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Innovative Information-Communication Means of Foreign Language Learning

The rapid advancement of information-communication technologies (ICT) has revolutionized foreign language learning, making it more interactive, personalized, and accessible. This paper explores three key ICT tools—mobile language applications, virtual reality (VR) environments, and social networking platforms—and evaluates their impact on language acquisition. While these tools enhance engagement, proficiency, and cultural understanding, challenges such as cost and accessibility persist.

Foreign language learning has transitioned from traditional methods to technology-driven approaches. ICT tools provide learners with dynamic opportunities to practice and master languages. Mobile apps, VR, and social platforms have emerged as innovative tools that improve interactivity and real-world applicability, making them essential for modern language education.

Mobile applications like Duolingo and Babbel leverage ICT to deliver adaptive, user-friendly language instruction. These apps use algorithms to personalize lessons and incorporate gamification—such as rewards and progress tracking—to enhance motivation. Loewen et al. (2019) found that using Duolingo for 34 hours led to vocabulary gains comparable to a semester of college-level Spanish, particularly in reading and listening. While effective for beginners, research by Vesselinov and Grego (2016) highlights that mobile apps may not sufficiently develop advanced fluency, particularly in speaking and writing.

Virtual reality platforms like Mondly VR and ImmerseMe immerse learners in simulated environments, enabling contextual language practice. VR replicates real-life scenarios, such as shopping or travel, enhancing speaking and listening skills. A 2021 study by Kaplan-Rakowski and Wojdyski showed that VR learners improved pronunciation accuracy by 15% compared to traditional methods, due to immersive exposure. Additionally, VR fosters cultural competence by situating learners in authentic environments. However, Tai et al. (2022) note that the high cost of VR hardware and technical requirements limit its widespread adoption.

Comparatively, mobile apps offer accessibility, VR provides immersion, and social platforms facilitate authentic interaction. Blended approaches that integrate these tools with classroom instruction could maximize benefits. Emerging innovations such as AI chatbots and augmented reality promise further advancements in language learning (Goksu et al., 2022). Despite existing challenges, ICT tools continue to transform language education, fostering engagement, proficiency, and global accessibility.

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