WEB-BASED LANGUAGE LEARNING- THE HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract:
This article explores the highlights and challenges of Internet-based Language Learning (IBLL). Recently, Internet-based Language Learning has become a topic relevant to the tech-savvy generation of learners. The internet has become so widespread in educational institutions and homes and its uses have expanded so dramatically that a majority of English learners have started using the internet for language learning. There are some awesome language learning apps. All information is just a click away. This sounds so fantastic but behind this luring fantasy lays some challenges lurking. This article provides a brief overview of how internet resources can be used for English language learning and focuses on the pros and cons of resorting to web based language learning.
Key Words: Explores, IBLL, Tech-Savvy, Dramatically, Widespread, Pros and Cons

Introduction:
Nowadays, Internet-Based Language Learning (IBLL) is the most innovative area in the practice of English language teaching and learning. Keeping students interested and engaged in current topics or activities is a daily challenge for teachers in the class-room. One of the advantages of IBLL is that it provides new possibilities for assisting teachers to successfully meet this challenge. In the last few years, the number of teachers using IBLL has increased significantly. It is obvious that we have entered into a new information age in which the links between technology and teaching of English as a Foreign Language have already been established. The development of the internet has brought a revolution in perception, since teaching tools offered through the internet are gradually becoming more reliable. The Google enlists some of the best apps to learn the English language as follows:

FluentU:
FluentU shows real-world videos like music videos, commercials, news, and inspiring talks and turns them into English learning experiences. Unlike traditional apps, FluentU uses a natural approach that helps learners easily get into the English language and culture over time. English can be learnt as it's spoken in real life.

Rosetta the Learners Stone:
Rosetta stone has exercises designed to help the learners learn basic words, before forming phrases and longer sentences. For example, the learners learn the English words "boy", "girl", "restaurant" etc through pictures. In the next step, Rosetta stone tries to teach the sentence construction. Using this method, Rosetta stone manages to teach many new English words and phrases without using the native language. It is a very immersive method.

Mind Snacks:
Mind Snacks is known for its fun and simple to use interface. Instead of studying endless word lists, the learners have fun games to learn new English words with. Learning new vocabulary is easier when the learner is motivated. There are nine mini-games inside the Mind Snacks app. Each game is designed to help the learner master English words in a certain way.

Memrise:
Memrise is a bit similar to Mind Snacks—the focus of this app is on English words. But, unlike Mind Snacks, Memrise doesn't help through games. Instead; it uses some creative, funny ways to help remember what words mean. And if something's funny, the learner can probably remember it better. Interestingly, Memrise courses are designed by users. So the non-native speakers of English can see how other English learners learnt these same words they are learning.

Mosalingua:
Mosalingua is yet another app for learning English using some effective learning methods. For example, one common problem many English learners face is forgetting a word after a sometime. While this is normal for anyone learning a new language, it can also be really frustrating. Mosalingua tries to solve this problem by using a method called SRS. SRS stands for Spaced Repetition Software, and basically, it is software that's designed to help the learner review words *just* before they forget them. Mosalingua also focuses on 1,500 of the most important words in English for practical and daily uses. So if a learner has just started to learn English, Mosalingua might be a great English app to check out.

Pros of E-learning of English Language: In web-based language learning context, there is flexibility for learning in many ways. There is flexibility of time to learn. Any time the learner is willing to learn, the internet

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can be switched on. Whenever the learner is tired of learning, a break could be taken. Further, lessons could be pursued when the learner is refreshed and is ready to take them up. Portable electronic equipments with the Internet connection enable learning the lesson at any place.

Instructors and students each report in E-Learning which fosters additional interaction among students. There are a fewer penalties for non-compliance. Success in finishing on-line learning, builds understanding and certainty among the learners. It encourages students to acquire responsibility for his or her learning.

IBLL provides students with a variety of educational materials. There are audios, videos, lectures and tests. The monotony of learning is broken. There is learner autonomy in e-learning as the learners control exercises regarding the learning process and are little dependent on a teacher. Language learning apps present materials in various ways. Important topics on the screen are presented with special effects in such a way that they become more attractive than traditional methods of learning languages.

IBLL provides students with a possibility to use online references allowing them to consult electronic resources beyond those of grammar-check, dictionary and Thesaurus. Computers use various colors, fonts and sizes of letters. IBLL allows distance education possible. Computers present a text word by word, phrase by phrase, line by line, question by question, page by page, etc. Learners can scroll lines of text up the screen.

Computers free students from the limitations of traditional writing tools. Computers transform learning languages from a traditional passive exercise to an interactive experience of discovery and exploration. They make E-learning of English language flexible and untiring. Computers do not get tired and can repeat the same thing again and again without complaining.

Computers help language learners to create, analyze, and produce information and ideas in an easy and efficient way. Computers give immediate feedback. They confirm if the answer is correct, give the correct answer or a hint if the answer is incorrect, etc. They rapidly and accurately check answers. Computers' clocks can be used to time the students' work, limit the amount of time allowed to read a passage or do an exercise.

English language learning can be individualized using computers. Students' study materials are related to their individual goals and what they need or are interested in with the appropriate difficulty level. They are able to learn at their own pace. With the help of the internet, teachers and students can work wherever and whenever it is needed not only in classroom at a fixed time and at a fixed place.

Computers keep records accurately. Computers enable students to electronically monitor and control the language learning process by giving feedbacks. Computers enable learners to quickly retrieve students' electronic writings for future analyses and grading. Computers calculate quickly and accurately. They help the learners to count total scores, averages, standard deviations and statistically analyze individual student.

The internet gives an opportunity for shy students to have forum for expressing themselves and asking questions. IBLL offers students genuine educational programs, games, simulations, dictionaries, etc. Using multi-media materials, computers display written texts and use sounds, still pictures, and videos. Students involve themselves readily in the process of learning.

Cons of E-Learning of English Language:

Besides having a lot of advantages of IBLL, there are several disadvantages. IBLL is not applied everywhere successfully because there are several barriers that do not let it be applied in the educational programs. Both students and teachers must be computer-literate because using IBLL means being good at computers in order for a user to give commands to a computer and respond to it. Sometimes available internet resources are difficult to use despite the fact that a good manual is provided. No matter how simple computers and the internet are, students need to learn a lot in order to use them properly.

In E-Learning of English Language, learners with low motivation or unhealthy study habits could fall behind. While not following the routine structures of a conventional classroom, students could wander off or be confused regarding course activities and deadlines. Students could feel isolated from the trainers. To make the web-based learning of the English language effective, the students need to be highly self-motivated.

Slow web connections or older computers could create accessing course materials frustrating. Managing files in computers will generally appear advanced for college students with beginner-level of computer skills. Information is usually input by typing it in, so to use a computer efficiently, it is necessary to know how to type. Of course, there are a few internet resources with voice recognition but they are not very successful always.

In general, all internet sites do what they are programmed to do. All internet resources have some limitations. For example, some language learning resources show the final score after taking a quiz without any further explanation of mistakes. Some internet resources may not be able to do exactly what a user wants them to do. IBLL cannot handle user's unexpected requests and requirements as computers may perform the things they are designed to do. Low budget educational institutions and low-income students usually cannot afford a computer. Computers break down, and they may have technical and network problems.

To conclude, the purpose of this article is to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of IBLL. There is no doubt that the availability of modern internet resources provides students with exciting possibilities for

innovative challenges in the teaching and learning of the English language. The conventional classroom-based instruction does not provide students with diverse knowledge.

My own experience says that students work better and more efficiently when there is something connected with the modern technologies in the classroom. In order to make students understand their lessons and actively take part in class activities IBLL is vital. The internet with its unlimited resources can never replace language teachers, but it can make the English language learning more interesting and fruitful.

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