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METHODS OF USING COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH LESSONS

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ABSTRACT

The usage of computer training programs in education has grown in popularity in the current digital era. One of the most innovative and technologically advanced methods for teaching and learning languages is the use of computer training programs, particularly when it comes to enhancing the chances of achieving language pedagogy's goals. These days, a growing number of academics and industry experts understand the value of utilizing diverse computer training programs in the process of teaching and learning languages. This article offer a wide range of benefits for both students and teachers, making them an essential tool in modern classrooms. Further, the study provides definitions of some important terms that related to computer training programs such as AI (Artificial intelligence) and explores some activities and stages of the lesson for using computer training programs in English lessons.

KEYWORDS

Pedagogy, computer programs, method, language learning platforms, software applications, AI (Artificial Intelligence)

INTRODUCTION

The issue of quality education has always been and will continue to be relevant. In today's labor market, there

is a demand for intellectually developed, sociable, and competitive professionals who can acquire the

necessary knowledge. The primary objective of teaching foreign languages is to foster and enhance communicative skills, focusing on practical proficiency in a foreign language. The teacher's role is to create an environment that facilitates practical language mastery for each student, employing teaching methods that encourage active participation, creativity, and cognitive engagement in foreign language learning. Modern pedagogical technologies, such as collaborative learning, project-based approaches, and the utilization of information technologies and internet resources, contribute to implementing a learner-centered approach, catering to individualized and differentiated learning based on children's abilities and learning levels.

There is a wide range of specialized computer programs available, and their significance is undeniable. In recent years, the progressive development of society has generated a growing interest in foreign language study. The motivation to explore this subject arises from various factors, one of which is the desire to travel the world and enhance communication with people from different countries and cultures. However, accomplishing this without knowledge of at least one foreign language is quite challenging. English, being the most commonly spoken foreign language by a significant proportion of the global population, is understandably one of the popular languages taught in schools. Proficiency in

English can be viewed from two perspectives: as a desired outcome of language learning and as a valuable tool for learning itself.

Computer training programs offer a significant benefit by offering students prompt feedback on their performance. Once students finish an exercise, they can promptly view their score and assess their answers. This immediate feedback enables students to pinpoint their areas of strength and weakness, enabling them to concentrate on areas requiring improvement. Additionally, numerous programs provide extra explanations and examples to aid students in comprehending the reasons behind their correct or incorrect answers.

Computer training programs also offer the advantage of adaptability to suit the individual needs and abilities of students. For instance, if a student consistently demonstrates accuracy in answering questions, the program can raise the difficulty level for subsequent questions. Conversely, if a student struggles with specific question types, the program can offer extra practice in those areas. This personalized approach ensures that students remain motivated and engaged in their learning process. Most of the researches mentioned about the methods of using computer training programs in language learning. Let's look through a few commonly employed methods:

- Blended Learning method.

Blended learning combines face-to-face instruction with computer-based activities. In this method, learners attend traditional classroom sessions where the teacher covers core content and provides guidance. Computer training programs are then used as supplementary resources to reinforce and extend the learning. Learners can access the programs outside of class to engage in interactive exercises, practice activities, or multimedia resources that focus on specific language skills or concepts. The advantage of blended learning is that it allows for a more personalized and flexible learning experience, combining the benefits of both traditional instruction and technology-based resources.

- Flipped Classroom method.

The flipped classroom model reverses the traditional teaching approach. learners access instructional content, such as videos, readings, or online modules, through computer training programs outside of class. They engage with the materials at their own pace and come to class prepared. Classroom time is then dedicated to interactive activities, discussions, projects, and individualized support from the teacher. The flipped classroom method promotes active learning, collaborative problem-solving, and student engagement in the classroom while providing learners with more control over their learning process.

- Independent Study.

Independent study involves learners using computer training programs as self-paced learning tools. Learners can access the programs independently, outside of structured classroom sessions. They work through the content at their own pace, engaging in activities such as vocabulary drills, grammar exercises, listening practice, or writing tasks. Independent study with computer training programs provides flexibility, allowing learners to focus on their individual needs, interests, and preferred learning styles. However, it requires learners to be self-motivated and disciplined in managing their learning independently.

- Supplemental Practice.

In this method, computer training programs are used to provide additional practice and reinforcement of specific language skills or concepts covered in class. For example, if the class is focusing on verb tenses, learners can use the programs to access interactive exercises, quizzes, or games that specifically target verb tense practice. Supplemental practice with computer training programs allows learners to consolidate their understanding, reinforce their skills, and gain more confidence in applying what they have learned in class.

- Differentiated Instruction.

Differentiated instruction involves using computer training programs to provide personalized and adaptive learning experiences. These programs can

assess learners' performance, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and adjust the difficulty level, pacing, and content accordingly. Learners engage in activities tailored to their specific needs, receive immediate feedback, and access additional resources to address their individual learning gaps or challenges. Differentiated instruction with computer training programs promotes individualized learning, allowing each learner to progress at their own pace and receive targeted support.

- Authentic Language Use.

Computer training programs often incorporate authentic materials, such as videos, podcasts, or articles, to expose learners to real-world language use. Learners can engage with these materials to practice listening comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and cultural understanding. They can also explore different registers, accents, and language varieties. Authentic language use with computer training programs helps learners develop their language skills in context and prepares them for real-life communication situations.

- Communication and Collaboration.

Virtual Language Labs: Computer training programs can simulate language lab environments, allowing students to practice speaking and listening skills. These labs can offer interactive exercises, pronunciation practice, and conversation simulations to enhance oral proficiency.

- Online Writing Platforms

Students can utilize computer training programs designed for writing practice. These platforms may provide guided prompts, grammar and vocabulary checks, and suggestions for improving writing skills. They can also facilitate peer feedback and collaboration on written assignments.

- Gamified Learning.

Computer training programs can incorporate gamification elements to make English lessons more engaging and enjoyable. Game-based activities, rewards, and leaderboards can motivate students to actively participate and reinforce their language skills.

- Multimedia Resources.

Computer training programs can provide access to a variety of multimedia resources, such as videos, audio recordings, and interactive presentations. These resources can be used to enhance listening comprehension, develop cultural understanding, and provide authentic language input.

- Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR).

Emerging technologies like VR and AR can be integrated into computer training programs to create immersive language learning experiences. Students can explore virtual environments, engage in role-

playing scenarios, and interact with virtual characters to practice language skills in realistic contexts.

- Pronunciation and Speech Recognition.

Computer programs equipped with speech recognition technology can help students improve their pronunciation and speaking skills. These programs can provide real-time feedback on pronunciation accuracy, intonation, and stress patterns.

- Online Reading Platforms.

Computer training programs can offer access to digital libraries or online reading platforms that provide a range of leveled reading materials. These platforms may include comprehension questions, vocabulary support, and progress tracking to enhance reading skills.

- Test Preparation.

Computer training programs can assist students in preparing for English proficiency tests such as TOEFL, IELTS, or Cambridge exams. They can offer practice tests, diagnostic assessments, and targeted exercises to familiarize students with the test format and improve their test-taking skills.

- Cultural and Global Awareness.

Computer training programs can incorporate modules or resources that promote cultural understanding and global awareness. They can include activities on

intercultural communication, global issues, and cross-cultural communication skills.

The choice of method depends on the specific learning objectives, the age and proficiency level of the students, available technology resources, and the instructional approach of the teacher. These methods can be adapted and combined based on the specific needs and goals of English language lessons. Educators can choose the most suitable method(s) and leverage computer training programs to enhance the effectiveness and engagement of their instruction.

As the most recent method using AI (Artificial intelligence) in language learning can be considered according to the investigations. AI technologies can offer various benefits and opportunities to enhance language learning experiences. Here are some ways AI can be utilized:

Intelligent Tutoring System or AI-powered tutoring systems can provide personalized instruction and adaptive learning experiences. These systems can analyze learners' performance, identify areas of weakness, and deliver targeted feedback and practice activities accordingly.

Natural Language Processing (NLP) technology enables AI systems to understand and process human language. It can be utilized in language learning applications to provide automated language assessment, grammar and vocabulary suggestions,

and language practice exercises with interactive conversational agents.

Speech Recognition and Pronunciation Improvement (AI-powered speech recognition technology) can analyze learners' pronunciation and provide real-time feedback on accuracy. It can help learners improve their pronunciation skills and develop better oral communication abilities.

AI can also generate language content (Language Generation), such as automated writing feedback, model essays, and conversation simulations. This can assist learners in understanding proper language usage, providing examples, and fostering creativity in their own writing and speaking.

AI algorithms can analyze large amounts of language data (Language Analysis) to identify patterns, common errors, and areas of difficulty for learners. This analysis can inform the development of targeted language learning materials and interventions.

Intelligent Content Recommendation is also one of the AI based methods. AI can recommend personalized learning resources, such as articles, videos, or exercises, based on learners' interests, proficiency level, and learning goals. This can help learners discover relevant and engaging content that matches their individual needs.

AI-powered virtual language assistants, such as chatbots or voice assistants, can provide instant responses to learners' queries, assist with language practice, and engage in conversational interactions to improve language skills in a supportive and interactive manner.

AI-based systems can automate the grading and assessment of language assignments, exams, and tests. They can provide consistent and objective evaluation, saving time for educators and providing immediate feedback to learners.

It's important to note that while AI can provide valuable support in language learning, it should not replace human interaction and guidance entirely. The role of teachers and human interaction remains crucial in providing personalized instruction, addressing individual needs, and fostering meaningful language practice and communication. AI should be seen as a complementary tool to enhance the learning experience and support language learners in their journey. These methods can be adapted and combined based on the specific needs and goals of English language lessons. Educators can choose the most suitable method(s) and leverage computer training programs to enhance the effectiveness and engagement of their instruction.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, computer training programs offer a range of benefits in English lessons, including enhanced engagement, personalized learning, immediate feedback, access to rich resources, flexibility, and preparation for real-world language use. Integrating these programs effectively can enhance the learning experience and empower students to develop their language skills in a dynamic and interactive manner.

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