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## **TEACHERS' VIEWS ON THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF IWB TECHNOLOGY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOM**

The aim of this paper is to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of interactive whiteboard technology in English language teaching and learning. Also, my paper will illustrate how schools have started to implement IWB technology into their English language classrooms and how familiarized are English teachers with the integration of this technology in their English classroom.

A qualitative approach was used to collect data needed to answer the research questions. To collect the qualitative data, structured interviews were conducted with 4 English teachers who indicated that they had integrated IWBs in their English language in the last 2 years. The interviews were the primary data source of this research.

The questions of the interview were developed based on the literature review and the research questions. The teachers were asked the same set of questions in the interview guide. The questions focused on the participants' views on the shortcomings and benefits of using technology. The first part of the teachers interview included five questions about the advantages of IWB. The second part of the teacher interview included five questions about the disadvantages of IWB.

The data were analyzed across teachers rather than with each teacher as an individual case. To begin the analysis, the responses of each interview question were separated into a series of distinct statements by teacher. Statements were edited to remove irrelevant comments. The statements were then analyzed to identify common and different elements within statements.

The findings reveal that the majority of teachers who use this technology in teaching are aware of the benefits and these benefits in fact become their main reasons for integrating IWBs into teaching. The IWB supports the teaching and the learning process with various features that offer multiple opportunities to teach and learn in new and exciting ways that surpass the possibilities of traditional chalkboards. The advantages mentioned by teachers are: accommodation of different learning styles, interactive teaching and learning, active learner participation, increased motivation and engagement, and change in the pace of teaching and learning.

Furthermore, the teachers are aware of the fact that this technology presents some disadvantages that should be well taken into consideration. Four major drawbacks of the use of the IWB were reported by the teachers: lack of training, lack of time, repair costs and frequency of problems, and increased noise level. Teachers must recognize both advantages and disadvantages of using IWBs so they can get the maximum effectiveness of technology to enhance English language learning. The results suggest that teachers must consider both advantages and disadvantages of using IWBs so learners can acquire a language with the help of not only the old methods but also the new ones.

Through the integration of technology such as IWBs in the English language classroom the learner will be at the centre of the learning process and not the teacher. IWBs are an instructional tool that if the teacher knows how to use it, it can transform his teaching style and support English language learners to learn more effectively.

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