

## HOW TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING LANGUAGE LEARNING

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**Abstract:** *The article discusses the value of modern technology in the process of acquiring languages. It explains how the way of learning has been modified since cutting-edge platforms and digital tools connected with the lifestyle of students and made much easier to seek out educational resources regardless a geographical location. The topic also highlights the difference of mastering foreign languages in two decades along with its duration. Through providing precise benefits, several adverse implications are going to be mentioned, including relying too much on automatic translators and abundant time for screen resulting in eye-strain.*

**Keywords:** *AI, online platforms, multimedia tools, Zoom, websites, flexibility, accessibility.*

In today's fast-paced world, individuals are adapting to modern technologies in almost every sphere of life. Education is no exception, and the field of language learning has experienced some of the most significant transformations. The 21st century marks the transition from traditional teacher-centered instruction to learner-centered and technology-mediated education. Online dictionaries, digital corpora, multimedia learning platforms, AI-based translators, and free language-learning applications are now accessible to nearly every student via computers, tablets, and smartphones<sup>1</sup>. This unprecedented accessibility has democratized education by allowing learners from diverse social and economic backgrounds to study independently and globally. Moreover, teachers increasingly recognize that traditional, textbook-based methods no longer meet the needs of the digital generation. They are integrating virtual and interactive teaching strategies, including game-based learning, video lessons, and collaborative online projects<sup>2</sup>. As a result, foreign language pedagogy has become more dynamic, interactive, and learner-oriented, emphasizing communication, critical thinking, and creativity rather than rote memorization.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the digital transformation of education, making online learning a global necessity rather than an option<sup>4</sup>. Students and teachers worldwide adapted to new forms of interaction –

virtual classrooms, learning management systems, and video-conferencing tools such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google Classroom. This shift also altered linguistic habits: learners became accustomed to reading multimodal texts, listening to recorded lectures, and producing written assignments via online interfaces.

Digital learning promotes autonomous learning, as students can progress at their own pace while revisiting materials whenever necessary. Teachers, in turn, have begun employing interactive multimedia – visual presentations, audio clips, and phonetic simulations – to enhance comprehension and pronunciation<sup>5</sup>. According to recent research, multimodal input (text, audio, and visual) strengthens cognitive engagement and increases retention of linguistic forms<sup>6</sup>. Therefore, virtual environments not only facilitate communication but also contribute to the cognitive processing of new linguistic structures. Numerous digital tools have revolutionized the way languages are taught and learned. Applications such as Duolingo, Memrise, and BBC Learning English provide structured, gamified modules that motivate learners through repetition and feedback<sup>7</sup>. YouTube channels and podcasts have also become powerful means of improving pronunciation, listening comprehension, and intercultural awareness<sup>8</sup>.

Furthermore, virtual classrooms enable global collaboration. Students can engage in real-time discussions, exchange cultural knowledge, and practice target languages with native speakers from different regions. Such authentic communication promotes intercultural communicative competence, one of the key goals of modern linguo-didactics<sup>9</sup>. Digital environments offer flexibility and personalization. Learners can choose topics that match their interests, track their performance, and receive immediate feedback from AI systems or instructors. This individualization supports constructivist learning theory, which posits that knowledge is built through personal experience and active participation.

Despite these advantages, digital education poses several challenges. Excessive screen exposure can cause fatigue, distraction, and even health problems such as eye strain and reduced concentration<sup>10</sup>. Overdependence on automatic translators weakens linguistic memory and critical thinking, as learners tend to rely on machine-generated output rather than forming their own sentences<sup>11</sup>. Another concern is the gradual decline of human interaction. The teacher–student relationship, once central to the learning process, risks being replaced by digital automation<sup>12</sup>. Sociocultural theorists such as Vygotsky emphasize that meaningful learning occurs through social interaction and guided participation. Therefore, the absence of physical classroom communication may reduce emotional engagement and hinder the development of speaking and interpersonal skills.

To address these issues, educators advocate for blended learning—a pedagogical model that combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online resources<sup>13</sup>. This approach ensures a balanced development of linguistic, social, and digital competences. Technology has fundamentally transformed language learning, turning it into a more interactive, flexible, and globally connected process. It enables self-directed learning, fosters creativity, and provides access to diverse linguistic and cultural resources. However, technology alone cannot replace the human element of education—the empathy, motivation, and feedback provided by teachers.

The future of effective language teaching lies in integrated digital pedagogy, where educators and technology collaborate harmoniously. By merging traditional and modern approaches, learners can achieve both linguistic proficiency and digital literacy, which are essential for success in the 21st-century educational landscape<sup>14</sup>.

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