

The Role Of Technology In Enhancing Reading Comprehension In English Language Learning

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Received: 18 August 2025; **Accepted:** 14 September 2025; **Published:** 16 October 2025

Abstract: The process of working with texts remains one of the most challenging aspects of foreign language learning. Previous research by scholars such as S. Tonks and T. Guthrie has highlighted the crucial role of motivation in developing reading comprehension skills, emphasizing the need to foster students' intrinsic interest in reading. In English language instruction, diverse methods and approaches—whether in traditional classrooms or online environments—can be applied depending on learners' goals, strategies, and resources. Technological advancements have further transformed language education by providing access to vast digital resources, enabling tailored learning practices, and supporting authentic language use through multimedia and online exchanges. Recent contributions from Vietnamese researchers D. C. Tinh and N. T. Nam stress the significance of personalized, technology-mediated learning experiences, while American scholar G. Stanley underscores technology's role in enhancing lesson quality, resource accessibility, and collaborative learning. Likewise, British researcher Peter Atherton identifies multiple strategies for integrating technology into text-based learning, with gamification proving especially effective in motivating learners and enriching their active vocabulary. Collectively, these insights demonstrate that technology not only addresses challenges faced in traditional instruction but also serves as a powerful driver of learner engagement and motivation in developing reading comprehension skills.

Keywords: Reading comprehension; learner motivation; educational technology; gamification; tailored learning; digital resources; language exchange.

Introduction: Reading comprehension plays a central role in second language acquisition and is widely regarded as one of the most difficult skills for students to master. Scholars including S. Tonks and T. Guthrie have emphasized the importance of motivation in the process of developing comprehension skills, noting that a genuine interest in reading must be cultivated for learners to succeed. As English is increasingly taught in both traditional classrooms and digital environments, instructors are faced with the challenge of adopting effective methods that respond to learners' goals, learning strategies, and available resources.

With the advancement of educational technology, new opportunities have emerged to enrich the teaching and learning of English. Digital tools, online platforms, and interactive resources have redefined the classroom, offering innovative approaches to motivation and learner engagement. This article explores the contribution of technology to reading comprehension and motivation in English language learning, drawing

on the perspectives of international researchers.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on a qualitative descriptive approach, drawing upon existing theoretical frameworks and empirical findings to analyze the role of technology in fostering motivation and reading comprehension in English language learning. A systematic review of the literature was conducted to gather insights from international researchers, including S. Tonks, T. Guthrie, G. Stanley, P. Atherton, D. C. Tinh, and N. T. Nam, as well as studies on Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) by Ali Derakhshan, Danial Salehi, and Makboubeh Rahimzadeh.

The methodology comprised three main steps:

Collection of sources – Academic books, peer-reviewed journal articles, and scholarly reports published between 2010 and 2023 were reviewed to ensure relevance and currency.

Thematic analysis – The findings were organized into key themes, including motivation, technology integration, gamification, tailored learning practices, CALL, and innovative methods in text-based learning.

Comparative synthesis – Perspectives from different researchers were compared to highlight similarities, differences, and emerging trends in the use of technology for reading comprehension and motivation.

This methodological approach allowed for the identification of innovative strategies and best practices that can be applied in English language teaching. Although no experimental data were collected, the descriptive analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of how technology supports reading comprehension across different stages—literal, inferential, critical, and creative.

DISCUSSION

Motivation and Reading Comprehension

Motivation is a key factor in developing effective reading comprehension skills. Without sustained interest and engagement, learners often struggle to make sense of texts. The works of S. Tonks and T. Guthrie suggest that cultivating a love of reading is fundamental to developing the ability to understand and analyze texts in a foreign language.

The Role of Technology in Language Learning

The integration of technology has revolutionized language education. Online resources such as interactive exercises, digital applications, and online courses allow students to expand their linguistic competence. These tools address various aspects of language learning, including grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and communicative ability.

Moreover, technology enhances learners' motivation by providing engaging content, opportunities for self-directed learning, and immediate feedback through tasks and assessments.

Students who use technology effectively can access authentic multimedia materials such as podcasts, films, and websites. These resources expose them to contemporary usage, diverse accents, and cultural contexts, thereby bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-life communication. Additionally, online language exchange programs create authentic spaces for interaction, connecting learners with native speakers and peers around the world.

International Perspectives on Technology and Learning

Vietnamese researchers D. C. Tinh and N. T. Nam emphasize the motivational role of technology and its capacity to personalize language learning through

tailored learning practices. Their findings indicate that technology allows for flexible adaptation to learners' individual interests and psychological needs while promoting meaningful online exchanges.

American researcher G. Stanley highlights the value of technology in improving the quality of lessons. According to him, digital resources enable immersive learning environments, facilitate enjoyable activities, enhance creative thinking, and provide effective mechanisms for assessment and collaborative learning. These benefits help to address difficulties traditionally faced by teachers.

British scholar Peter Atherton provides further insights, identifying fifty ways to integrate technology into text-based learning. Among these, gamification—the use of game-based approaches—emerges as particularly effective. Gamification increases learners' intrinsic motivation by encouraging them to actively engage with vocabulary through interactive games, lexical analysis, and multimedia reinforcement. This approach ensures that new vocabulary becomes part of learners' active lexicon and strengthens their ability to analyze and interpret texts.

Stages of reading comprehension and the role of technology.

Different stages of reading—namely literal, inferential, critical, and creative levels—play an important role in enhancing students' ability to understand and make use of texts. Each stage has its own distinctive features, and their effective development ensures the success of the learning process. Below, each stage and the role of technology in supporting it are discussed.

Literal level refers to a student's ability to recognize and recall facts, figures, or ideas explicitly stated in the text. At this stage, the learner perceives the direct meaning of the text and is able to report it accurately. This level helps students acquire basic information, though it does not require deeper analysis. Technology supports the development of literal comprehension through online quizzes, interactive exercises, and digital platforms. For example, applications such as Quizlet or Kahoot allow learners to memorize textual information and answer questions based on it. These tools provide effective means of practicing and retaining textual content.

Inferential level involves interpreting implicit meanings in a text by drawing upon prior knowledge and personal experience. Here, learners attempt to extract information that is not directly stated. Technology enhances inferential comprehension by providing interactive platforms and discussion forums. With tools like Google Classroom or Padlet, students can exchange ideas, analyze texts from different perspectives, and

collaboratively uncover deeper meanings. Moreover, AI-based tools can assist in identifying and explaining hidden meanings within texts.

Critical level refers to students' ability to subjectively analyze and evaluate texts based on their structure and style. At this stage, learners assess how a text is constructed and form their own judgments about it. Technology supports critical analysis by enabling higher-level text evaluation. Platforms such as Trello or Google Docs facilitate collaborative group work where texts can be assessed from multiple viewpoints. In addition, AI-powered tools can automatically analyze texts and identify stylistic inconsistencies.

Creative level stimulates learners' imagination and focuses on generating new ideas, characters, or settings inspired by the text. At this stage, learners go beyond comprehension to re-create or reframe the text in novel ways. Technology fosters creativity through digital storytelling and design tools such as Canva or Storyboard That, allowing learners to reimagine texts with newly created characters or scenarios. Furthermore, virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) applications introduce learners to innovative and immersive ways of expressing creativity.

Each level of reading—literal, inferential, critical, and creative—plays a vital role in enabling students to approach texts from multiple perspectives. Technology provides learners with powerful tools to strengthen these skills, deepen comprehension, encourage idea sharing, and inspire creativity. It also makes the learning process more interactive, engaging, and effective.

Innovative Methods in Text-Based Learning with Technology

Innovative technologies play a crucial role in organizing effective text-based learning. One of the most significant approaches is Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL), which integrates technology and computer resources into language teaching and learning. Emerging as a powerful tool in the 21st century, CALL has been widely studied and recognized as an effective method in English language instruction.

According to scholars such as Ali Derakhshan, Danial Salehi, and Makboubeh Rahimzadeh, CALL has brought about revolutionary changes in the field of language pedagogy. This approach provides opportunities to create interactive learning processes tailored to the individual needs of students.

The advantages of CALL include:

Interactivity – learners engage with texts using multimedia, audio, and video resources.

Individualization – the system adapts to learners'

proficiency levels and personal needs.

Motivation – game-like elements, instant quizzes, and online activities increase learners' engagement.

Effectiveness – computer programs allow for automated text analysis, error detection, and personalized feedback.

In addition to CALL, several other innovative approaches have proven effective in text-based learning:

Gamification – incorporating game elements to enhance learners' engagement with texts.

Flipped Classroom – allowing students to study theoretical content online while dedicating classroom time to practice and application.

Social Media Literacies – encouraging learners to analyze and discuss texts through social media platforms.

These innovative methods not only strengthen reading comprehension but also enhance learners' critical and creative thinking skills, making the learning process more interactive and meaningful.

CONCLUSION

The integration of technology into language instruction plays a transformative role in motivating learners and enhancing reading comprehension skills. By providing access to authentic materials, facilitating tailored learning experiences, and introducing engaging methods such as gamification, technology bridges the gap between theoretical instruction and practical communication. Insights from international researchers demonstrate that technology not only improves the quality of language teaching but also addresses challenges long encountered in traditional learning environments. Ultimately, technology should be recognized as an indispensable tool for fostering student motivation and supporting the development of advanced reading comprehension in English language learning.

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