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THE ROLE OF DIGITAL TOOLS IN LEARNING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Abstract: *the author of the article notes that digital technologies have significantly changed modern education, including the process of learning English as a foreign language (EFL). English plays an important role in global communication, which increases the demand for effective teaching methods. Digital tools provide students with access to authentic materials, flexible practice, and additional opportunities for self-study. The article discusses the role of mobile applications, online platforms, and learning management systems in EFL learning. The advantages and challenges of using digital technologies are also analyzed based on academic sources and personal learning experiences.*

Keywords: *digital tools, English as a Foreign Language, online learning, mobile applications, language education.*

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РОЛЬ ЦИФРОВЫХ ИНСТРУМЕНТОВ В ИЗУЧЕНИИ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА КАК ИНОСТРАННОГО

Аннотация: *автор статьи отмечает, что цифровые технологии существенно изменили современное образование, в том числе процесс изучения*

английского языка как иностранного (EFL). Английский язык играет важную роль в глобальной коммуникации, что повышает спрос на эффективные методы обучения. Цифровые инструменты предоставляют учащимся доступ к аутентичным материалам, гибкую практику и дополнительные возможности для самостоятельного изучения. В статье рассматривается вопрос роли мобильных приложений, онлайн-платформ и систем управления обучением в обучении EFL. Преимущества и проблемы использования цифровых технологий также анализируются на основе академических источников и личного опыта обучения.

Ключевые слова: цифровые инструменты, английский как иностранный, онлайн-обучение, мобильные приложения, языковое образование.

In the context of globalization, English has become the main language of international communication in business, science, and technology. Therefore, mastering English is an essential skill for academic and professional success. At the same time, education is actively integrating digital technologies, which changes traditional approaches to language learning.

Digital tools expand learning opportunities beyond the classroom. They allow students to practice vocabulary, grammar, listening, and communication skills independently. Researchers note that technology increases accessibility of education and supports individualized learning. In language learning, constant exposure to the language is especially important, and digital tools help to provide such exposure.

One of the most widely used digital tools in language learning is *mobile applications*. Apps such as Duolingo and Quizlet help learners practice vocabulary and basic grammar through short interactive exercises. The use of gamification elements, including points, levels, and daily goals, increases motivation and supports regular practice. These applications are convenient for everyday repetition; however, they are generally more effective as supplementary tools rather than as the main method of language learning.

Online platforms and *video resources* also play an important role. Websites such as BBC Learning English or TED Talks provide access to authentic materials created

by native speakers. Listening to real speech helps learners adapt to different accents and improve comprehension. Subtitles and transcripts support vocabulary acquisition. However, the large amount of online content requires careful selection according to language level.

Learning management systems, such as Moodle or Google Classroom, are widely used in universities. They help organize materials, assign tasks, and monitor progress. Communication tools like video conferencing platforms allow interaction between teachers and students, which is especially important in distance learning.

In my personal learning experience, digital tools significantly improved vocabulary retention and listening skills. For example, regular short practice in mobile applications helped memorize new words more effectively. Watching educational videos in English increased understanding of authentic speech. At the same time, I noticed that without clear goals digital learning can become unstructured. Therefore, digital tools are most effective when combined with traditional learning methods.

In conclusion, *digital technologies* play an important role in learning English as a Foreign Language. They provide flexibility, access to authentic materials, and opportunities for independent practice. However, their effectiveness depends on balanced integration into the learning process. A combination of digital and traditional methods can significantly improve language learning outcomes.

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