THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN COLLABORATIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Annotation: *The significance of technology in modern life has been growing day by day. Additionally, the use of technological equipment has become prevalent in education. More and more integration of digital tools such as, computers, tablets and clever phones together with internet created so many opportunities to learn foreign languages easily. The number of mobile functions that is designed for teaching a foreign language has been increasing and specifically social media has become an indispensable part of students' lives. Social media is divided into 6, although the boundaries among them are not clear-cut: 1) social networking sites (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.), 2) social bookmarking sites (Delicious, StumbleUpon, etc.), 3) social news (Digg, Reddit, etc.), 4) media sharing sites (Instagram, You Tube, etc.), 5) microblogging sites (Twitter, etc.), and 6) blogging and forum sites (Grahl, 2013).*

This article analyses the role and importance of aforementioned social media tools in foreign language teaching. Moreover, it discusses how social media can enhance learners' language skills and provides the information about how a variety of social media platforms can be used to improve language learning goals.

Key words: *Social media platforms, social networking websites, social bookmarking sites, social news, international community, language fluency, English proficiency, self-study, language skills, multimodal communication.*

Annotatsiya: *Zamonaviy hayotda texnologiyaning ahamiyati kundan-kunga ortib bormoqda. Shuningdek, ta'lim sohasidagi texnologik jihozlardan foydalanish keng tarqalgan. Kompyuterlar, planshetlar va aqlli telefonlar kabi raqamli vositalarning internet bilan tobora ko'proq integratsiyalashuvi chet tillarini osongina o'rganish uchun juda ko'p imkoniyatlar yaratdi. Chet tilini o'rgatish uchun mo'ljallangan mobil funksiyalar soni ortib bormoqda va ayniqsa, ijtimoiy tarmoqlar talabalar hayotining ajralmas qismiga aylandi. Ijtimoiy tarmoqlar 6 ga bo'lingan, garchi ular orasidagi chegaralar aniq bo'lmasa-da: 1) ijtimoiy tarmoq saytlari (Facebook, LinkedIn va boshqalar), 2) ijtimoiy xatcho'plar saytlari (Delicious, StumbleUpon va boshqalar), 3) ijtimoiy yangiliklar (Digg, Reddit va boshqalar), 4) media almashish saytlari (Instagram, You Tube va boshqalar), 5) mikroblog saytlari (Twitter va boshqalar), 6) bloglar va forum saytlar (Grahl, 2013).*

Ushbu maqolada yuqorida tilga olingan ijtimoiy media vositalarining chet tilini o'rgatishdagi o'rni va ahamiyati tahlil qilinadi. Bundan tashqari, maqola ijtimoiy media o'quvchilarning til ko'nikmalarini qanday oshirishi haqida gapiradi va til o'rganish

maqsadlarini yaxshilash uchun turli xil ijtimoiy media platformalaridan qanday foydalanish mumkinligi haqida ma'lumot beradi.

INTRODUCTION

In the realm of education, technological advancement has significantly affected on educating and learning of English as a foreign language. Social media is one of the technological components. As a result of offering progressive methods for students to collaborate, communicate and interact with instructional content, social media systems have become integral tools in modern education. By using these platforms which include Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and academic-specific forums, students can connect with peers, educators and international communities. Numerous studies have investigated the impact of social media on English language learning. According to the survey, it was found that most students use social media to learn English effectively and easily, since English is considered an international language that facilitates global communication. Therefore, English is one of the prevalent languages that is frequently used in social media.

Social media is an indispensable tool for both professionals and learners due to its accessibility, widespread popularity and real-time interaction features. In learning English as a foreign or second language, social media offers many benefits. It creates the opportunity for student to see how people really use language, connects them with native and non-native speakers from around the world and gives a chance to communicate instantly. Furthermore, social media-based teaching method is more effective compared to traditional teaching methods that do not incorporate social media, because these platforms like a Twitter, Facebook and Instagram go beyond regular classroom walls, offering student a chance to practice language in many different situations which is important for improving comprehensive language accomplishment.

Academic English proficiency

Academic English proficiency means to be able to read, speak, write and comprehend English in school or college context. A specific set of abilities which involves learning academic terminology, understanding complicated text, writing clearly and participating in academic discussion with fluent speech are the most important part of higher education. Individuals face with a lot of challenges to achieve higher education in academic English. As a result of this they try to find more efficient way for improving language skills beyond traditional teaching methods. Role of social media in education

In the last few years, the way of our communication, data access and learning has been revolutionized due to development of social media. Social networking websites have become prevalent tools for language learning in education. There are various platforms on social media such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and You Tube. These platforms provide with many opportunities to encourage collaboration, improve knowledge and enhance interaction. Not only informal education, but also academic learning is simultaneously acquired while using social platform.

While social media offers many benefits, such as access to course information, video clips, and instructional notes, it also has drawbacks, including security risk, addiction, and decreased productivity.

Students think that social media and mobile devices are cheap and easy way to get valuable data. Researches in western countries have gone up against that using social media for group learning has a significant contribution to improve students' grades, and makes them satisfied (Zhu, 2012).

Additionally, social networking platforms gives a viable and helpful elective to conventional learning strategies. One of the main reasons is that students and lecturers can quickly share learning materials online, so they do not have to go to a library or buy print books.

One of the advantages of social media is that it has a substantial influence on language comprehension through the information, texts and words found on these sites (Bhatti, et al., 2020).

Benefits of social media for language learning

Encouragement social skills

Social media platforms have so many opportunities to improve language skills, one of which is enhancement interpersonal skills. Learners can engage with individuals from different corners of the globe by social networking websites. While communicating, whether oral or written, language fluency improves more organically (Alm, 2015). As well as, online communication has a good influence on students' self-esteem, since anxiety that is related to speak in foreign language is reduced due to informal nature of social media. Social platforms include various communication environment like a text, video and audio. Multimodal communication helps learners acquire a wider range of language skills by exposing them to different expressions and pronunciations (Suthiwartnarueput &Wasanasomsithi, 2012).

In addition, these platforms can enhance interaction, allowing learners to get involved and practice English in a social and lively environment. In general, social media and websites permit understudies to associated, share contents with colleagues and, moreover, helping in building association with others (Cain, 2008).

Improvement of collaboration

On social media, learners can co-operate on tasks which include sharing resource, giving feedback and providing mutual support. This kind of collaboration can build a sense of responsibility for increasing their learning outcomes as feedbacks are shared and received from peers in peak time (Yang & DeHart, 2016). Furthermore, on WhatsApp and Facebook, teachers can organize online course, debate or additional practice outside of class hours and it helps student spend more time on language learning (Wang & Chen, 2019).

There are so many collaborative learning programs, such as Duolingo and Hello Talk that give an opportunity to communicate with language partners, exchange feedbacks, share some advices to boost English knowledge, and participate actively in interactive activities. This kind of programs encourage students to learn foreign language with enthusiasm.

Opportunity to self-study

Social media platforms encourage students to learn foreign languages independently. For example, most professional teachers upload topic-related videos on You Tube or Telegram channels, students who want to self-study can easily access these videos and if they encounter challenging concepts, they have the opportunity to connect with these educators to seek clarification on their questions.

On top of that, using social media for pleasure can affect to boost language skills. For instance, student who like travelling can follow travel accounts on Instagram or You Tube where they acquire vocabulary and collocations applicable to their interest (Sun, 2010).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, utilization social media in teaching and learning English as foreign or second language presents both benefits and drawbacks. There are challenges in ensuring high-quality content, differences in technological proficiency, internet access, and online security, while EFL students' language skills, engagement, and collaboration improve due to the effectiveness of social platforms (Faizi et al., 2013). That is why, selecting appropriate social media platforms is recommended.

Based on the investigation it could be noted that using social media is considered as integral part of learning in the realm of education, especially in language learning. Additionally, its convenient and effective nature makes it prevalent in English learning.

In general, social media fosters interaction among learners, enhances communication opportunities and supports language acquisition.

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