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DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES: THE WAY TECHNOLOGY CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGE LITERACY

The relevance of the topic of second language literacy in the modern world is driven by rapid globalisation, the development of international communications and the need for intercultural communication. Today, second language proficiency is not just a useful skill, but a vital necessity that opens up wide opportunities for personal, professional and social development.

Second language literacy helps a person to effectively perceive, process and use information from various sources, which is especially important in the information society. Knowledge of a second language expands access to knowledge, science, culture and international experience, promotes critical thinking, creativity and flexibility of mind.

In today's world, English, as the most widely spoken second language, has become the key to international communication, business, education and science. Its knowledge opens doors to global labour markets, academic programmes and cultural exchange. Learning a second language builds tolerance, understanding of other cultures and promotes peaceful coexistence of peoples, which is of great importance in the face of global challenges.

In addition, knowledge of a second language improves social connections, widens the circle of communication, and increases the chances of success in political, diplomatic and international activities. Thus, the development of second language literacy is an important factor in personal growth and integration into the global community. Thus, the relevance of the topic lies in the fact that second language literacy is the foundation for successful adaptation in the modern globalised world, ensuring competitiveness, cultural openness and social mobility of the individual.

The development of language literacy is an urgent task in modern education, especially in the context of the digital transformation of the learning process. Modern technologies, such as open learning platforms and distance learning tools, significantly expand the opportunities for effective second language acquisition.

Open Online Platforms and Distance Learning Tools in Second Language Acquisition

Open online platforms such as Coursera, Busuu, Mondly, and BBC Learning English offer a wide range of courses for foreign language learning. These platforms provide high-quality multimedia content, interactive lessons, and opportunities to practice communication with native speakers. For instance, Busuu supports the learning of 12 languages and includes features for interaction with native speakers, while Mondly employs virtual and augmented reality technologies to immerse learners in a language environment. Coursera, in turn, offers courses developed by leading global universities, thus enabling users not only to acquire language skills but also to develop professional competencies [6].

To support the development of accurate pronunciation in a foreign language, various audio and video resources are considered particularly effective. These tools enable learners to listen to native speakers, imitate their speech, and practice prosody and rhythm.

Currently, a broad selection of audio resources is available for pronunciation training:

BBC Learning English offers audio lessons and podcasts, including the *6 Minute English* series, in which native speakers discuss various topics in an accessible format. This aids in enhancing both comprehension and natural pronunciation.

Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab provides listening exercises, dictations, and pronunciation training categorized by difficulty levels, allowing for gradual improvement in auditory perception and sound reproduction skills.

Voice of America (VOA) features news and educational materials tailored for English learners, characterized by a moderated speech rate that facilitates pronunciation practice in the context of current topics.

Radio Lingua (Coffee Break Podcasts) includes language-learning podcasts with a slow and clear pace, ideally suited for pronunciation and intonation training.

Speechling is a mobile and web-based application offering recordings by native speakers and enabling users to submit their own pronunciation for personalized feedback from language coaches.

The most effective video resources for pronunciation training include:

University of Iowa Phonetics Flash Animation Project, an interactive video guide with animations that illustrate English sound articulation, assisting learners in understanding correct sound formation.

YouTube channels dedicated to pronunciation exercises, featuring simple and effective drills for improving pronunciation across languages, often emphasizing sentence repetition with a focus on intonation and rhythm.

The advantages of using audio and video resources are evident. Firstly, learners are exposed to authentic speech featuring various accents and intonational patterns. Secondly, visual demonstrations of articulation provide insight into pronunciation mechanisms. Thirdly, repetition of complete sentences fosters more natural speech production. Furthermore, the possibility of recording and comparing one's pronunciation with that of a native speaker enhances self-assessment. Finally, these resources offer the undeniable benefit of being accessible anytime and on any device.

Thus, to effectively develop foreign language pronunciation, it is recommended to combine audio resources (such as podcasts, audio lessons, and pronunciation trainers) with video materials that demonstrate articulation and offer interactive exercises. This comprehensive approach promotes the acquisition of accurate and natural pronunciation [1,2,4,5].

Distance Learning Tools

Distance foreign language education actively utilizes interactive platforms such as Quizlet, Kahoot, and Wordwall, which incorporate gamification elements to enhance learner motivation and engagement. These platforms provide effective feedback mechanisms that improve knowledge retention and reduce psychological discomfort during the learning process. Importantly, gamification does not alter the educational content but helps learners focus attention on solving instructional tasks [7].

Moreover, distance learning is supported by the concept of digital literacy, which emphasizes the implementation of real communicative tasks in digital environments. The *e-lang* project, for instance, introduced a framework that integrates socially interactive tasks performed on Web 2.0 platforms, helping learners become autonomous language users and digital citizens. This approach fosters both linguistic and digital competencies, which are essential in the modern world [3].

Distance learning tools play a key role in the development of second language literacy by ensuring interactivity, accessibility, and individualized learning processes. They enable learners to acquire language skills − including reading, writing, speaking, and listening − through a variety of digital resources and methodologies.

Key components of this approach include:

- **Interactive educational materials**: Digital textbooks, interactive texts, video tutorials, online games, and crosswords enhance the acquisition of grammar, vocabulary, punctuation, and other language elements. These resources render the learning process dynamic and engaging, encouraging active interaction with the material.
- **Immediate feedback**: Digital platforms allow learners to receive real-time evaluation of their responses, which facilitates timely error correction and knowledge improvement. This significantly boosts learning efficiency and maintains learner motivation.
- **Audio and video resources**: These materials support the development of listening comprehension, accurate pronunciation, and prosody, while also exposing learners to diverse dialects and linguistic contexts, thereby contributing to communicative competence.
- **Individualized learning**: Digital tools enable the adaptation of learning tasks to the learner's level and needs, resulting in a more personalized and effective educational experience. Learners may proceed at their own pace, which is particularly valuable in second language acquisition.
- **Development of creative skills**: Online services for creating blogs, presentations, and audio or video recordings encourage learner creativity, enhancing material retention and making the learning process more engaging.
- **Communication and collaboration**: Platforms such as Google Classroom provide opportunities for collaborative work, idea exchange, participation in discussions, and real-time feedback from instructors. This fosters authentic practice in speaking and writing.
- **Resource accessibility**: Distance learning tools grant learners convenient access to a wide range of educational materials, dictionaries, and courses delivered by native speakers, thereby expanding their vocabulary and overall language experience [8].

Conclusions

Distance learning tools enhance the quality and efficiency of second language acquisition by making the learning process interactive, motivating, and accessible. They foster the development of all core language competencies, as well as essential digital skills. Among the most notable benefits of educational technologies in second language development are:

- Access to high-quality learning materials anytime and from any location.
- The possibility of individualized instruction tailored to the learner's level and needs.
- The use of multimedia and interactive resources to increase motivation.
- The stimulation of communicative activity through interactions with native speakers and peers.
- Support for learner autonomy in the educational process.

Therefore, open learning platforms and distance education tools represent powerful means for enhancing second language literacy. They not only broaden access to

educational content but also establish the conditions for an active, interactive, and engaging learning experience aligned with the demands of the modern digital society.

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