Effects of Technology on English Language Studies for Overall Development

Omolayo Margaret YUSUF
Department of English Education,
Lagos State University of Education, Oto/Ijanikin, Lagos
08027312986
omolayoyusuf@gmail.com

Abstract

English Language is a global language based on its usage the world over. It is one of the major languages of the United Nations and indeed a working language. This paper examined the effects that technology, which include use of internet, computers, internet of things, artificial intelligence, advanced robotics and the rest, have on the learning of English Language In all of these, words are deployed for communication. This study examined the effects of technology on the learning of English Language and investigated the challenges confronting the use of technology in the learning of English Language among final year students of Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Oto-Ijanikin, Lagos. It however included responses from learners on how technology had helped them to correct some anomalies that occurred in the course of interactions; and usage of the emerging technologies. It was evident that technology has shaped the learning of English Language in no small measure. There were situations in which Artificial Intelligence models helped in the correction of pronunciation, translation of words for better understanding and the explication of terms through one to one interactions with learners. It is also worthy of note that a sound knowledge of English got through the use of technology helps in navigating life matters, other subjects and disciplines. The use of internet, through major platforms both social and educational; like Facebook, Whatsapp, Zoom, Skype, You-tube, Google search, Chat GPT and the rest had supported both teachers and learners to improve upon their knowledge of the world through this major language, English. There is no doubt that technology had impacted a lot on English Language Studies which in turn helped in the overall development of the learners and teachers in no small way. Technology has helped human beings to make more sense of the world we live in and English Language is like a driver of the vehicle through which information is transported, gained and used in all its ramifications.

Keywords: Effects, Technology, English Language, Development, Studies

Introduction

The effect of technology on any language requires an in-depth knowledge of Language which has been described brilliantly by various authors. Language is a prerequisite for communication as evident in its use by human beings for interactions defined severally. Language is a system of communication by making use of either spoken or written words used by people of a certain or particular area, (Yusuf , 2020). It has also been viewed as a means by which human beings interact within a given community and thus a means of communication. It is viewed by (Amamize, 2002) as a system of sounds, words and patterns used by human beings to communicate thoughts and feelings; and a system of signals, symbols, gestures used for conveying information.

The paramount thing about all of the definitions above is that language is an important aspect of life, because without it, communication would be extremely difficult. Language use

involves its features of arbitrariness, dynamism, conventionality, creativity and uniqueness. Being arbitrary means it is done without reason, dynamism means that are bound to be changes. Conventionality pushes it further to the way it is used, creativity ensures inventions abound while uniqueness shows the quality of being one of a kind.

One is faced with the task of describing and presenting how technology has affected English Language studies for overall development of a group of final year students of Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Oto-Ijanikin Lagos. Responses were collected from the students through questionnaire and structured interview to elicit genuine responses from them on how technology has affected their studies on English Language for their overall development both in other courses and in real-life situations. It is of utmost importance to note that English being the language of Education is a target language for the development of the citizens through technological impact.

Definition of Terms:

Effect: A phenomenon that follows and is caused by some previous phenomenon. It could be regarded as aftermath, after effect or impact on something. It could also be regarded as consequences of one thing on the other.

Technology: This is regarded as the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes or "advances in computer technology" (online Dictionary). It is also the application of scientific knowledge to the practical aims of human life or change and manipulation of our environment. There are very many products of technology stemming from the first Industrial Revolution in 18th century invention of the steam engine, second in the 19th century powered by widespread electrification which involved science and mass production; third in the 1960s which was basically the product of advances in computing or digital revolution, to the fourth industrial revolution in the 21st century which focused on Internet of things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics and Cloud Computing, (Lavopa & Delera, 2021).

Development: The act of improving by expanding or enlarging or refining. It means there is a process of change which is acceptable despite all odds. It is generally positive and everyone is interested in changing from a level to another level of life issues. It can also be defined as an act of becoming more mature, advanced or elaborate. It entails expanding, progressing and thriving.

Studies: The work you do while you are at a College or University. It is the plural form of study which entails the devotion of time and attention to gaining knowledge of an academic subject, especially by means of books for example, "the study of English."

English Language in Nigeria

English Language is a world language. It is one of the languages of aviation, the marines, international correspondence, politics, administration, mass communication and the like. It is a coveted language the world over because one is sure of getting someone to communicate with if one is a speaker of English in any part of the planet earth where human beings reside, (Yusuf, 2020). English language is a global language. It has been domesticated in various parts of the world. we even talk about world Englishes noun to identify the various types we have all over the world like Nigerian English, Singaporean English, Malaysian English, Ghanaian English, South

African English, New Zealand English Indian English, Irish English, Hong Kong English, Bermudian English, Canadian English, Australian and East African English.

It is of good importance then that English Language is being used all over the country called Nigeria, our own country, the giant of Africa. It is the official language and a language that places a high premium on the user because it is the main language of communication given the multi-ethnic nature of the country. Nigeria boasts of over 500 languages and ethnic groups which can only connect communicatively through no other means, but by the initially foreign, but now homely, English Language. There are over 500 languages in Nigeria and Nigerians can only connect by the use of English Language, in our diverse and multiple languages dominated country. It is important to note that English Language continue to bind us together 63 years after independence, though it was initially considered on Alien language.

The use of English in Nigeria dates back to the colonial era when there was scramble and partition for Africa. Nigeria became a British colony and English Language was imposed on us which we have not been able to delete from our national life decades after the colonialists left the country. We have not been able to choose an indigenous language as our official language. The colonialists brought along their language, imposed it on us along with their culture which included dressing, etiquette way of life and so on. The language, English, is very important and one that confers importance on one if one is fluent and has attained international intelligently with his use of the language.

It has also been opined by experts that despite laudable attempts by Nigeria's policy makers to promote the adoption of one of the various indigenous languages as the official language, it has always met a brickwall in its implementation. English is, as the case is now, and will continue to be the official language of Nigeria for many years to come, as long as there is an entity called Nigeria. English Language being the official language is very important to every Nigerian. Since its use confers a classic status on the users, everybody aspires towards becoming a fluent speaker of the language, Yusuf (1999). There is no doubt that awareness and communication among people of various ethnic groups in a multi-ethnic society like ours is based on the appropriate knowledge of English Language and knowledge of English Language helps to develop everyone in all its ramifications because its use cuts across every strata and discipline in the country.

There are various roles ascribed to the English Language in Nigeria because its use is an atavistic issue and not a neophyte in Nigeria's cultural setting. English was initially foreign but relatively at home now where we even have our own type of World Englishes known as Nigerian English. Every sector of the society is woven round the use of English. Despite the fact that it was brought by foreigners and imposed on the populace, yet, it has become indispensable. The roles include official language, education, journalism, communication, commerce, international language, governance, administration, judiciary, religion and lots more.

- ❖ Official Language: English is the official language of the country. It is used in all sectors from the legislature, judiciary to the executive down to the lowest ebb of the society. Everyone knows that it is a language to be learnt and become proficient in.
- ❖ Education: English is the language of education from pre-Nursery to University level. Everybody aspires to become a fluent speaker of the language.

❖ Journalism: Both offline and online journalism are majorly done in the language that everyone understands in a multi-ethnic society like ours.
❖ Communication: It is the language of communication. If you get to any office, you make use of the English Language for interactions at the oral and written levels even from entrance to the exit points.
❖ Commerce: It is the language of trade and commerce. It is used for the stock exchange and real business transactions.
❖ International Language: English is the language for international correspondence and the like.
❖ Governance: English is the language of governance in order to reach targeted audience, the people.
❖ Administration: It is the language of administration in various offices both main and parastatals.
❖ Judiciary: English is the language of the judiciary. Court sessions are conducted in English Language. Judgment and every other related acts of the judiciary are delivered through the language of the nation.
❖ Religion: Religious leaders use English Language to reach a wider audience both offline and online in these days of effective technological advancement.

The summation of the above is that technology impacts English Language studies to affect people in almost all areas of life. As the effects of technology leads to overall development of the learners, it, no doubt, affects the society as well.

Effects of Technology on English Language Studies
Technology refers to the tools, techniques and processes used to create, develop and improve products, services and systems. It makes use of a lot of devices like software, hardware and applications like smartphones, tablets, computers, the internet, social media and various other digital resources. In the context of English Language studies, technology has impacted it in a variety of ways. It has changed the ways students access materials, interact with materials both human and machine like the Artificial Intelligence (AI) which include Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Translation, Pronunciation, Visual Perception, Speech recognition and decision making. There are applications that help like Chatbots, voice assistants and text summarization.

Recently, (Lavopa & Delera, 2021) opine that the industrial revolution has made the English vocabulary more robust by introducing new words to describe new technologies. It is real that there are inventions of new materials which calls for new words and ideas which had never been used in the past. It is obvious that an impeccable fact is. that English Language is important to current technologies. The words used are English words for businesses, trade, industrial usage and the like. Machines communicate through Internet of Things (IoT) and human communicate through machines making use of AI and using real-time conversations with mechanical processes.
The major effects which are Positive are highlighted below:

Improved communication: It has made it easier for students to communicate with their teachers, peers, total strangers, and even applications on their mobile phones. They can get

information through video conferencing with tools like Zoom and Skype, real time conversations with everyone through email, chats on Whatsapp, Snapchat, Facebook and the like. Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications like Chatbots are also communication tools to improve both English Language learning and other courses in the curriculum, leading to overall development in their studies which will eventually translate to real life situations.

Individualised learning: The individual is able to learn at his pace and complement what the teacher has taught him. It can include online learning, one-on-one tutoring, project-based learning and others. It will help the students to achieve at a great speed through the various support got through use of technology. The individual learns more effectively with the use of technology and can even get more information than the teacher. This makes them a better and more focused learners.

Improved Interactions: (Parker, 2023) opines that technology presents real life scenarios and interactions with apps like Skype and Face time. It could also be through Movies, Television shows and even Face to Face communication. This is not just for English Language learning, but involves other courses in the curriculum and even life matters which we will understand better by a good knowledge of English Language which is the language of communication.

Access to Resources: Technology has made it more possible for students to access and make use of various applications on the internet. It has helped everyone to be in line and keep pace with the rapid increase in innovations that make life and living easier. English being one of the major languages of the internet would no doubt help the students to gather more information and access resources in an easier manner. Proficiency in English Language would also be a support system for them to understand better. Students can access a wide variety of information on the internet like online dictionaries, grammar guides, and other language learning applications like e-books, audio and video resources. They can also learn at their own pace and convenience, getting robust information for both education and life issues.

Overall Development: Technology impacts on English Language studies for the overall development of the individual. It is not just learning for academic pursuit and attainment only; but technology also impacts students for social, economic, cultural development and indeed an overall development of the individual. Knowledge about commerce, trade, health, cultural exchange, international relations and the likes are transported through the use of English; as students continue to search the internet to get a wide variety of information. English language is the language of business, science and technology.

There are also challenges which are noted thus:

Changes in Skills: (Akinjobi A, 2023) notes that the skills for work are changing and people need to reskill and upskill in order to meet up with new challenges dictated by current trends in technology. It is critical to our world now that one has to grow with emerging technologies or one would be nowhere in the scheme of things globally. Dearth of creative thinking would be experienced if care is not taken. There is a dire need for continuity of critical thinking and emotional intelligence which are specific to humans. With the increasing rate of technological advancements like the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), students might want to rely heavily on

machines and applications on the net that would solve their academic problems. This might invariably affect their reasoning and their thinking abilities if not checked. Despite the technology, students must be encouraged to make use of their brains and achieve more critical thinking to help in furthering their language studies to an excellent level.

Surge in Economic Hazards: This would be experienced in the course of time. There is a great tendency for people to lose their jobs, poverty to be on the increase, child labour and sexual exploitation to be on the increase as well. Tadese & Ezekiel, 2023). There could also be job insecurity due to job loss and downsizing which would have its negative effects on the economy. The emerging trends in technology would require less number of human beings and more of the use of machines to achieve tasks. This does not augur well for humanity.

Health Issues: Technology usage can impair health in a number of ways which include insomnia, vision problems, mental instability, sedentary lifestyle leading to health complications and the like (Greenwood, 2019). He also notes that it inhibits face to face interactions and expression of emotion through physical interactions. Health impairment is a great issue to deal with and requires information to be given on prevention or reduction in cases.

Increased Distractions: The use of technology with its devices can be distracting especially for students who are poor in time management. When students are distracted, they might not be able to concentrate and retain information as expected.

Some Technologies that can be used to enhance the Learning of English Language
Artificial Intelligent (AI) Chatbots that can be programmed to interact with students providing them with language practice in a conversational setting for instance Google Assistant, GPT or Fondi which handles talks in a virtual space by engaging in real life English conversations with friends worldwide. Virtual reality which can be used to create immersive language learning experiences. Students can explore virtual environments to communicate with virtual characters or complete tasks. For instance Google expeditions where students can explore different parts of the world and learn about different cultures. Vocabulary related to travel and geography could also be learnt.

Natural language processing like Siri, IBM Watson, Amazon comprehend, GPT 3 (Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3) which can be used to analyse students' writing and speaking skills.

Theoretical Framework
The Pragmatics Speech Act theory is the basis for the study. It states that speech is used to achieve an outcome which is the basis of any communication. It also states that each word has a speech or locutionary act which is the meaning of the real words used. The Illocutionary act expresses what the speaker intends to do and Perlocutionary act tells about what the listener interpretes form the words. John L. Austin, a British Philosopher propounded the theory while John Searle, an American Philosopher advanced the field. A speech act is any utterance that serves a function. The five categories identified are Assertive speech acts which provide information, Directives which command or request an action, Commisive which make promise

for the future, Expressives that convey emotion or feeling and Declarative speech acts which cause something to happen or create a change. Austin based is theory on how words are used to get things done and Searle advanced the idea with the use of categories of speech acts mentioned earlier here.

The theory is the pillar for the study as the use of technology for language studies helped in making the change possible. The speech acts by teachers aimed at making a change was achieved as attested to by the students in the filling of questionnaires and expressions during the interview. Technology use really had a lot of positive effects on the students, although some negative ones were highlighted.

Purpose of the Study
The purpose of this study is to examine the effects of technology on English language studies among final year students of Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Oto-Ijanikin, Lagos. This research has the following as its objectives.
1.   To examine the impact of technology on English Language studies for overall development of the students
2.   To examine the challenges posed by technology on their studies and their development.

Methodology
The design for this study is a descriptive survey. The sample of the study was drawn from 100 final year students of Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education. The population of the school of Arts and Social Science Group of students was 398 and a sample of 25% of 398 which is 99.5 students were used. Since there is no half human being, the sample was rounded up to 100. The School of Arts and Social Science has the largest number of students out of the five schools in the College and the students borrow courses from all the other schools, hence the choice as sample for the study. The instruments used were the questionnaire and structured interview. Percentage and ratio were used to analyse the responses of the research instruments.

Presentation and Analysis of Data
The Data collected through questionnaire and structured interview are presented and analysed as follows:

Demographic Characteristics of respondents
The respondents' sex, year of study and age were taken cognisance of. All of them are final year students and their sex and ages vary. The sex of the students were examined in terms of male and female and their ages in terms of 16-24, 25-30 and above 30. There were 42 males and 58 females while those within the age brackets of 16-24 were 69, 25-30 were 24 and above 30 were 7, making a total of 100, as reflected in tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to sex

SN	Sex	Number	%
1.	Male	42	42%
2.	Female	58	58%
	Total	**100**	**100%**

Table II: Age of respondents

S/N	Age	Number	%
1	16 – 24 years	69	69%
2	25-30 years	24	24%
3	Above 30	7	7%
	Total	**100**	**100%**

Discussion of the Instrument, the Questionnaire

There are ten items in the questionnaire for the students to respond along the lines of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly Disagree (SD) and Disagree (D). SA and A will be termed (Agreed) while SD and D will be termed (Disagreed) in their discussion. The question can be divided into four sections. (A) Items (i) and (x) were designed to test overall effects of technology on learning of English Language. 100 students responded and majority of the students, 98% agree that the technology helped them in their learning of English Language for overall development while 20% disagreed for item (i). For item (x) 96 students responded that technology plays a significant role in English Language learning while 4 students, did not respond to the item. Out of 96 respondents, 91 i.e. 95% agreed that technology plays a significant role in language learning while 5 respondents represents 5% that disagreed. The implication of this is that technology is very important to English language learning and overall development of the learners. (B) items (ii), (iii), (iv), (vii) were designed to test that technology assist the learning of English Language. Out of 100 students that responded to item (ii), 97% agreed while 3% disagreed. For item (iii) 95% agreed while 5% disagreed. For item (iv) 98% agreed while 2% disagreed. For item (vii) 98% agreed while 2% disagreed. It is clear that technology helped and assisted the students in learning English from the responses got on this section.

(C) Items (v) and (vii) were designed to test how technology has impacted the learning of English Language, that is, the positive effects 94% agreed while 6% did not respond to the items. There is the agreement that technology has positively affected English Language studies by the students.

(D) Items (vii) and (ix) were designed to test the challenges faced with the use of technology, 80% disagreed for item (viii) and 20% agreed while for item (ix), 70% disagreed while 30% agreed. This shows that they believe that there are challenges but they are not as strong as the benefits that they get from the use of technology.

Summary of Responses to the items

Serial Number	Item	Agreed	%	Disagreed and No response	%	Total
(A)	Overall Development					
(i)	English Language has helped to develop your learning of language	96	96	4	4	100
(x)	Technology will continue to play a significant role in English Language learning.	91	95	5	5	96
(B)	Technology assist learning					
(ii)	Technology has guided your learning of English Language skills	97	97	3	3	100
(iii)	Technology like the internet has aided you in getting ideas for life issues.	95	95	5	5	100
(iv)	It is easier to learn English with the use of technology	98	98	2	2	100
(vii)	Technological tools and applications have helped your English Language studies.	98	98	2	2	100
(C)	**Effects of Technology on English Language Studies**					
(v)	There are positive effects of technology to your overall development.	90	94	6	6	96
(vi)	Technology has made accessibility to information easier	90	94	6	6	96
D	**Challenges**					
viii	Traditional methods of learning English is better	80	80	20	20	100
ix	There are negative effects of technology on English Language studies.	70	70	30	30	100

Discussion on the Structured Interview

The following are some of the sentences produced by students in the course of the interview to state the advantages and disadvantages of technology on English Language studies.

The advantages stated include enhancement of transfer of knowledge to individuals, ease of access to resources needed for one's studies and help in the translation of foreign words to English Language. The other benefits are speech in gathering information on the internet, increase in students' opportunity for authentic interactions with native speakers of English, getting updated on new conventions for spelling, spacing and others as well as becoming transformed from passive learners to active learners.

A lot of other issues viewed as beneficial are noted as access to information regardless of one's location in the entire world which is already a global village, help in getting motivated and stimulated for active learning; and learning of pronunciation made easy. Technology allows more profound and enriching linguistic immersion, helps to monitor students' progress with ease; creates unique experience for learners and makes new teaching and learning techniques to evolve.

The varieties of uses further include the promotion of interactive and collaborative learning even in other disciplines, improvement of learners language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. There is easy access to instructional materials that enhances learning especially in phonics, possibility of mobile learning on all courses in the curriculum, gaining of new knowledge through diverse resources and enhancement of interactive and effective learning.

The disadvantages no doubt are palpable in that Technology aids examination malpractice, encourages laziness like the use of auto-correct features, aids distractions if not carefully managed, causes social isolation; and can lead to unemployment and loss of jobs when machines perform human functions. There can also be health problems like insomnia, vision problems, stress and fatique. Other non-beneficial issues stated are the facts that creativity is reduced since machines can perform almost all tasks, students might resort to unreliable sources for learning, brings about low level of critical thinking by students and leads to overdependence of ready-made information which is a bone of technology. The lack of adequate infrastructure can however be the last straw that breaks the camel's back.

It can be deduced from the sentences made by the students that Technology has in no small measure impacted on the learning of English Language for overall development; although not without the challenges regarded as negative effects or disadvantages. The students have gained a lot with the use of technology which has positively impacted them for the learning of other courses in the curriculum for utmost development. The advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Conclusion

The study examines the effects of technology on English Language studies for overall development. The topic was investigated with the use of questionnaire and structured interview which gave ideas on technology for the overall development of the learners, technology assisting learning of English, the effects of technology on the learning of English Language as well as the challenges faced with the use of technology. The findings reveal that majority of the students have benefited a lot from the use of technology in the learning of English Language for overall development because majority of the respondents subscribed to the idea. Although they believe that there are challenges which are negative effects but the positive effects far outweigh the negative effects as seen in the responses by almost all of them. It is clear that technology aids the learning of English Language which in turn aid the learning of other courses in the curriculum and even gaining knowledge on other life related issues. English Language as the language of instruction is highly instrumental to learning of other courses and life related activities. A sound knowledge of English Language will enable one to navigate easily in the sea of life in relation to technology.

Recommendations

The recommendations based on the findings of this study include the fact that the government should put adequate infrastructure in place to further encourage the use of technology. Lecture halls should be adequately fitted with technological gadgets through which students can access resources with ease. It is important that the government takes education as its priority to develop the students in an overall manner with the use of appropriate technological resources. The students should be more focused on the gains of technology to help build them up in other areas and not just garbage in and out to get information without adequate processing. Students should be interested in creative thinking and critical thinking even as they make use of materials presented by the various technology resources to make them highly skilled learners and are to be guided by teachers towards achieving the best with the use of technology. Lecturers, instructors and teachers are to be interested in engaging the students more in the use of technology resources which will in no small measure assist the leaders in the teaching-learning processes to further impact the students for excellence and better output as scholars.

References

Akinjobi, A. (2023). "The Humanities and Trends in the Industrial Revolutions." A Keynote Address delivered at the Faculty of Arts, Lead City (University, Ibadan. Conference held between 19th – 21st June, 2023.

Amamize, B. (2002). General English Grammar, Ibadan, Joytal Press.

Greenwood, C/ (2019). "9 ways technology is making humanities worse". https://www.insider.com

Lavopa, A & Delera, M (2021). "The Fourth Industrial Revolution." UNIDO United Nations
        Industrial Development Union

Parker, J. (2023). "Five innovative ways to use technology for ELL Students".
        https://www.fluenty.com>blog(19/2/2023).

Tadese and Ezekiel (2023). "Impact of Industrial Revolution in William Blake's 'London' and Elizabeth.
        Barret Browning's "The cry of the children." A paper delivered at the 2023 Faculty of
        Arts, Lead City University, Ibadan Conference held between 19th -21st June, 2023 at the
        Conference Centre, Lead City University.

Yusuf O. (1999). *Using English Effectively*, Lagos: Olomu Publishers

Yusuf, O. (2020): *Understanding English Usage, (3rd Edition)*, Lagos: Lekrichplus Ventures.