THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN TESOL: ENHANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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Abstract: The integration of technology into TESOL has revolutionized language instruction by offering personalized, engaging learning experiences. AI-driven tutors, virtual classrooms, and language apps enhance traditional methods, addressing individual needs and boosting student motivation through gamification, multimedia, and real-time feedback. However, challenges such as resistance to change, inadequate teacher training, and the digital divide must be overcome. Effective technology integration requires a balanced approach that aligns digital tools with teaching methods like TBLT and CLT, along with ongoing professional development for teachers.

Keywords: TESOL, technology integration, digital tools, interactive learning, gamification, AI-driven tutors, digital divide, Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT), Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), personalized learning.

The integration of technology into Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) has significantly transformed language education by providing new opportunities for personalized, interactive, and engaging learning experiences. With the development of digital tools such as language learning apps, virtual classrooms, and AI-driven tutors, TESOL educators can cater to individual learner needs and move beyond traditional teaching methods. These tools have prompted educators to reconsider their teaching practices and incorporate technology to complement and enrich conventional pedagogical strategies. Notwithstanding these benefits, TESOL technology integration presents many difficulties. The digital gap is a significant barrier to successful learning, wherein unequal access to technology, including computers and reliable internet connections, creates hurdles.

Furthermore, a lot of educators are not adequately prepared to appropriately incorporate technology into their lessons. Concerns about how technology may affect conventional teaching methods and student-teacher interactions can also be the source of resistance to it. Targeted professional development, institutional assistance, and guaranteeing fair access to resources are necessary to address these issues. Researchers suggest a balanced approach to technology integration, combining digital tools with established teaching methods like CLT and TBLT, which focus on learner-centered and authentic communication. Technology can enhance these approaches, with platforms like Google Classroom promoting collaboration and real-world language tasks, ensuring technology supports pedagogical principles.

Conclusion. Technology enhances TESOL by providing interactive, personalized learning experiences. However, challenges like unequal access, lack of teacher training, and resistance to change must be addressed. A balanced approach that combines traditional methods with digital tools and continuous professional development will ensure success. As technology evolves, it offers exciting opportunities to further revolutionize language education.

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