

THE ROLE OF SOFTWARE TOOLS IN IMPROVING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

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Abstract

Teaching English using software tools fosters the development of students' professional communicative competence and expands opportunities to cultivate intellectual competencies—specifically research skills, independence, creative thinking, cognitive engagement, critical reasoning, and the ability to draft and review essays. Most importantly, this approach helps transform learners' attitudes toward the subject, facilitates the overcoming of language barriers among future educators, and supports the enhancement of communicative competence and effective interaction within the educational environment.

Keywords: Padlet methodology, interactive methods, platform, application, TED Talk technology.

Introduction

Globally, the focus on and conditions for language instruction—particularly English—are regarded as a primary trend in education. Teaching English requires a distinct approach and methodology for each specific skill; the core language skills involved are reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Since this skill-based instructional method has proven highly effective in the education systems of developed nations, it has been gradually introduced into our country's educational sector in the years following independence. Software tools play an invaluable role in developing these skills.

Listening comprehension is a three-stage process that involves perceiving the content of speech through general auditory perception, distinguishing the phonetic aspects of words, and grasping the underlying meaning. The selection or

creation of audio materials plays a crucial role in this process, and software tools are highly significant in this regard.

Modern technologies—specifically social networking platforms like ByTalk, Speaky, English Speaking Practice, and Talk Now—are also utilized for speaking; these allow learners to improve their speaking skills by conversing not only with fellow learners in their own country but also with native speakers of English or other foreign languages. Furthermore, these platforms enable users to enhance their writing skills through integrated chat functions alongside their speaking practice.

Reading – We can enhance our reading skills by using modern tools—such as videos, movies, cartoons, and other programs—and utilizing the accompanying subtitles or captions. Some students possess strong visual learning abilities and learn best by seeing and reading the material.

Writing – Social media plays an invaluable role in developing writing skills. For instance, we can converse with friends via Telegram or email while learning a foreign language, which helps improve our writing proficiency. Writing exercises and books available online are also beneficial for us.

It is important to create a model for the application of software tools to improve the methodology of teaching English to higher education students, as well as a model that facilitates the effective organization of the educational process and the development of students' abilities.

The Padlet method is one of the interactive digital educational technologies widely used in modern education. It fosters collaboration between students and teachers, facilitates the exchange of ideas, encourages a creative approach, and makes the learning process engaging. Padlet is an online platform that functions as a virtual board where text, images, videos, links, audio, and other types of materials can be posted.

The primary goal of the Padlet methodology is to actively engage students in the lesson process and develop their independent thinking skills. Using this method, students can freely express their ideas, work in groups, and analyze each other's work. The Padlet platform is a particularly effective tool for developing listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills in English lessons.

The advantages of the Padlet methodology include:

- increasing student engagement during lessons
- developing collaborative skills

- fostering creativity and critical thinking
- enabling the collection of all students' ideas in a short time
- being equally applicable to both remote and traditional education

For example, when exploring the topic "My Dream Profession," the teacher creates a Padlet board and asks students, "What profession do you want to pursue in the future?" Each student writes their answer in English on the board and posts an image or video related to that profession. Afterward, students read each other's responses and leave comments. This process helps develop writing, reading, and communication skills.

The topic of "Environmental Problems" serves as another example. Students post information, images, and suggestions regarding environmental issues onto a Padlet board. Subsequently, a group discussion is organized based on these materials. As a result, students learn to freely express their thoughts on the topic in English.

Developing speaking skills is crucial in English language teaching. The Padlet method serves as an effective tool for enhancing students' oral communication. Through this method, students can post their thoughts on a given topic in audio or video format. For instance, for the topic "My Future Career," each student prepares a short speech about their chosen profession and uploads it to the Padlet platform. Subsequently, other students listen to these presentations and offer questions or feedback. As a result, students develop their communication, opinion-sharing, and fluent speaking skills.

The Padlet method is also effective for developing reading comprehension skills. The teacher posts a short text, article, or story on the platform. Students read the text, identify the main idea, and write answers to questions. For instance, after reading an article on "Environmental Protection," students post their thoughts on the content to the Padlet board. This method fosters students' abilities to comprehend, analyze, and draw conclusions from the text.

Developing lexical competence is a crucial component of language learning. The Padlet method offers a convenient opportunity for learning and reinforcing new vocabulary. For instance, when studying the topic "Travel and Tourism," students post new words—along with definitions, images, and example sentences—to a Padlet board. Each student contributes at least five new words and reviews the work of their peers. As a result of this activity, students expand their vocabulary and develop the ability to use new words in practice.

TED Talks serve as an effective method for developing students' listening comprehension, speaking, and critical thinking skills in modern education. Using short TED Talk videos in English lessons helps students understand authentic speech. For instance, after watching a TED Talk on "The Power of Learning English," students discuss the video's main ideas, identify new vocabulary, and respond to the speaker's points. Subsequently, students prepare their own mini-TED Talk presentations on the same topic. This process fosters the development of their speaking proficiency, presentation skills, and independent thinking abilities.

Conclusions

Utilizing the Padlet methodology and TED Talk technology enhances the effectiveness of English language lessons. In addition to developing speaking, reading, and lexical competencies, these methods foster students' creativity, independent thinking, and communicative skills. Incorporating such innovative approaches into the modern educational process further boosts students' interest in learning English.

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