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EVOLUTION IN RESEARCH FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract

Language teaching research has undergone significant transformation from the 1980s to the present, reflecting changing understandings of language learning, learner needs, and technological development. This presentation traces the evolution of language teaching research from behaviorism and communicative language teaching to cognitive, sociocultural, digital, and adaptive learning perspectives. It further synthesizes selected studies to identify three emerging themes in contemporary language education: technology-enhanced language learning and pedagogical effectiveness, learner perceptions, acceptance, readiness, and engagement with digital technologies, and digital learning conditions, challenges, and learner well-being. The synthesis indicates that technologies such as artificial intelligence, mobile applications, digital flashcards, learning management systems, gamification, and virtual and augmented reality can enhance accessibility, flexibility, interactivity, learner autonomy, and opportunities for language practice beyond the classroom. However, successful implementation depends on learners' perceived usefulness, ease of use, digital competence, motivation, confidence, and psychological readiness. The presentation also highlights persistent challenges involving infrastructure, technical support, content relevance, meaningful interaction, feedback, personalization,

technostress, and burnout. The presentation argues that technology should not be treated as an end but integrated purposefully with sound pedagogy and language-learning objectives. Sustainable language education therefore requires a balanced approach that combines technological innovation, inclusive learning conditions, personalized support, meaningful interaction, and attention to learner wellbeing. Future research should adopt longitudinal, experimental, and mixed-methods approaches to examine the sustained effects of emerging technologies across diverse educational contexts.

Keywords:

Language Teaching Research, Technology-Enhanced Language Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Learner Engagement, Learner Well-being