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USE OF DIGITAL TOOLS IN INDEPENDENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract: This thesis highlights the significant importance of digital tools in English language learning. Research was conducted on how and when independent learning outside the classroom is effective. The critical role of today's most advanced technology, namely Artificial Intelligence, in this area is analyzed, and the extent of its impact on personal development is revealed through the study of scientists' research.

INTRODUCTION

In modern applied linguistics and pedagogy, independent mastery of the English language outside the classroom is being comprehensively studied in close connection with digital technologies. Today, independent learning has moved beyond the boundaries of traditional printed textbooks and limited classroom hours, allowing learners to personally determine their own individual learning trajectories based on their personal needs, abilities, and time management. In modern educational environments, digital tools act not merely as simple information transmitters or passive auxiliary elements, but rather as essential catalysts that develop learners' metacognitive skills—specifically, self-planning, process monitoring, and objective evaluation of final outcomes.

Global fundamental research indicates that digital resources (including multimedia dictionaries, authentic audio-video materials, and interactive tasks) serve to sustain a learner's intrinsic motivation and passion for the subject over a long period. In such digitized systems, the student transforms from a passive listener who merely receives information into an active, leading agent of the learning process. Concurrently, learners progressively acquire digital communicative competences in parallel with the process of language learning in their daily lives. Mobile applications and open educational platforms de-artificialize the process of language acquisition, turning it into an integral part of the
daily lifestyle, while providing a rich learning environment enhanced by multimodality (the convergence of text, audio, and imagery).

The greatest revolutionary shift in independent English language learning methodology in recent years has been the advent of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced neural network technologies. ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Claude, and various specialized linguistic smart-bots successfully perform the functions of an individual tutor and facilitator for each learner. Analytical reviews of theoretical studies and experimental research demonstrate that due to the fear of making mistakes in traditional face-to-face communication, students and language learners often face a strong psychological barrier—namely, the affective filter in the linguistic domain. An AI-driven digital communication environment minimizes or entirely eliminates this psychological barrier and shyness.

Language learners can engage in real-time communication by having their oral and written speech samples systematically analyzed for syntax, lexicon, and style by AI tools. This, in turn, facilitates the immediate correction of errors on the spot and the internalization of correct speech patterns. In the digital educational space, designing independent learning scenarios entails more complex processes than merely utilizing technical tools; it demands higher learner autonomy. Scientific sources emphasize that outside the traditional classroom, the digital environment presents the

student with an infinite flow of information, while simultaneously imposing the responsibility of independent strategy selection and time management. Particularly, Mobile-Assisted Language Learning (MALL) frameworks bring students' self-regulated learning strategies to the forefront. By utilizing mobile applications, every individual learning a language controls the pace and difficulty level of the educational material based on their individual needs, which multiplicatively enhances learning efficiency.

Along with this, higher education institutions place a special emphasis on contemporary integrated approaches in developing students' digital communicative competences in English; specifically, the "5T approach" holds distinct theoretical and practical value. This approach views digital tools not simply as auxiliary elements, but as major catalysts that systematically foster students' communication and collaboration skills. Utilizing digital learning resources (Moodle, Quizlet, and electronic platforms) significantly activates students' linguistic competences, their capacity for independent analysis of professionally oriented texts, and their ability to freely integrate into the global information space.

METHODS

In this research, a methodological triangulation (mixed methods) approach was utilized to determine the effectiveness of digital tools in independent English language learning. To gather quantitative data, surveys were conducted among students, and pre-test and post-test outcomes were analyzed within a quasi-experiment framework. In the qualitative phase, focus group interviews and the methodology of the SAMR model were employed to identify motivational changes within the students' independent learning processes.

RESULTS

The results indicate that digital technologies are acquiring profound significance within the scope of independent learning. For instance, in universities, students' performance in independent learning is assessed via the Moodle system, and this system is currently undergoing successful trials in accordance with international standards. In the experimental groups, the systematic use of digital tools (Quizlet, AI) was found to significantly increase language acquisition performance metrics.

DISCUSSION

The obtained results demonstrate that digital technologies can bring meaningful significance only if the individual possesses sufficient willpower and modern skills. Social resources act as a powerful motivational tool, but research consistently confirms that an extra edge in outcomes is achieved with the help of Artificial Intelligence. To minimize the impact of digital distractions, it is essential to shape independent study discipline among students

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