

To cite this article: Huong Trinh Thu and Tam Do Thi Minh (2024). IMPACTS OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION ON ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING IN VIETNAM TODAY, International Journal of Education and Social Science Research (IJESSR) 7 (2): 226-231 Article No. 923, Sub Id 1439

IMPACTS OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION ON ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING IN VIETNAM TODAY

Huong Trinh Thu¹ and Tam Do Thi Minh²

¹Dainam University, Faculty of English language,
Phu Lam Ward, Ha Dong District, Hanoi, Vietnam

²Dainam University, Faculty of English language,
Phu Lam Ward, Ha Dong District, Hanoi, Vietnam

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37500/IJESSR.2024.7214>

ABSTRACT

With the inevitable requirements of integration and development, teaching and learning English in Vietnam is currently associated with the digital transformation process. The impacts include the application of information technology and AI in the teaching and learning process. This has brought many benefits and positive effects in improving English proficiency for Vietnamese people today.

KEYWORDS: digital transformation, English, teaching, learning, Vietnam.

1. INTRODUCTION

Vietnam is in the process of digital transformation quickly and actively. Digital transformation takes place in all fields from economics, culture to education and training. In particular, education is considered an important and central field in the country's digital transformation process. With the goal of building a dynamic, modern education system, providing learning opportunities for people, opening up opportunities to meet lifelong learning goals, digital transformation is an important key to achieving the goal above. The process of digital transformation in education and training takes place in all subjects in the context of the strong impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the inevitable requirements of integration and development. With that trend, teaching and learning foreign languages in general, and English in particular, has undergone huge changes from both sides: teachers and learners. Our research shows the impacts of digital transformation on English teaching and learning from two subjects: teachers and learners, thereby proposing some solutions to improve foreign language skills in Vietnam today.

2. CONTENT OF THE STUDY

2.1 Digital transformation in education

In Vietnam's integration process, digital transformation in education is an urgent requirement. This is also the plan in the National Digital Transformation program until 2025, with a vision to 2030. Accordingly, education is in the priority field of digital transformation with the following contents:

“Developing a platform to support remote teaching and learning, thoroughly applying digital technology in management, teaching and learning; digitizing documents and textbooks; building a platform to share teaching and learning resources in both face-to-face and online forms. Developing technology to serve education, towards individualized training; 100% of educational institutions deploy remote teaching and learning, including testing training programs that allow students to learn online at least 20% of the program content. Applying digital technology to assign homework and check students' preparation before going to class” [1].

Digital transformation in education is a comprehensive transformation process from materials, media, learning methods and assessment methods as well as management methods. First of all, digital transformation is the process of digitizing documents. Electronic documents gradually replace printed documents, contributing to cost savings and ease of innovation. This is the first step for learners to access rich, diverse learning resources without limitations in space or time. Digital transformation is associated with the design of online courses that help learners access lectures through digital platforms and tools, allowing students to study anytime, anywhere. In addition, online collaboration tools such as Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc. are used flexibly to increase the interaction process between teachers and learners effectively. Digital transformation also allows teachers to apply many learning support applications such as Quizlet, Quizizz, Wordwall, etc. to practice, review, and evaluate students' knowledge and skills in a flexible and interesting way. The teaching space has also shifted from traditional classrooms to virtual classrooms in digital space, expanding learners' communication space beyond traditional spaces. With foreign languages, the communication environment plays an important role in mastering a language. Classrooms in digital space have great capacity and capacity, all data about students' learning processes is also tracked and stored using technology, not through a conventional record system, especially convenient for looking up and evaluating learners' progress. To increase the effectiveness of the learner management process, learning management software (**LMS** - *Learning Management System*) also needs to be used regularly and updated.

Digital transformation in education brings many benefits to both teachers and learners. A survey gave the following results: 74% of teachers believe that technology enables them to strengthen and expand their teaching content; 60% of high school and college students believe that technology helps them study more effectively and participate in learning activities better; 93% of faculty agree that digital tools and resources help students achieve better learning outcomes; 95% of faculty agree that tools and resources help their students become more engaged in learning activities; both faculty and students agree that technology helps improve the classroom and overall learning environment [2, p.43]. For learners, digital transformation increases the ability to be proactive in accessing knowledge as well as arranging time to complete the course. Besides, learning costs are reduced while still ensuring educational efficiency and quality. The amount of knowledge conveyed on digital media ensures quantity and quality. Learners can intelligently select and search for information to access the most useful and accurate information, expand their horizons and quickly

update useful information and knowledge. For teachers, digital transformation creates conditions to improve information technology capacity, access new technology, and reduce time pressure when having to attend class in person. Recorded lectures help teachers view their lectures to improve and perfect their lectures. Electronic lectures can be used for many classes over many years, reducing the need to repeat lectures. Online classes with online learning support tools and applications expand the scope of teachers' teaching to many audiences in many different localities. This is also an advantage and saves travel costs between regions, regions, and even countries for teachers.

The goal of digital transformation in education is to make the education system dynamic, better able to adapt to natural disasters, epidemics as well as strong socio-economic development and at the same time create open learning spaces and open learning materials to serve learning needs, ensuring equality in people's opportunities to access education. Lecturers in the education system are the main and important force to carry out the digital transformation process in education.

2.2 Impact of digital transformation on foreign language teaching and learning

2.2.1. Applying information technology in teaching and learning foreign language

Currently, applying IT in teaching and learning foreign languages plays an extremely important role in improving the effectiveness of foreign language teaching in general. Collis and Moonen's research show that IT application in foreign language teaching includes 3 main areas: Learning resources; Teaching support applications; Communication and media applications [3]. IT allows teachers and learners to change teaching methods and forms in a modern way with many access channels: sound, image, etc. Teaching English is a unique subject because the English Language field not only provides learners with how to use a language, but through language, learners access a culture. Therefore, innovating teaching methods using IT applications brings much higher educational efficiency than traditional teaching methods. IT application is first shown in the design of modern lectures combined with the use of technological equipment such as projectors, televisions, electronic boards, etc.

IT applications help teachers design online courses that help learners access lectures through digital platforms and tools, allowing learners to study anytime, anywhere. In addition, online collaboration tools such as Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc. are used flexibly to increase the interaction process between teachers and learners effectively. The teaching space has also shifted from traditional classrooms to virtual classrooms in digital space, expanding learners' communication space beyond traditional spaces. With foreign languages, the communication environment plays an important role in mastering a language. With foreign languages, the communication environment plays an important role in mastering a language, online classes that are not limited by space or time will help learners have an open communication space. Increase face-to-face interaction time, effectively expand communication audiences. During the teaching process, instructors can apply many learning support applications such as Duolingo, Quizlet, Quizizz, Wordwall, Kahoot, etc. to practice, review, and evaluate students' knowledge and skills flexibly and

interesting way. These applications are relatively suitable for designing tests, reviewing vocabulary and grammar for learning foreign languages. The use of learning support applications helps make lessons rich and diverse with many interesting games, creating attraction and motivation for students to participate in learning. In addition, classrooms in digital space have great capabilities and capacity, all subject data is stored using technology that is convenient for learners to look up and use. IT allows lecturers to provide students with rich and diverse materials in many forms: digital documents, images, videos, etc. contribute greatly to creating excitement for students.

It can be seen that IT contributes to the formation of modern lectures, increases communication space and time, and provides rich and diverse sources of learning and reference materials in many forms. Technology education trends such as smart classrooms, gamification; teaching techniques such as interacting with students, boosting teaching energy many times compared to offline teaching; class management skills such as dividing into groups to work, etc. are applied flexibly to promote creativity and initiative in the process of teaching and learning English. The applications of IT in teaching have contributed significantly to improving the quality of foreign language teaching in recent times.

2.2.2. Tack advantage of artificial intelligence AI in teaching and learning English

In Vietnam, the application of AI in English teaching is becoming increasingly popular. AI has the potential to bring positive changes to English teaching and learning.

For teachers, the role of AI is demonstrated in the following points:

Firstly, automate repetitive tasks during the teaching process. AI can create practice exercises, design writing and speaking exercises for learners, and then grade and provide feedback to learners. This helps teachers save a lot of time and effort.

Secondly, AI can use human learning data to create personalized lessons, suitable for each student's level and needs. This is a very positive and meaningful point in learning English. For each individual, due to different abilities, ages, goals, study time, etc., designing a separate program seems very difficult for teachers. AI setting up a suitable learning program for each person will help students learn more effectively and achieve their goals faster. Teachers can also choose teaching methods and provide necessary and effective support for each type of learner.

Thirdly, AI can create interactive learning environments, helping students actively participate in the learning process. In particular, Vietnam is lacking an environment to practice English for learners, so this is an effective and less expensive solution. AI can use virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technology to create immersive and engaging learning experiences. Modern online learning technology and software allow learners to easily customize lectures at the appropriate pace, interests and level of cognitive ability of each person. In addition, customized learning platforms also allow students to combine learning materials from many different sources, resulting in a more relevant experience.

For learners, AI creates a flexible learning environment, allowing learners to access documents and courses anytime, anywhere. This eliminates barriers of time and location, helping students learn anytime, anywhere according to their own schedule, especially for older learners and working people. A study shows that people with foreign language skills are likely to have better job opportunities and income: “60% of job opportunities require foreign language skills, of which 31% require basic communication skills, 22% require reading comprehension ability and 13% require proficiency in all skills,” “95% of candidates without foreign language skills earn salaries below 10 million VND (424 USD), while 37% of candidates with proficient foreign language skills earn salaries above 10 million VND (424 USD).” [4]. Learning through online software with the support of AI also helps learners save costs, and AI can provide immediate feedback on learners' pronunciation and grammar. This helps them correct errors and improve their language skills quickly. AI is also capable of simulating real communication situations, helping learners grasp communication and listening skills in real situations. In particular, AI has the ability to track learners' learning progress and evaluate their performance. This helps learners know where they are in the learning process and where they need to improve. It can be said that teaching and learning foreign languages in Vietnam has become popular and foreign languages have become an essential requirement for higher education in Vietnam. Vietnam's National Qualifications Framework, launched in 2016, sets standards for foreign language proficiency for university entry. The minimum requirement is a foreign language proficiency of 3 out of 6, equivalent to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages level B1 [5]. However, the level of English proficiency of Vietnamese people is not high. According to the latest report of Education First, Vietnam is ranked at an average proficiency level, ranked 58/112 countries and territories that do not use English as the native language and ranks 7th in Asia [6]. The application of AI in learning English will help further improve English language proficiency in the near future.

3. CONCLUSION

Digital transformation is an inevitable requirement in the integration and development process in Vietnam today. Along with other fields, education is no exception to that trend. For teaching and learning English, digital transformation brings many benefits to both learners and teachers. With the application of IT and AI in teaching and learning, teaching and learning English creates many learning opportunities for many people and saves costs through English learning software and applications. Both learners and teachers can save time and be more flexible in the teaching process and access to courses. In particular, digital transformation has the ability to connect, creating a much more diverse and richer English communication environment than before. The above positive impacts contribute to increasing educational effectiveness, especially with foreign languages, including English. Digital transformation will still be a priority for educational institutions, teachers and English learners in Vietnam in the coming time./.

REFERENCES

- [1] Prime Minister, *Decision No. 749/QĐ-TTg dated June 30, 2020, Approving "National Digital Transformation Program to 2025, orientation to 2030"*, Hanoi, 2020.
- [2] Compiled by Center for Teaching Support, Institute of Higher Education, VNU, *Handbook on application of information technology in university teaching*, Publishing House. Vietnam National University - Hanoi.
- [3] Collins, B., & Moonen, J. (2001), *Flexible learning in a digital world. Experiences and expectations*, London: Kogan Page.
- [4] A Binh, Demand for learning English in Vietnam is increasing: *Opportunities for foreign businesses*. Source: <https://toquoc.vn/nhu-cau-hoc-tieng-anh-tai-viet-nam-gia-tang-co-hoi-cho-cac-doanh-nghiep-nuoc-ngoai-20230630085403173.htm>
- [5] Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Decision No.:1982/QĐ-TTg “Approval of Vietnam National Qualifications Framework”, Hanoi, 2016.
- [6] Education First, 2023 English Proficiency Index Report. Source: <https://www.ef.com.vn/epi/>