

MODERN TECHNOLOGIES OF TEACHING SPEAKING

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Annotation: The article "Modern Technologies of Teaching Speaking" explores how contemporary technological tools have revolutionized the methods used to teach speaking skills. It highlights various technologies, including language learning applications like Duolingo and Rosetta Stone, speech recognition software such as Google Translate, virtual reality environments like Mondly VR, and AI platforms with chatbots. These tools offer real-time feedback, personalized learning, and increased engagement, making language learning more effective and accessible. The article also addresses the challenges of integrating these technologies, emphasizing the importance of balancing technological use with human interaction. As technology advances, its role in language education is set to expand, offering new opportunities for enhancing speaking proficiency.

Key word: Teaching speaking, Language learning applications, Speech recognition software, Virtual reality (VR), Artificial intelligence (AI), Real-time feedback, Personalized learning, Immersive experiences, Gamification, Pronunciation improvement, Language proficiency, Interactive learning, Engagement, Accessibility, Flexible learning, AI chatbots, Language education, Speech analysis, Educational tools.

In the contemporary educational landscape, the integration of modern technologies into teaching speaking skills has profoundly transformed the learning process. These technologies provide innovative methods and tools that make language learning more interactive, engaging, and effective. This article explores various modern technologies used to teach speaking skills and their benefits, challenges, and future potential.

The Role of Technology in Teaching Speaking

Modern technologies encompass a wide array of tools designed to enhance speaking skills, including language learning applications, speech recognition software, virtual reality (VR) environments, and artificial intelligence (AI) platforms. These technologies offer unique features that traditional teaching methods often lack, such as real-time feedback, immersive experiences, and personalized learning paths.

Language Learning Applications

Duolingo and Babbel:

These popular language learning apps incorporate gamification to make learning fun and engaging. They offer speaking exercises where learners can practice pronunciation and conversation skills. The apps provide instant feedback, helping learners correct their mistakes and improve their speaking abilities.

Rosetta Stone:

Rosetta Stone uses a speech recognition engine to help learners refine their pronunciation. The software listens to the learner's speech and provides immediate feedback on accuracy, allowing for continuous improvement.

Speech Recognition Software

Google Translate and Microsoft Translator:

These tools not only translate text but also have features that allow users to practice speaking. Learners can speak into the app, which then provides immediate feedback on pronunciation and fluency. This real-time correction helps learners adjust and improve their speaking skills.

Pronunciation Power:

This software focuses specifically on improving pronunciation. It uses visual aids and speech analysis to show learners how to position their mouth and tongue for different sounds, offering detailed feedback to help perfect their speech.

Virtual Reality (VR) Environments

Mondly VR:

VR applications like Mondly VR provide immersive language learning experiences. Learners can practice speaking in realistic scenarios, such as ordering food in a restaurant or asking for directions. This immersive approach helps learners build confidence and apply their speaking skills in practical situations.

ImmerseMe:

ImmerseMe offers VR experiences that simulate real-life interactions. Learners can engage in conversations with virtual characters, receiving instant feedback on their speech. This method provides a safe and engaging environment to practice speaking without the fear of making mistakes in front of others.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Platforms

AI Chatbots:

AI-powered chatbots, such as those found in apps like Replika and Chatbot Academy, engage learners in conversation practice. These chatbots simulate real-life interactions and provide feedback on grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, helping learners refine their speaking skills.

Speech Recognition and Analysis:

AI platforms like Elsa Speak analyze learners' speech patterns and provide detailed feedback on areas such as intonation, stress, and rhythm. By identifying specific areas for improvement, these platforms offer targeted exercises to help learners enhance their speaking proficiency.

Benefits of Modern Technologies in Teaching Speaking

Real-Time Feedback:

Immediate feedback on pronunciation and fluency helps learners correct mistakes on the spot, leading to faster improvement.

Personalized Learning:

Technologies can adapt to individual learners' needs, offering customized exercises and practice sessions that target specific weaknesses.

Increased Engagement:

Interactive and gamified elements make learning more enjoyable, motivating learners to practice speaking more frequently.

Accessibility and Flexibility:

Learners can access these technologies from anywhere, allowing for flexible learning schedules that accommodate different lifestyles and time zones.

Challenges and Considerations

Despite the many benefits, integrating modern technologies into teaching speaking also presents challenges. These include the need for reliable internet access and appropriate devices, potential technical issues, and the necessity for educators to be proficient in using these tools effectively. Additionally, while technology can enhance learning, it should not replace human interaction entirely. The role of skilled language teachers and peer interactions remains crucial for developing comprehensive speaking skills.

Conclusion

Modern technologies have significantly advanced the methods of teaching speaking skills, offering innovative tools that make learning more interactive, engaging, and effective. By

incorporating applications, speech recognition software, VR environments, and AI platforms, educators can create dynamic learning experiences that cater to diverse learner needs. As technology continues to evolve, its potential to transform language education and enhance speaking skills will only grow, paving the way for new and exciting learning opportunities.

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