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REVIEW ARTICLE

BENEFITS, OBSTACLES AND ISSUES IN ENGLISH TEACHING THROUGH MOBILE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Mobile learning (M-learning) has become a transformative approach in English language education, offering learners flexibility, accessibility, and personalized opportunities to study anytime and anywhere. This paper explores the benefits of integrating mobile technologies into English teaching, including improved literacy and numeracy skills, enhanced learner engagement, increased self-confidence, and support for both independent and collaborative learning. Mobile devices provide lightweight, cost-effective alternatives to traditional resources, enabling creative, situated, and informal learning experiences. The study also highlights the role of mobile applications—such as Duolingo, British Council apps, and WhatsApp—in supporting grammar, vocabulary, communication, and interactive practice. Despite these advantages, challenges remain, including issues of accessibility, digital literacy gaps, device limitations, and the need for effective pedagogical strategies to sustain motivation and ensure quality outcomes. The paper concludes that mobile learning, when effectively integrated, can enrich English language teaching by fostering learner autonomy, creativity, and collaboration, while addressing the evolving demands of 21st-century education.

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INTRODUCTION

In the present day education is taking advantages of computer technology which can enhance and improve the teaching society learning more and more process. who have grown up in an immersive computing environment. Where a notebook and pen may have formed the toolkit of prior generations, today's students come to class armed with smart phones, laptops and iPods.

Benefits

The use of mobile learning may have the following positive contributions in the education field.

- Mobile learning helps learners to improve their literacy and numeracy skills and to recognise their existing abilities.
- Mobile learning can be used to encourage both independent and collaborative learning experiences.
- Mobile learning helps learners to identify areas where they need assistance and support.
- Mobile learning helps to combat resistance to the use of ICT and can help bridge the gap between mobile phone literacy and ICT literacy.
- Mobile learning helps to remove some of the formality from the learning experience and engages reluctant learners.
- Mobile learning helps learners to remain focused for longer periods.
- Mobile learning helps to raise self-esteem.
- Mobile learning helps to raise self-confidence
- Tutors who have used M-Learning programs and techniques have the following value statements in favour of M-learning.
- It is important to bring new technology into the classroom.
- Devices used are more lightweight than books and PCs.
- Mobile learning can be used to diversify the types of learning activities students partake in (or a blended learning approach).
- Mobile learning supports the learning process rather than being integral to it.
- Mobile learning can be a useful add-on tool for students with specific needs. However, for SMS and MMS this might be dependent on the students' specific disabilities or difficulties involved.

- Mobile Learning can be used as a 'hook' to re-engage disaffected youth.

M-learning can enhance learning by putting students in a real context and create new learning environments. Students may maximize their acquisition of skills, competencies and optimize their time of studying. Students simply go out of their classroom, offices, they are not compelled to stay in a place with a personal computer/laptop. They learn really and immediately, everywhere, in anytime, while they are walking, travelling, doing their routine actions, and above all in " in motion". Mobile technologies are the next step in the evolution of technology-mediated teaching and learning. It not only connects people in information –driven societies effectively, it offers the opportunity for a spontaneous, personal, informal and situated learning. Mobile technologies have sparked the need for the strategies, applications, and resources necessary to support anywhere-anytime connections to formal and situational learning, as well as personal interest.

Technology and language learning: online teaching has provided creative freedom, endless resources and learning materials, and the possibility to teach students from all corners of the globe technology occupies more important place in the classroom and e-learning as a platform for teaching. However, more and more students are using mobile devices to connect to the web. Mobile learning (or m-learning) is the ability to learn anywhere and at any time using a portable electronic device. Mobile learning is less structured than e-learning,

Mobile learning and language development: Our world today is obsessed with doing everything quickly, learning included. Self-study is obviously important in language learning. From my experience, as little as one hour a week of self-study can boost a student's progress immensely. Yet the majority of my students have chosen to study online due to time restrictions, and in their first lesson, they make it quite clear they have no time for homework. So, how do I motivate my busy students to find the time?

As the use of mobile technology is increasing, why not offer students the possibility to study anytime, anyplace and at their own convenience through their mobile devices? I get my students started with small, realistic homework activities. I request that my students spend just five or ten minutes a day on English. I introduce them to some of the amazing apps available and encourage them to learn in a mobile way. And it works.

Free apps for learning English

There are hundreds of mobile phone apps available and it's possible to find free options suited to students on a budget. Here are my top five free apps that students can use for extra practice:

- **British Council apps** offer a huge choice for smart phones. You can look at the options on their webpage and download the apps on Google Play, Apple's App Store or using a **QR code**. I particularly like 'Johnny Grammar's Word Challenge' - it's a fun way to improve grammar.
- **Duolingo** is a wonderful app that has just won the 'Best education start-up award'. It's designed like a game and is pretty addictive. It's free, contains no adverts and is very effective.
- **Two min English** is free, has no adverts and contains more than two hundred two-minute video lessons on a variety of topics e.g., social English, business English, travel English, common mistakes in English, idioms and phrases.
- **Game to learn English powowbox** is a multi-level game. Once downloaded, it appears as English tracker. The first three levels are free. You have to spot the mistake - if you get it wrong, you receive a clear explanation. It's fun and easy to play.
- **Real English** offers a variety of apps at different levels – business and conversation apps at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. The apps are free, but they contain adverts. Each app contains 20 lessons that focus on specific grammar/vocabulary areas. Each lesson is made up of five parts.
- **Being creative with mobile devices**
- Why not encourage your students to be creative and use the technology at their literal fingertips to prepare homework activities? I've chosen a few apps and looked at some of their educational possibilities:
- **Whatsapp** is a mobile messaging app which allows you to exchange messages. Users can create groups, send each other unlimited images, video and audio media messages over an internet connection.
- **Provides Easy access:** Mobile learning provides easy access to learning anyplace, anytime, making it more convenient to learners. Learners have the advantage of spending their time spent on travelling, between meetings or during weekends focusing on the subject they want to learn.
- **Facilitates Collaborative Learning**: Mobile Learning encourages collaborative learning, allowing learners at different locations to get in touch with their peers or others teams to discuss and learn. Social learning is a happening trend which creates a sense of competition and cooperation, which will lock the learners' attention towards the course.
- **Boosts Learner engagement:** Training at the workplace mostly consists of verbal and desktop communication, but adapting mobile learning can bring several opportunities to engage the learner on a digital and social level outside of the work. This new dimension will erase the sense of boredom in learners' mind about the course.
- **Encourages Self-paced Learning:** No two learners are the same. Each one has his or her own way of understanding the content to learn. With mobile learning, learners are now able to learn in their own style, at their own pace. In a classroom scenario, occasionally, there will be a few learners who wouldn't have understood the concepts clearly but hesitate to ask for a re-explanation. In mobile learning, nobody knows or cares how many times you revisit the course, which gives you the freedom to do it until you have understood it all.

Address all learning styles: Mobile learning can fit different learning styles as it allows learners to do the following:

- Reading
- Learning through videos
- Listening to podcasts (Audio)
- Research on the Internet

CONCLUSION

Analysis of these projects indicates that while there is important evidence in the developing world that mobile phones

impact educational outcomes by facilitating increased access, much less evidence exists as to how mobiles impact educational outcomes by promoting new learning.. Likewise, participants in the teacher training program underscored the benefits of being able to stay with their families and in their schools for the two-week training period. The mobile learning based teacher training program also enabled the Teacher of Education to extend access to quality training in a more affordable manner.

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