI chatbots, exemplified by Chat GPT, play a significant role in advancing English proficiency by aiding with tasks such as paraphrasing, summarizing, and synthesis (Tobing and Erlangga, 2023). These applications of generative AI offer benefits and come with evolving aspects. Educators can find their value in various ways, starting with empowering writing. Generative AI is a versatile tool for generating initial drafts, outlines, and brainstorming materials. ChatGPT and similar applications prove especially beneficial during the brainstorming phase. They can produce substantial amounts of unrefined content, which students can evaluate, analyze, and research. This helps students overcome the challenging early stages of writing. Efficient Summarization: AI chatbots excel in condensing and summarizing lengthy texts, aiding students in reading and research. They simplify complex texts, making them more accessible, particularly for non-native English speakers trying to understand academic materials (Fitria, 2023). ChatGPT assists learners with grammar, mechanics, and syntax issues. It provides immediate automated help, identifies and explains grammatical errors, and serves as a language practice partner, benefiting English learners and multilingual students. These AI applications stimulate classroom discussions on rhetoric, writing style, and AI literacy (Lin, 2023). They become platforms for exploring ethical questions surrounding AI language systems, including plagiarism and academic integrity. Educators can guide students to develop their unique writing styles and voices, fostering critical thinking and writing proficiency. In summary, AI chatbots like Chat GPT contribute significantly to English learning by providing valuable writing tools, summarization capabilities, grammar assistance, and opportunities for meaningful discussions about language and technology ethics.

4. LISTENING

Video Content (YouTube, TikTok, Hulu, Netflix)

Films, videos, television programs, and music offer a rich array of resources for learners to improve their English by watching and listening to native speakers. Computer-aided instruction has demonstrated its effectiveness in enhancing rote memory and critical thinking abilities, as proposed by Chien et al. (2020). This modular supplementary tool offers flexibility to adapt to individualized needs and aids teachers in constructing comprehensive courses. It fosters student motivation, encourages learning autonomy, provides instant feedback, and monitors students' learning progress concurrently. Listening comprehension holds immense significance in second language acquisition (SLA). The ability to comprehend spoken language plays a pivotal role in learning and using a second language, facilitating real communication in classrooms and interactions between native and non-native speakers (Yuyun and Simamora, 2021). In SLA research, listening opportunities are often described as the linguistic environment, serving as the backdrop for second language acquisition. This environment offers linguistic input through listening and interaction opportunities within social and pedagogical contexts. Learners aspiring to acquire a second language must attentively grasp and understand input from native speakers, just as in first language acquisition. Motivation and access to developmental opportunities are crucial in this process. Listening comprehension entails comprehending and being aware of spoken language (Fadillah et al., 2021). Education is evolving rapidly, with computer technology playing a pivotal role in second language education. The integration of advanced technology into education is an exciting development.

Research indicates that audiovisual materials, such as videos, can significantly enhance listening comprehension skills. For instance, the audiovisual group outperformed the audio-only groups in post-test listening comprehension assessments, suggesting that videos intensify listening comprehension abilities (Ardasheva et al., 2018). Numerous research studies underscore the transformative impact of YouTube in education. YouTube serves as a dynamic educational platform akin to

a portable classroom. It offers swift and enjoyable access to language and culture-based videos and instructional content from across the globe. The accessibility and adaptability of YouTube make it a valuable resource, providing free content to individuals with internet connectivity (Chien et al., 2020).

Furthermore, YouTube acts as a window that offers diverse perspectives, broadening horizons and offering unique insights into the world. In summary, computer-assisted instruction, listening comprehension, and the integration of YouTube contribute significantly to English learning by enhancing critical thinking, providing interactive learning opportunities, and offering diverse educational content (Fadillah et al., 2021). These technological tools empower students, foster motivation, and promote language acquisition in an ever-evolving educational landscape.

Music (YouTube, Spotify)

Music, readily available on platforms like YouTube and Spotify, offers captivating and engaging songs that can significantly enhance learners' speaking, listening, and language skills. Mastering pronunciation in a new language is often a challenging endeavor. Incorporating English songs into your learning process proves to be a valuable tool for refining your accent. When you immerse yourself in English songs, you naturally find yourself repeatedly singing along, leading to enjoyable and instinctive English practice (Toffoli and Sockett, 2014). Songs Enrich Vocabulary, Sentence Structures, and Grammar. They typically revolve around specific themes or topics, providing a context for vocabulary acquisition. The more you engage with song lyrics, the more your English vocabulary flourishes. Initially, you might not fully grasp all the lyrics, but with time, as you sing along and discuss the music with classmates, family, and friends, your comprehension steadily improves. Additionally, many English songs feature simple sentence structures and everyday conversational language, making them easily comprehensible and conducive to quick memorization.

The intricate relationship between music and language has been examined from various perspectives, exploring the shared perceptual and cognitive processes involved in their comprehension, their syntactical resemblances, their impact on brain plasticity, and the central role of emotional engagement in learning and performance (Lestary, 2019). This connection underscores the potential of music to enrich language acquisition. Concerning language learning, scholars have highlighted commonalities between the processing, structure, and characteristics of language and music. Furthermore, since auditory training is fundamental in second-language acquisition, researchers in second-language education advocate the integration of music as an effective teaching strategy. This alignment between music and language learning supports the prevalence of listening activities in language education despite distinct differences between songs and spoken language, such as syntax, phonology, vocabulary selection, and the potential interference of musical elements like melody, rhythm, instrumentation, and voice quality.

Positive Effects of Technology And Media In Second Language Acquisition

(a) Improved proficiency

The use of technology and media in second language acquisition has been shown to positively impact student performance and language proficiency, as evidenced by several studies. Mengorio and Dumlao (2019) conducted a study to investigate the impact of integrating Moodle's mobile application into teaching ESL students using tenth-grade students from a high school in the Philippines. A hundred participants were recruited via clustered sampling and placed into experiment and control groups, where the students in the latter group got traditional instruction. In contrast, education for the former group incorporated the language app Moodle. Findings showed learners in the intervention arm posting better English test scores than their peers who learned conventionally. For context, each group had 50 students, but the experiment group posted a 74% pass rate, while the control had a 60% pass rate.

Another similar study by Alfuhaid (2021) to establish Duolingo's usefulness in enhancing Saudi high school students English proficiency came up with findings mirroring Mengorio and Dumlao (2019). The present researcher's investigation also involved comparing two cohorts wherein members in one learned English with the assistance of Duolingo while participants in the other group did not. After the result analysis, it was established that involving Duolingo positively impacted participants' English-speaking proficiency and overall improved their language skills.

Furaidah et al. (2016), interested in finding out the utility of subtitles in enhancing English learners' reading skills, did correlational research where the reading skill was the dependent variable, while the habit of watching videos with English subtitles was the independent variable. Researchers used questionnaires and tests to find the habit of subtitled video

watching positively correlated to reading ability, with participants partaking in the habit with a 44.22% variance relative to another group.

(b) Prioritizes Student-Centered Learning

In language learning, there is a growing awareness that the conventional, 'wholesale' instructional approach must accommodate the varying needs of modern students (Badjadi, 2020). The shift toward personalized, student-centered designs is gaining ground, highlighting the essence of curating learning experiences to individual students' competencies instead of maintaining rigid, age-based benchmarks. Computer technology and digital media have formed a potent partnership in this dynamic schooling landscape.

Technology and media are critical in promoting student-centered learning by providing students with an engaging educational experience. Instead of passively taking in information, learners become active technology users, gaining the ability to take charge of their learning journeys (Winarsih and Yatno, 2017). Through various digital tools and platforms, technology motivates students and allows for a high degree of customization, making it well-suited to support student-centered education.

One example of this student-centric approach is the Duolingo language learning app. When learners embark on their language-learning adventure, they are prompted to set their daily goals, ranging from casual to insane levels, signifying varying time commitments for daily practice (Nelson, 2023). This level of personalization empowers learners to align their language learning with their individual preferences and schedules. Furthermore, the application's approach to assessing learners' prior language knowledge through placement tests ensures that each learner starts at an appropriate proficiency level. This diagnostic feature exemplifies how technology can help address individual needs and guide learners on their unique paths to language mastery. Technology and media in language education prioritize student-centered learning by providing students with the tools to actively organize their learning, diagnose their individual needs, and tailor their educational experiences. This shift from traditional structures to personalized, technology-enhanced learning experiences aligns with current research on effective learning practices, ultimately empowering students to take ownership of their education.

(c) The Advancement of Accessibility and Assistive Technology Fosters Inclusive Education by Including Previously Marginalized Student Populations

When discussing the impact of technology on education, it is apt to consider the accessibility aspect, particularly for groups of individuals who have historically been excluded from the educational landscape. Undoubtedly, one of the most formative educational technology outcomes is its promotion of inclusivity (Chazen, 2022). Technology has ushered in a new era where educational opportunities are extended to previously underserved or overlooked individuals. For instance, consider the considerable milestones attained in assisting blind students. Modern technology can convert texts into electronic Braille, opening learning once inaccessible avenues.

Additionally, audio recordings of lessons provide an alternative learning medium for visually impaired students. Similarly, technology has transformed the educational experience for hard-of-hearing and deaf students by enabling access to lectures through video recordings with closed captions to ensure students with hearing impairments can fully engage with the course content. Artificial intelligence (AI) software has been critical in rapidly generating accurate captions. Human transcribers review and refine these captions, enhancing their precision over time (Chazen, 2022). This iterative feedback loop continually refines the AI's understanding of specialized terminology and subject-specific nuances, making the captioning process faster, cost-effective, and more precise with each iteration.

Moreover, technology has facilitated the transcription of classes and the presentation of course materials in a text-only format to serve the diverse needs of students. AI-driven academic software performs transcription tasks efficiently, replicating its success in captions generation. By offering course materials in various formats and facilitating multiple channels of engagement, technology has made it feasible for students with physical disabilities, mental illnesses, or other health-related challenges to pursue their education. Technology serves as a bridge, enabling these students to pursue their educational aspirations at their own pace, on their terms. In a gradual yet transformative manner, technology has become a beacon of hope for students with diverse needs, championing their right to access education and empowering them to fulfill their academic dreams.

(d) Distance Education and E-Learning: Fostering Inclusivity and Enabling Collaborative Learning Experiences

In addition to breaking down barriers for students with disabilities, distance education and e-learning technologies pave the way to higher education for individuals who might otherwise encounter insurmountable obstacles. Media and technology extend education to a broader audience, addressing challenges hindering access to traditional learning environments (Chazen, 2022). Be it the financial burden of relocating to a desired tertiary institution, the prohibitive costs of standard tuition and learning materials, or the need to juggle a full-time job with other responsibilities, the technology eliminates these barriers and includes learners from diverse backgrounds.

Furthermore, distance education and e-learning create opportunities for individuals who have already earned a bachelor's or master's degree to continue their educational journey. Whether driven by professional development ambitions or a personal thirst for knowledge, technology provides a flexible and accessible route to ongoing learning. Technology empowers educational institutions to form collaborative partnerships, transcending geographical limitations and enhancing the learning experience. Institutions can seamlessly connect, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise. Professors from different universities can effortlessly teach students at remote locations, erasing the constraints of physical distance and minimizing the logistical challenges associated with traditional teaching methods.

An Alaskan-based tutor professor could record a lecture that can be simultaneously viewed by students in New York, forming an interconnected educational ecosystem. Similarly, technology allows health institutions to collaborate with colleges and universities to provide access, for instance, to live surgery feeds from operating rooms, an immersive experience benefiting medical students and aspiring medical device engineers. Moreover, technology enriches experiential learning by connecting students with individuals with direct, real-world insights relevant to their future careers (Chazen, 2022). For instance, universities training social workers can organize video conferences with individuals who have grown up in foster care, enabling them to share their life experiences and perspectives. Such interactions provide invaluable insights beyond what can be gleaned from textbooks alone. The profound impact of technology on student learning extends far beyond the classroom, shaping the skills and knowledge that students carry with them as they transition into the workforce and contribute to the future of our society.

Negative Effects of Technology And Media In Second Language Acquisition**(a) Social Media Distraction**

The irresistible allure of social media, often described as its hedonic appeal (Koessmeier & Büttner, 2021), exerts a powerful influence that lures users away from their primary objectives, leading them to forsake their intended tasks. This compelling attraction of social media is a highly potent distraction. Research has revealed that individuals, particularly students, struggle to focus on tasks such as studying, with the average time of concentrated work being a mere six minutes before succumbing to the siren call of social media and promptly responding to notifications (Brooks, 2015). To effectively mitigate these distractions and successfully achieve their goals, dissecting the underlying reasons behind these distractions is imperative.

According to the uses and gratification approach, users actively seek media platforms to satisfy specific needs and desires (Moon et al., 2022). In the vast landscape of media options, users deliberately choose those they believe will fulfill their requirements. Media utilization and its subsequent effects are shaped by a complex interplay of social and psychological factors and the prevailing context. Consequently, it is posited that social media distraction is a conscious decision made by users to cater to specific needs. While external distractions may occasionally occur beyond one's control, the response to these distractions remains within the user's purview. Similarly, individuals engaged in a task may find themselves momentarily diverted by thoughts unrelated to the task that serve as internal distractions. Even though these internal distractions represent a lapse in attentional control, users still retain the agency to determine how to address these fleeting lapses.

(b) Teachers' Limited Technological Proficiency

Another significant challenge linked to teachers' self-assurance is their proficiency in effectively incorporating ICT into their teaching practices. Many educators face hurdles when it comes to harnessing the full potential of computers and exhibit reluctance towards adapting to the changes and supplementary learning methods associated with integrating technology into their instructional approaches. Recent research has revealed that this obstacle's extent varies from region to region (Saad and Sankaran, 2020). In developing countries, studies indicate that teachers often grapple with a lack of technological competence, which impedes their willingness to embrace and adopt ICT. Teachers who refrain from utilizing computers

attribute their hesitation to a perceived "deficiency in skills." Consequently, the inadequacy of teacher competence emerges as a formidable barrier hindering the seamless integration of technology into education. Moreover, it can contribute to resistance toward embracing transformative changes in teaching practices.

5. CONCLUSION

In summary, technology and social media have significantly contributed to improving English learning. The present research is underpinned by behaviorism and cognitivism learning theory, which posits that individual learners are spurred to learn new things based on need. On the English skill of reading, social apps like Twitter and Instagram help language learners through exposure to content authored by native speakers, which sharpens their proficiency. Question and Answer platforms like Quora and Reddit are optimal for users who need clarification on correct English speaking and writing. Alternatively, curious learners can always tap resources such as online dictionaries, which provide extensive definitions of words, phrases, and idioms alongside synonyms. Still, in the reading vein, e-books availability has increased access to literature that learners can utilize to improve comprehension and build grammatical prowess. The writing facet of language learning has arguably witnessed the biggest transformation with state-of-the-art tools utilizing artificial intelligence to help compose rich texts. Features like speech-to-text and autocorrect make the endeavor less daunting. Also, paraphrasing tools help learners change sentence syntax without violating the semantics. The spell checker Grammarly has also carved its niche as a favored writing assistant for English learners for highlighting grammatical errors and flagging incorrect sentence structures. The chatbot Chat GPT has also earned critical acclaim for guiding the writing process of language learners. Language acquisition through listening is bolstered by video content from sites like YouTube and TikTok, where content developed by native English speakers improves vocabulary and general proficiency. Listening to music is also a great way to learn the language. Regarding the positive impacts of these technologies, they promote student-centered learning and elevate proficiency. On the downside, social media distracts learning, and some instructors may not be conversant with technology adequately.

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