

HOW CAN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES BE USED IN MOTHER LANGUAGE LESSONS?

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Abstract: The article broadly highlights the role and significance of modern electronic means in human life in today's developing era. Digital technology covers various fields. In turn, it is attracting the sectors of education. Digital tools play an important role in mother tongue teaching. To further engage students in learning, the use of modern electronic software encourages them to learn their mother tongue and inspires them to perform grammar exercises in that language. The purpose of the article is to examine the priorities and shortcomings of stabilizing the educational environment while analyzing the advantages of information technology tools. The article examines the integration of digital technologies in mother tongue classes and highlights their potential to make language education more active, open and effective. The article also discusses the problems and opportunities arising from the use of digital technologies in mother tongue teaching.

Keywords: Digital technologies, mother language education, multimodal learning, language accessibility collaborative learning, innovative pedagogies.

INTRODUCTION

Digital technologies are widely used in all areas today. Modern information technologies provide new tools for the development of universities and other educational institutions worldwide. The integration of digital technologies into mother tongue classes represents a significant change in educational paradigms, particularly in the educational environment.

As literacy becomes increasingly multicultural, multilingual and multimodal, the role of digital technologies in developing language skills and cultural understanding is gaining greater recognition¹. Approximately 40 per cent of the world's population lacks access to education in their native language, highlighting the need for inclusive digital educational content to bridge this gap². Digital technologies offer a promising solution by facilitating distance learning. For example, the use of digital tablets in early childhood education shows potential for increasing children's motivation and social participation³.

As educational technologies advance, supporting mother-tongue education and creating equal communication opportunities for all students through digital tools is becoming increasingly important. Multimedia and digital platforms offer dual benefits in language teaching: on the one hand, the development of language skills and cultural identity, and on the other, the enhancement of teachers' professional skills. As digital literacy increases globally, this integration is expected to become more widespread and offer potential benefits such as improved educational outcomes and enhanced social equality⁴.

LITERATURE REVIEW

¹ Moinian, F., Kjällander, S., & Dorls, P. (2017). Mother tongue language teaching with digital tablets in early childhood education: A question of social inclusion and equity.

² UNESCO. (2022). Why mother language-based education is essential.

³ Moinian, F., Kjällander, S., & Dorls, P. (2017). Mother tongue language teaching with digital tablets in early childhood education: A question of social inclusion and equity.

⁴ Moinian, F., Kjällander, S., & Dorls, P. (2017). Mother tongue language teaching with digital tablets in early childhood education: A question of social inclusion and equity.



The integration of digital technologies into language education has attracted considerable attention in recent years, and studies evaluating its effects have emerged. Research consistently shows that providing interactive experiences through digital tools can enhance language learning. A study conducted in Sweden demonstrates that native language teachers who frequently use digital technologies in their personal lives create more interactive and participatory learning environments by integrating them more into their teaching practices.⁵

Based on this idea, it can be said that native language teachers should not only use their programmes in their daily lives, but also transfer them to the educational environment and process. Using electronic devices during lessons to keep the subject interesting and colourful, helping students understand, and organising the lesson aesthetically lays the groundwork for excellent results. The main purpose of conducting mother tongue lessons with the help of electronic devices is to enable students to think freely, encourage them to work effectively on their own, and ensure that they find solutions to problems. Digital tools help develop critical skills such as analysis, reasoning, and effective communication, which are necessary for specialising in language and cultural proficiency. The integration of digital technologies into native language education has been the subject of extensive scientific research reflecting paradigm shifts in pedagogical practice.

A comprehensive review conducted by Neuman analysed 89 empirical studies published over more than twenty years, focusing on language and literacy education in early childhood. The results indicate that digital tools, particularly e-books and interactive applications, are effective in improving young children's language development; 34 out of 53 studies reported positive results⁶. Research indicates that students' command of language involves not only the ability to write and speak without errors, but also the potential to express their views clearly, coherently, and balanced in conversational situations. Today, students' literacy levels vary, and they can achieve different results using different electronic tools. The effective organisation of native language lessons is very important for students' future. Good writing and speaking skills are the key to success in many areas of life.

As Warschauer points out, digital tools serve as effective pedagogical tools that support meaningful learning and enhance student learning. Technology plays an intellectually and socially developmental role and increases learning opportunities when effectively integrated into the curriculum⁷. Technology does not merely provide favourable conditions in the evolving world; it also influences the development of intellectual perspectives on human and social life. It serves as an effective tool across all areas, from the education system to home life. However, despite these achievements, challenges persist in the effective integration of digital technologies. Research conducted by Tondeur and colleagues shows that digital tools are mostly used to develop writing, speaking and vocabulary skills, but that real classroom applications are limited. Factors such as teachers' digital literacy and access to resources significantly affect the level of technology integration in language education⁸.

The use of modern technologies and programmes in mother tongue lessons can improve the learning process. However, there are also some challenges in this area. The main problems are as follows:

⁵ Moinian, F., Kjällander, S., & Dorls, P. (2017). Mother tongue language teaching with digital tablets in early childhood education: A question of social inclusion and equity.

⁶ Neumann, M. M. (2020). The Use of Digital Technologies to Develop Young Children's Literacy Skills.

⁷ Warschauer, M. (2006). Laptops and Literacy: Learning in the Wireless Classroom. Teachers College Press.

⁸ Tondeur, J., van Braak, J., Ertmer, P. A., & Ottenbreit-Leftwich, A. (2021). Understanding the relationship between teachers' pedagogical beliefs and technology use in education: a systematic review of qualitative evidence. *Educational Technology Research and Development*, 69, 265–290.



1. Limited technical capabilities: Many educational institutions do not have a stable internet network and modern devices (computers, tablets), which makes it difficult to fully utilise digital programmes.

2. Issues with programmes: Some programmes do not work perfectly on different operating systems and devices, which reduces their effectiveness.

Attention has been drawn to the current limitations affecting educational effectiveness and student motivation. At the same time, issues such as the digital divide and the lack of culturally adapted learning resources persist. Approximately 40 per cent of the global population lacks access to education in their native language. By 2030, digital technologies will become an integral part of language education, with 70 per cent of educational content being delivered via digital platforms; this is largely because increasing digital literacy can fill the gaps in online language learning.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a mixed research method combining quantitative data with qualitative observations. In order to determine the role and importance of digital technologies in mother tongue education, lessons were organised with the participation of 30 students, and the appeal, effectiveness and level of student interest in these lessons were analysed.



Image 1

Lessons were demonstrated in the form of electronic presentations based on the model shown with 8th grade students. In this, an attempt was made to cover topics based on integrated education, mainly in the mother tongue lesson. Of course, it was envisaged that the topic of the lesson would be selected in a way that covered the textbook and would be accessible to students not only from a linguistic perspective, but also from a scientific and popular point of view.



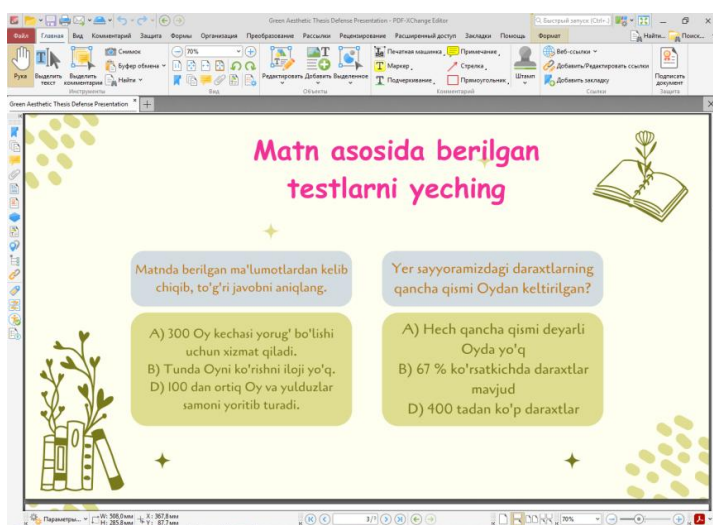


Image 2

After selecting an interesting topic related to the science of astronomy, it will be possible to develop students' reading comprehension skills in order to capture their attention and determine their productivity based on this information. The aim is to achieve positive results by giving them various types of tests during this process.

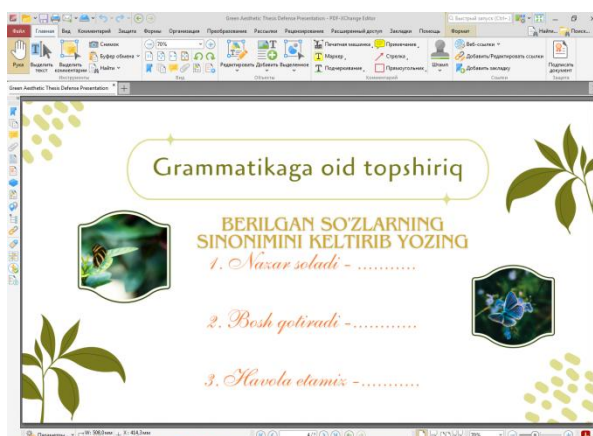


Image 3

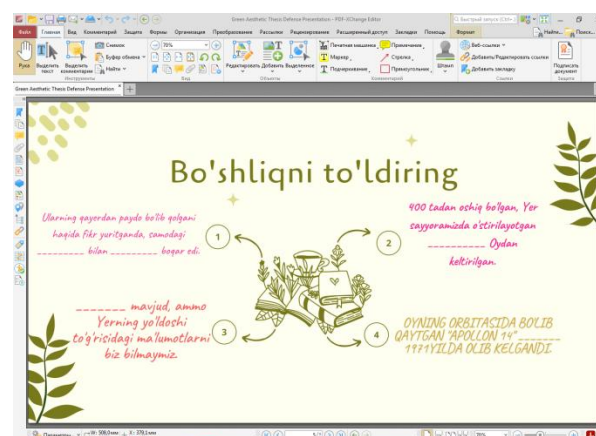


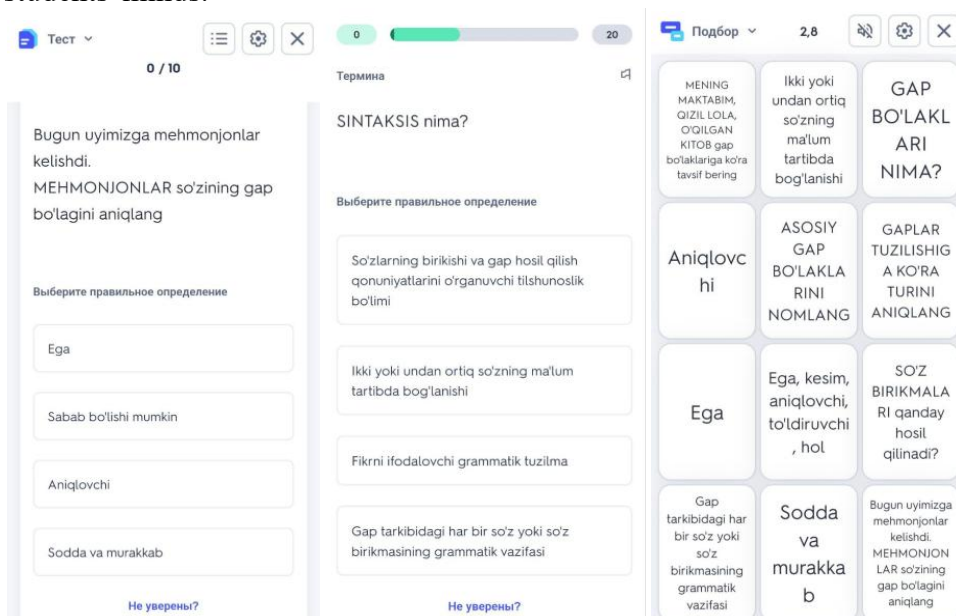
Image 4

The widespread use of electronic mobile applications in language education courses to determine students' literacy levels not only requires large-scale gains but also helps to generate enthusiasm and motivation among learners. It reduces the tedium of the lesson and greatly aids in the retention of scientific information. QUIZLET is a good example of an electronic application programme that encourages the development of mental capacity in the student's personality, fosters a love for the mother tongue lesson, and promotes the development of responsibility. The QUIZLET platform is a digital educational tool designed to help users master the vocabulary and grammar rules of their native language. The programme offers opportunities to learn the language both offline and online. Thanks to the mobile interface, users can strengthen and test their vocabulary. Various methods are used for this purpose, including flashcards, quizzes and interactive games.

Experimental studies were conducted with school children using the QUIZLET mobile application. Online tests were conducted to gain more information in applied lessons and to review the lessons presented in electronic multimedia tools. During this process, it was



determined that the questions and tasks developed through the QUIZLET application had a positive effect on effectively transferring spelling knowledge in the mother tongue section to the students' minds.



Quantitative effectiveness surveys were conducted with a native language teacher and 30 students from the same class to gather data on the integration and usability of digital technology integration in native language classes.

The effectiveness of digital mother tongue education

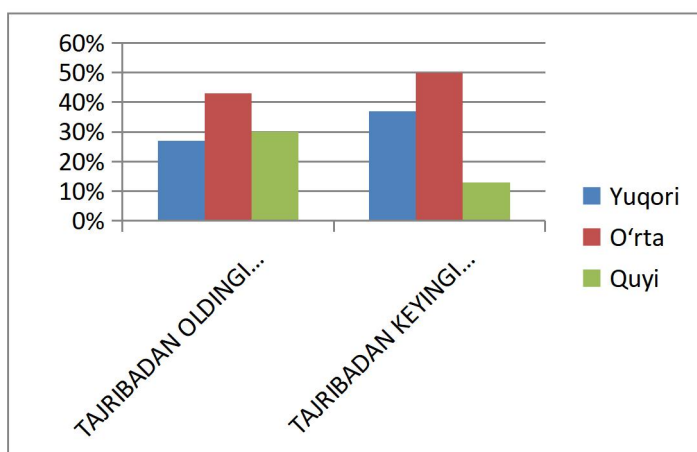
Evaluation parameters	Number of students	High	Middle	Lower
Before the experiment	30	8 (27%)	13 (43%)	9 (30 %)
After the experiment	30	11 (37%)	15 (50 %)	4 (13%)

Table 1

RESULTS

According to the results of this study, it is evident that electronic mobile applications have a significant impact on the implementation of educational outcomes in native language classes. The inclusion of digital tools in native language lessons has been shown to increase students' enthusiasm and activity levels, as well as their intellectual competence. Performance indicators based on practical experience demonstrate this (see Table 1).





When the results shown above are analysed, it is understood that the use of electronic devices and software tools in teaching and learning activities creates opportunities for students to improve their language skills. At the same time, it develops a cheerful mood and enthusiasm in students and motivates them to engage with the lesson in an interesting way.

Overall, the results provide information about the role and importance of digital electronic tools in native language lessons. The development of digital resources and the power of the internet will play a significant role in the growth of education.

SOLUTION

In conclusion, it should not be forgotten that the integration of electronic devices into language education provides a flexible opportunity to learn the possibilities of language and accelerate cultural identity and social participation. This research highlights the potential of digital programmes to overcome language learning difficulties and their knowledge-focused potential by providing interactive, customised or personalised and accessible experiences. The results emphasise the need to address the challenges of overcoming certain economic constraints in the use of digital tools. It is also emphasised that educators must take a fair approach to digital elements in these educational processes. Students will be able to achieve real cognitive knowledge by developing their auditory potential in particular and demonstrating diversity in their mental and intellectual development.

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