

THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE TEACHING APPROACHES: FROM TRADITIONAL METHODS TO TECHNOLOGY-BASED LEARNING

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Abstract

The evolution of language teaching approaches has undergone a significant shift from traditional methods towards technology-based learning. Traditional methods such as grammar-translation and audio-lingual focus on memorising grammar rules and mastering vocabulary, but are often less effective in improving practical communication skills. Technological developments provide solutions to these limitations through the integration of digital tools such as learning apps, interactive multimedia, and technology-based simulations. This technology-based approach offers varied content, personalisation of learning materials, and flexibility in time and place of learning. This evolution reflects a response to the evolving needs of learners and the potential of technology to create more inclusive, engaging and effective language learning in the modern digital era.

Keywords: Evolution, Language Teaching Approaches, Traditional Methods, Technology-based Learning.

Introduction

Language is the primary means of human communication and plays an important role in shaping culture, understanding and global interaction. Through language, the values, norms, traditions and history of a culture are passed on from one generation to the next. Language is not only a means of communication, but also a reflection of a community's intellectual wealth, beliefs and perspectives (Bao, 2020). For example, in local expressions or traditional proverbs, there are unique perspectives that describe how a community views life. Thus, the sustainability of a culture depends largely on the sustainability of the language itself. When a particular language begins to fade or become endangered, a large part of the cultural heritage attached to that language also risks losing its existence (Sun, 2025).

In addition, language helps to build social relationships and solidarity in society. The use of a common language creates a sense of community and group identity, while language differences can be a social barrier or challenge. However, the ability to

understand and learn other languages is an important step that can open up opportunities to appreciate other cultures, while enriching one's perspective on the diversity of the world. Therefore, maintaining and preserving languages, especially endangered languages, has a strategic role in maintaining the world's cultural diversity (Stickler & Hampel, 2020).

In the era of globalisation, language has become the main tool underlying international relations in various fields, whether economic, political, educational, or socio-cultural. International languages such as English, Spanish, Mandarin and Arabic play a key role in connecting countries with different cultural backgrounds. Language enables the transmission of ideas and ideas needed in global discussions, from trade co-operation to finding solutions to world challenges such as climate change or international conflicts. The ability to communicate in a particular language is also a determining factor for success in various international forums and negotiations, which involve actors from different countries (Dörnyei & Ryan, 2020).

In addition, languages help facilitate the mobility of individuals in an increasingly integrated world. The ability to speak several languages opens up many opportunities for people to study, work and collaborate internationally. The role of technology in translating languages, such as automatic translators and digital-based communication tools, further expands the scope of global interactions (Vanderplank, 2021). However, learning and understanding another language in depth remains a crucial step to building intercultural understanding in a more humane and profound way. Thus, language is not only a tool, but also a bridge that connects people around the world (Rose, 2020).

As time goes by, the need to learn foreign languages is increasing, especially in the era of globalisation characterised by rapid growth in trade, education, and international relations. To meet this need, various language teaching methods continue to evolve from traditional approaches towards more modern and technology-based approaches (Yang, 2023).

Traditional approaches to language teaching, such as the grammar-translation method and the direct method, have long been fundamental to language education. These approaches often focus on memorisation of grammar, vocabulary, and reading or writing skills rather than active communication. Although effective in some contexts, these methods are considered to have limitations, especially in developing speaking and listening skills which are the main demands in the current era (Sato & Ballinger, 2023).

On the other hand, technological advances have opened up new opportunities in language learning. Digital technologies such as language learning apps, virtual simulations and online learning platforms provide a more interactive and adaptive way of teaching. Technology-based learning allows for more engaging material delivery, the use of audiovisual media, as well as the application of game-based methods (gamification) that increase student motivation and engagement. In addition, technology provides unlimited access for individuals to learn languages according to their individual needs and convenience (Kern, 2020).

The transformation from traditional methods to technology-based learning reflects a paradigm shift in education. This new approach not only changes the way language is taught but also broadens the scope of learning, making it more flexible, personalised and adaptable to students' characteristics. However, this evolutionary process still has challenges, such as the gap in access to technology, teachers' adaptability, and the effectiveness of technology-based methods in improving students' language competence (Warschauer, 2021).

Thus, given the significant changes in language teaching approaches, it is important to understand and evaluate how technology-based learning methods can replace or complement traditional approaches. This is relevant to ensure that the language learning process continues to evolve in line with the needs of the times and technological advancements.

Research Methods

The study in this research uses the literature method. The literature research method is an approach that involves collecting and analysing information from a variety of existing written sources to understand a particular topic or problem. This process involves the preparation of a comprehensive literature review, critical analysis of relevant findings, and synthesis of the data obtained (Tranfield et al., 2003) ; (Machi & McEvoy, 2016) . Literature research usually starts with formulating a research question, followed by collecting materials from books, academic journals, articles, reports, and other credible sources. In this method, the researcher aims to identify trends, gaps, and recent developments in the field under study, as well as generate a deeper understanding of the subject of study based on available information. This approach is particularly useful when field research is not possible, or as a first step before conducting further empirical research (Ridley, 2012) .

Results and Discussion

Changes in Language Teaching Approaches from Traditional Methods to Technology-Based Learning

The change in language teaching approaches from traditional methods to technology-based learning reflects a significant evolution in the way teachers and learners interact with learning materials. In the traditional method, language teaching is usually done through lectures, the use of textbooks, and written exercises in class (Sitopu et al., 2024) . The teacher plays a central role as the conveyor of information, while students tend to passively receive the material presented. This method is often less interactive and not always able to meet the individual needs of students who have different learning styles (Guna et al., 2024) .

Technological developments in the digital age have opened up new opportunities in language teaching, offering more dynamic and interactive alternatives. Technology-based learning utilises devices such as computers, tablets and smartphones, as well as software and applications specifically designed to support the

teaching and learning process. This technology allows language teaching to be more immersive, for example through the use of multimedia, animation, educational games, simulations, and virtual reality that can make learning more interesting and fun (Iksal et al., 2024) .

One of the main advantages of technology-based learning is its flexibility. Students can access learning materials anytime and anywhere through e-learning platforms, video tutorials, and language learning apps. This is especially beneficial for students who do not have easy access to traditional classes, or who have busy schedules. Students can learn at their own pace, repeat difficult material until they feel proficient, and move on to the next material without having to wait for other students (Golonka & Bowles, 2021) .

The interactivity offered by technology also enriches the learning experience. For example, the use of video conferencing platforms for language classes allows students to communicate directly with native speakers from different parts of the world, improving real-time listening and speaking skills. In addition, technologies such as interactive language learning apps can provide instant feedback to users, helping them correct grammar and pronunciation errors quickly and efficiently (Levy, 2020) .

Technology also enables personalisation in language learning. With the help of artificial intelligence (AI), language learning apps can customise materials and exercises based on students' individual abilities and progress. This ensures that each student gets the attention that suits their needs, which can significantly improve motivation and learning outcomes. This personalised learning is very difficult to achieve in traditional teaching where one method is applied to all students (Levy & Hubbard, 2020) .

The utilisation of technology in language teaching also allows the integration of various resources and content from around the world. Learning resources such as videos from YouTube, podcasts, online articles and other digital materials can be used to make learning richer and more contextualised. Students can delve more deeply into the culture of the language being learnt, so that they not only learn the linguistic aspects, but also gain a more comprehensive cultural understanding (Reinhardt, 2020) .

In terms of monitoring and evaluation, technology provides great benefits to teachers and education providers. Digital learning platforms are often equipped with features to track student progress in detail, analyse learning patterns and provide progress reports. This information is invaluable for teachers to adjust teaching methods based on accurate data, help students who need additional support, and design more effective learning strategies (Guichon, 2021) .

While it has many advantages, the shift from traditional methods to technology-based learning also presents challenges. Not all students have adequate access to the devices and internet connectivity needed to take online classes or use language learning apps. There are also challenges in terms of digital literacy; not all teachers and students have the technology skills needed to maximise the use of digital platforms and tools.

Ongoing training and support is needed to ensure that technology can be used effectively in the learning process (Saito, 2025).

In addition, interpersonal relationships and social aspects of learning also need to be considered. Face-to-face interaction in a traditional classroom can build emotional attachment between teachers and students as well as among students themselves. Technology-based learning needs to be designed in a way that still allows for meaningful interaction. The combination of traditional methods and technology, or blended learning, can be a solution that combines the advantages of both approaches to create a more holistic learning experience (Kohnke, 2020).

In the course of this transition, the role of the teacher also undergoes a transformation. Teachers are no longer simply a source of information, but rather a facilitator or mentor who helps students navigate the various learning resources available and supports them in developing critical, creative and collaborative thinking skills. Professional development for teachers is essential so that they can adopt technology in their teaching effectively and adaptively (Blake, 2022).

On the other hand, the development of technology-based language teaching software and applications continues to grow at a rapid pace. Innovations such as augmented reality, adaptive learning and gamification further enrich teaching methods and increase student engagement. The continued development of these technologies promises more new possibilities in the future that could revolutionise the way we teach and learn languages (Lotherington, 2022).

Ultimately, this change is not just a trend, but an innovation that has great potential to advance language education. By utilising technology, language teaching becomes more adaptive, accessible and suited to the individual needs of students. Nonetheless, it is important for education stakeholders to plan and execute this transition carefully, ensuring that every student has a fair chance to access and benefit from new learning methods.

Challenges and Opportunities of Changing Approaches to Language Teaching Evolving from Traditional Methods to Technology-based Learning

In the modern era, language teaching approaches have evolved from traditional to technology-based learning. This change is due to the rapid development of information and communication technologies and the need to meet the demands of globalisation. However, as with any major transformation, this change brings new challenges as well as offers various opportunities for educators and learners (Kukulska-Hulme, 2020).

One of the biggest challenges is the technology infrastructure gap. Not all areas have access to stable internet or adequate technology devices to support technology-based learning. This can lead to disparities in the quality of education between developed and remote areas. To overcome this challenge, government and authorities' attention is needed to improve technology access across the region (Taylor, 2022).

In addition, adapting to new methods takes time and effort. Teachers who are used to traditional methods often face difficulties in using technology in teaching. Lack of understanding of digital learning software, applications and platforms is a major obstacle. Intensive training and ongoing technical support are essential to help educators overcome these obstacles (Godwin-Jones, 2021).

On the other hand, students also face challenges. Technology-based learning requires students to have good digital literacy. However, not all learners have this ability naturally. Students must learn to manage their time, understand how digital platforms work, and avoid the distractions that often arise when learning using technology (Fawait et al., 2024).

Despite the many challenges, this approach also brings a number of great opportunities. One of the main advantages of technology-based learning is the flexibility of time and place. With the help of digital devices, learners can learn anytime and anywhere according to their needs. This allows learners to access quality learning, without being bound by geographical boundaries (Syakhrani & Aslan, 2024).

Technology also enables personalisation of learning. In traditional methods, teaching is often generalised and lacks consideration of individual needs. However, with technology, learners can choose learning materials that suit their ability levels and interests. This provides a more effective and enjoyable learning experience (Irwan et al., 2024).

In addition, technology-based learning encourages the development of interactive methods. Technology allows the use of apps, simulations and educational games that make the learning process more attractive. In this way, learners are more encouraged to actively learn, which in turn can increase their motivation and understanding of the material (Judijanto et al., 2024).

Utilising technology can also support deeper language acquisition. AI-based applications, such as chatbots, can assist learners in practising speaking, listening and writing in a particular language. Learners can interact directly with these tools, which gives them practical experience without having to rely entirely on the presence of a teacher (Juliani & Aslan, 2024).

Another advantage of technology-based learning is the easy access to quality materials from around the world. Learners can easily access online courses, e-books, learning videos, as well as global communities for collaborative language learning. This provides greater insight and encourages language acquisition in an international context (Mariska & Aslan, 2024).

However, to maximise this opportunity, there needs to be a commitment to the ethical and responsible use of technology. In technology-based learning, data security and privacy should be a top priority. All parties, both educators and learners, need to understand the importance of maintaining the integrity of their personal information (Kurek & Hauck, 2023).

Ultimately, the evolution of language teaching approaches from traditional methods to technology-based learning creates both challenges and opportunities that

should be utilised wisely. With cooperation between governments, educators, learners and organisations that provide educational technology, we can turn challenges into opportunities to create learning systems that are more inclusive, efficient and relevant to future needs. These changes, if managed well, can have a huge positive impact on language education around the world.

Conclusion

The evolution of language teaching approaches shows a significant shift from traditional methods to technology-based learning. Initially, the language teaching process was dominated by traditional methods such as grammar-translation and audio-lingual which focused on memorising grammar rules and mastering vocabulary. These methods are considered effective in building the theoretical basis of language, but are often less successful in improving real communication and interaction skills. The limitations of traditional methods trigger the need for a more interactive and applicable approach.

Over time, language teaching approaches have shifted to technology-based methods that utilise digital tools to support the learning process. Technology enables the provision of more varied content, personalisation of learning materials and access to multimedia-based teaching. Platforms such as language learning apps, interactive videos and technology-based simulations create a more dynamic and challenging learning experience. This approach not only improves learners' language skills, but also facilitates access and flexibility to learning anytime and anywhere.

Thus, the evolution of language teaching approaches reflects an ongoing effort to adapt learning methods to learners' needs as well as technological developments. The integration of technology in language teaching provides solutions to the weaknesses of traditional methods, while opening up opportunities to improve the overall effectiveness of learning. By continuing to incorporate technological innovations, language learning has great potential to become more inclusive, engaging and effective in developing language skills in this digital age.

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