EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON BILINGUALISM IN THE CONTEXT OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE-LEARNING APPS

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Abstract:
Bilingualism, the ability to speak and understand two languages, has long been recognized as a valuable cognitive and sociocultural skill. In our increasingly interconnected world, technology plays a pivotal role in shaping how individuals acquire, use, and maintain their bilingual abilities. This scientific article investigates the intricate relationship between technology and bilingualism, with a particular focus on digital communication platforms and language-learning applications. We explore the ways in which technology can both promote and hinder bilingualism, offering insights into the benefits and challenges posed by these technological advancements.

Keywords: bilingualism, technology, language-learning apps, a niche skill, language acquisition, artificial intelligence and cultural identity.

Bilingualism, once considered a niche skill, has become increasingly relevant in today's globalized society. With technology permeating nearly every aspect of our lives, it is crucial to examine the impact of digital communication and language-learning apps on bilingualism. This article delves into the multifaceted role of technology in bilingualism, analyzing its effects on language acquisition, maintenance, and cultural identity.

The need for bilingualism is growing as globalization removes previous barriers to trade, travel, migration, and communication. The mechanisms that create and maintain a bilingual brain are being researched more thoroughly as more people are trained in other languages, as intercultural marriages increase, and as more kids are reared in multilingual households. Advancement in technology that enables us to observe working brains as they react to various stimuli is parallel to this interest in bilingual brains. These new assessments have a lot to offer in terms of understanding how bilingual brains work, and they could yield significant results that improve language teaching in the expanding field of language training. They will definitely lead to new inquiries and areas of investigation while also contributing to our growing understanding of multilingual brains.

In terms of researching bilingualism, positron emission tomography (PET) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are the two most important and recent technologies. MRI scans "record the alteration in density of magnetic resonance signals produced by deoxyhaemoglobin, a substance needed by the brain metabolism" (1). According to Wernfrid Doell, PET scans.

Furthermore, excellent examples of how technology enables us to learn a new language even when we are not in the environment are language learning applications and websites. Duolingo is one of the most well-known names in the world of language learning apps. For younger bilingual children, there are many more language-learning applications available, like DinoLingo, Babbel, and Rosetta Stone Kids. Children can learn about real language use and cultural nuances by visiting websites like FluentU and BBC Languages, which provide a variety of films, activities, and interactive content. These websites frequently have tools like forums, quizzes, and progress monitoring.

Programs (5) and (6) are still unable to speak English. Between the ages of 1 1/2 and 6 years, known as the "critical period," children acquire about nine words each day on average (4); if this learning leap could incorporate a second language, the efficacy of schooling might be greatly boosted. Learning a second language has several advantages. According to Betty Birner, acquiring a second language has advantages in the global marketplace, increased cognitive development, preservation of a child's cultural identity, and promotion of cross-cultural knowledge and understanding (5). Technology would significantly benefit our global society if it could promote these advancements.

Moreover, there is no lack of reading material available to anyone who wants to practice reading in a second language nowadays. This is due to the accessibility of digital libraries today, available in a variety of languages. Parental controls are available for even Kindles, proving that children may access digital libraries.

Additionally, being able to communicate with others in a new language is crucial to language learning. Reddit and other online forums are excellent places to accomplish precisely that. However, you should take precautions to ensure your child's safety on Reddit and similar websites. Social media websites also make it possible for language learners to interact with one another. A good example is Facebook Groups.

How we teach and raise multilingual kids will change as this technology develops and aids in our understanding of where and how languages are produced. It will be crucial to consider the learning methods that work well with young children. Depending on how involved the experience is, watching television for language learning may or may not be helpful. Case studies highlight the value of conversation with a youngster as opposed to lecturing her while teaching a language (4). Additionally, adopting language programs for young children would

improve the effectiveness of language training by utilizing the "critical period" prior to puberty. This is crucial for assisting immigrant children with their academic preparation and preventing bilingual youngsters from graduating from high school.

This comprehensive examination of the relationship between technology and bilingualism reveals a complex interplay of factors. While technology offers immense potential for promoting bilingualism through digital communication and language-learning apps, it also presents challenges related to language dominance, cultural identity, and access. It is essential to strike a balance between leveraging technology as a valuable resource for language learning and recognizing the importance of real-world language interactions. The future of bilingualism in the digital age hinges on our ability to harness technology effectively while safeguarding linguistic diversity and cultural richness. Further research in this area is imperative to navigate the evolving landscape of bilingualism in the 21st century.

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