DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AS A TOOL FOR ENHANCING STUDENTS' MOTIVATION IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

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Abstract. This article discusses the role of digital technologies in increasing students' motivation in foreign language classes. In modern education, digital tools have become an important part of language teaching and learning. They help make lessons more interactive, flexible, and learner-centered. The article explains how online platforms, multimedia materials, educational applications, digital games, videos, podcasts, interactive quizzes, and artificial intelligence tools can support students' interest and participation. Digital technologies provide learners with opportunities to practice language skills both inside and outside the classroom. They also help teachers create meaningful tasks, encourage collaboration, and provide quick feedback. The article concludes that the effective use of digital technologies can improve students' motivation, confidence, and language learning outcomes.

Keywords: digital technologies, foreign language teaching, motivation, interactive learning, educational platforms, student engagement, language skills.

In the modern educational process, digital technologies play an increasingly important role in foreign language teaching. Today's students live in a digital environment and use technology in their everyday lives for communication, study, entertainment, and information search. Therefore, the use of digital tools in foreign language classes can make learning more familiar, interesting, and effective for them. When technology is used with a clear pedagogical purpose, it can increase students' motivation and help them become more active participants in the learning process.

Motivation is one of the most important factors in successful language learning. A motivated student is more willing to participate in classroom activities, complete tasks, communicate in the target language, and continue learning independently. However, traditional lessons based only on textbooks, grammar explanations, and written exercises may not always be enough to keep students interested. Digital technologies can help solve this problem by making lessons more dynamic, visual, and interactive.

One of the main advantages of digital technologies is that they create a more engaging learning environment. Multimedia materials such as videos, audio recordings, animations, online presentations, and images can attract students' attention and help them understand language in context. For example, a short video can be used to introduce a topic, present new vocabulary, or develop listening comprehension. Students usually respond more actively when they see and hear real examples of language use. This makes learning more meaningful and closer to real communication.

Online platforms are also useful for increasing motivation. Platforms such as Google Classroom, Moodle, Microsoft Teams, and other learning management systems allow teachers to

share materials, give assignments, organize discussions, and provide feedback. These platforms help students access learning resources at any time and learn at their own pace. As a result, students become more responsible for their learning. They can review materials, submit tasks, receive comments, and communicate with teachers and classmates outside the classroom.

Educational applications and interactive exercises can also make foreign language learning more enjoyable. Vocabulary apps, grammar practice tools, pronunciation programs, and online dictionaries help students practice language skills independently. Many applications use elements of gamification, such as points, levels, badges, and progress tracking. These elements can increase learners' interest because students see their achievements and want to improve their results. Gamified learning is especially effective for vocabulary revision, grammar practice, and pronunciation training.

Interactive quizzes are another useful digital tool in language classes. Teachers can use online quiz platforms to check students' understanding, revise previous topics, or organize competitions. Such activities create a positive and active classroom atmosphere. Students often enjoy competing in groups or individually, and this increases their participation. At the same time, teachers can quickly see which topics students understand well and which areas need further explanation. Immediate feedback is one of the strongest advantages of digital assessment tools.

Digital technologies are also important for developing speaking and listening skills. Students can listen to podcasts, watch interviews, record their own speech, and participate in online discussions. Recording activities are particularly useful because students can listen to themselves, notice pronunciation problems, and improve their fluency. Video conferencing tools can also be used for speaking practice, online presentations, and communication with other learners. These activities help students overcome fear of speaking and build confidence.

Authentic digital materials can make foreign language learning more realistic. Websites, online newspapers, blogs, social media posts, advertisements, and videos show how language is used in real life. By working with such materials, students learn not only grammar and vocabulary but also cultural context, style, and communication patterns. For example, students can analyze a real advertisement, discuss a news article, or compare different opinions from online sources. This develops critical thinking together with language competence.

Artificial intelligence tools are becoming increasingly common in language education. They can help students generate ideas, check grammar, improve writing, practice dialogues, and receive quick explanations. AI-based tools can also support individualized learning because students can practice according to their own level and needs. However, teachers should explain how to use these tools responsibly. Students should not depend completely on technology; they should use it as support for learning, practice, and self-improvement.

Digital technologies also encourage collaborative learning. Students can work together on online documents, prepare digital presentations, create videos, make posters, or complete group projects. Collaboration helps students exchange ideas, communicate in the target language, and learn from one another. Digital project work is especially useful because it combines language learning with creativity and practical skills. For example, students can create a short video about their university, prepare a digital story, or design an online poster on an educational topic.

Despite many advantages, the use of digital technologies also has some challenges. Not all students may have equal access to devices or stable internet connection. Some students may use technology mainly for entertainment and may become distracted during lessons. In addition, some

teachers may need more training to use digital tools effectively. For this reason, technology should be carefully planned and integrated into the lesson. It should support the learning aim, not become the aim itself.

The teacher's role remains very important in technology-based language teaching. Digital tools cannot replace the teacher's guidance, explanation, encouragement, and feedback. The teacher should choose appropriate materials, organize meaningful tasks, monitor students' work, and help them use technology productively. A successful digital lesson depends not only on the tool but also on how the teacher uses it. Even a simple digital activity can be effective if it encourages communication, creativity, and active learning.

In conclusion, digital technologies are powerful tools for enhancing students' motivation in foreign language classes. They make lessons more interactive, flexible, and connected with real life. Videos, online platforms, educational applications, interactive quizzes, authentic materials, digital projects, and artificial intelligence tools can increase students' interest and participation. At the same time, teachers should use these technologies thoughtfully and purposefully. When digital tools are combined with effective teaching methods, they can help students become more motivated, confident, and successful foreign language learners.

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