

EMERGING TRENDS IN ONLINE LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract

Online digital learning has become a part of current-day teaching and learning of language. It gave way to technology revolution in the field of education. Online learning helps learners to cross the physical boundary of place. It reduced the cost of education on one hand and improved the quality of education. It helped in introducing new trends in the field of language learning.

Key words: Online Language learning- Emerging trends – digital learning

Introduction

Over the past few years, the field of language teaching has become teaching and learning online. Online learning would encourage and engage language learners by allowing them to learn whenever, and wherever they need. Online learning, like all methods and approaches in education, needs to be balanced with student needs, technology resources, and the teacher's classroom goals to make an effective learning environment. Making an effective learning environment online is similar in many ways to preparing an effective classroom environment. By creating effective and engaging online materials and activities we can better equip our students to become self-paced learners. Online learning is different from the goal of present-day language learning. However, we can maximize its benefits by blending face-to-face and online learning.

Online learning and language learning

Integrating technology into the learning process certainly increases the learning environment's effectiveness. Introducing technology-enabled classrooms with digital learning tools that increases student involvement and motivation. It accelerates learning by supporting teachers to achieve learning outcomes for the learners and making them responsible and autonomous. It has the power to revolutionise teaching by acknowledging a new model of connected teaching. This model links teachers to students and to professional content, resources, and systems to help them improve their instruction and personalize learning. In distance learning programs technology enables language educators to expand language-learning opportunities to all students, regardless of their distance, or their language background and needs. Technology continues to grow in importance as a tool to support teachers of foreign languages in facilitating language learning for their students. It is the need of the time to support teachers by acquiring skills in the classroom to improve the learning experience for students.

New Trends in Online Language Learning

- Fully online
- Blended learning
- Flipped classroom

Online Learning

In online learning, the course activity takes place online with little or no direct interaction between the teacher and students. It is often considered a form of self-study. Massively open online courses are a great example of this approach. Online learning has been named as Internet learning, distance learning, Web-based learning, and distributed learning.

MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses)

MOOCs provide a great opportunity for students to take up a course of one's choice. These courses present unique opportunities for language learners to access authentic language learning materials regardless of physical location. Here the role of the teacher may seem diminished and the lack of the social component of the face-to-face classroom is felt. Massive Open Online Courses can be a great option for highly motivated, self-paced and self-directed learners. Examples of platforms that offer MOOCs are Khan Academy, Future Learn, Coursera, and EdX.

LMS (Learning Management Systems)

Learning Management Systems are virtual online software built and run by individual teachers or schools. LMS allows teachers to take online content for specific student populations. These systems help teachers to create an online class where they can collect store and share content for their students and create a virtual learning atmosphere for learners. LMS provides the class with discussion boards, that help teachers to interact with students. Most LMS have systematically organized the materials and collected and assessed homework online.

Blended learning

In blended learning, students often have a classroom experience that is supported by Internet-based materials. These materials are often selected by the teacher to expand upon the material covered in class and enrich the ideas presented by the teacher.

Synchronous and asynchronous learning

In synchronous online learning, the teacher and students meet at pre-arranged times and learn in real-time. They often communicate through live video or chat applications. In an asynchronous online environment, no real-time communication occurs between teacher and student. The best approach for teaching should be determined by the student population. Small class sizes with a localized population can be effective in using the synchronous online method. In contrast, teachers with larger populations with students in different time zones should consider building a course designed for the asynchronous online method.

Flipped Classrooms

A flipped classroom is an idea that opposes direct instruction in the classroom. Instead, students be given information or materials before class, freeing class time for activities that involve discussion and concept formation.

Some of the benefits of a flipped classroom are:

1. It's flexible
2. Students can learn at their own pace
3. Students can assess their learning by themselves
4. Students learn the concepts early
5. More opportunities for higher-level learning
6. Increased collaboration between students
7. More time for activities in the class

Conclusion

In the new trends in technology, we see that the internet has provided a wide range of applications to support language learning. Integration of technology as a tool and tutor, effectively increases learner motivation, engages learners, promotes learner autonomy and

provides plenty of learning activities. However, the role of the teacher is more necessary in digital learning. Students can access a wide variety of language materials on their own on the Internet, but they still need guidance and support from teachers to assist them in achieving their learning goals. In this new era of knowledge online learning is indispensable in language learning. Teachers need to empower themselves through various Continuous Professional Development programmes to equip themselves with the new trends in technology. The teacher can access English language learning materials relevant to their level, needs, and abilities and serve as a guide and facilitator to direct students toward content that can best serve their learning needs.

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