IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON ENGLISH LEARNING MOTIVATION AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract: *This article explores the impact of modern technology on the motivation of university students in learning English. It examines how information and communication technologies, mobile applications, online courses, virtual environments, and multimedia tools enhance students' interest and engagement in the language learning process. Different types of motivation – intrinsic and extrinsic – and the ways in which technology influences them are analyzed. Findings suggest that purposeful and effective use of technology can significantly increase learners' motivation and improve learning outcomes.*

Keywords: *technology, English language, motivation, university students, online education, innovation*

INTRODUCTION

In today's globalized world, English has become the primary language of international communication, science, and technology. For university students, learning English is not only crucial for academic purposes but also for professional development and international collaboration. Thus, the level of motivation plays a decisive role in the effectiveness of English language acquisition.

The rapid development of information technology has transformed higher education. In addition to traditional teaching methods, mobile applications, online courses (Coursera, EdX, Duolingo, etc.), multimedia resources, virtual reality (VR), and AI-based interactive platforms are widely used in the learning process. These technologies make it possible to personalize learning, make it more interactive and engaging, and encourage students to practice beyond the classroom.

Motivation is one of the central issues in second language acquisition. As Deci and Ryan argue in their Self-Determination Theory, intrinsic motivation – driven by curiosity and personal interest – is the most sustainable form of motivation. Technology contributes to strengthening this type of motivation by offering learners opportunities for independent study, experimentation, and satisfaction from achievement.

The role of technology in language learning

Technology contributes to English learning in several important ways:

 • Mobile applications and gamification.

Apps such as Duolingo, Memrise, and LingQ make learning more enjoyable through game-like features, helping students practice daily and stay motivated.

Rewards, points, and competition strengthen extrinsic motivation, while progress tracking supports intrinsic motivation.

• Online courses and distance learning platforms.

MOOCs on Coursera, EdX, and Udemy give students access to world-class instructors and curricula. Such opportunities not only enhance students' academic skills but also increase professional motivation by providing international certification.

• Multimedia and authentic input.

Movies, podcasts, audiobooks, and real-life interviews expose learners to authentic language, developing listening comprehension and communication skills.

• Virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI).

VR simulations provide students with realistic situations to practice English (e.g., shopping, traveling, or attending conferences). AI-based tools (e.g., ChatGPT, ELSA Speak) act as personal tutors, adapting to learners' levels and needs.

Motivation theories and technology

The relationship between motivation and technology can be explained through several theoretical frameworks:

• Behaviorist theory (Skinner). Learners respond to external reinforcement such as rewards or grades. Gamification aligns with this approach.

• Cognitive theory. Learning involves mental processing and problem-solving. Interactive quizzes and exercises on digital platforms foster active engagement.

• Self-Determination Theory (Deci & Ryan). Motivation is sustained when autonomy, competence, and relatedness are fulfilled.

Technology provides autonomy (self-paced learning), competence (progressive mastery), and relatedness (social interaction through online communities).

• Gardner's Socio-Educational Model. Integrative motivation, or the desire to interact with other cultures, is supported by online communication and global communities.

Practical applications

Research shows positive correlations between technology and learning motivation:

• Uzbekistan case studies. Surveys reveal that 70% of university students use mobile apps such as Duolingo and Memrise in addition to traditional lessons. Most students report that apps make language learning more enjoyable and encourage regular practice.

• International studies. Chen (2019) found that Chinese university students using mobile-assisted learning improved their vocabulary by 30% and reported 25% higher motivation compared to traditional learners.

• Virtual learning environments. VR labs in some universities allow students to practice English in simulated real-life contexts. This improves confidence, fluency, and motivation.

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