

The Impacts of Mobile Phone App on SLA Learning

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ABSTRACT

With the gradual integration of information technology and traditional education, the online learning mode has gradually been accustomed to and widely used in teaching. With the expansion of the scope of education, the traditional education model sometimes dissatisfies the constraints of learners (e.g., time and space), while the emergence of online teaching has just overcome this gap. The large-scale development and application of online teaching has revolutionized the education industry. Meanwhile, the organic combination of online teaching and traditional teaching is a new and flexible way of learning that has been universally welcomed, which is a product of the development of the times. The continuous integration of traditional teaching and online teaching to explore and invent new teaching models is a matter of concern and interest not only for learners but also for contemporary educators. In this paper, we will discuss online education and traditional education as well as mobile online learning arising from online education in order to propose a better education development model in the future. Specifically, we compare online education and traditional education in terms of second language acquisition in order to identify the corresponding advantages and disadvantages of each other. Subsequently, the improvements and integration are identified that can be made after the collision of the two in order to get a new opportunity for the development of traditional education in China. These results shed light for the future development of online English applications.

Keywords: *Online Education, Traditional Education, Mobile App Learning.*

1. INTRODUCTION

As the modern technology develops rapidly, plenty of English learners in China prefer to learn English online especially via learning applications on their mobile phone. However, the future of learning applications still exists some problems, e.g., the lack of interactions with class teaching and too much reliance on the self-learning ability of students. There are many previous studies focused on the practical value of learning applications. However, what they ignore is the theories about second language acquisition used in the development of learning applications. Based on combining relevant SLA theories and practical experience, this study will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of it following the previous studies, which aims to find its effects exerts on the traditional learning pattern and its future direction. According to the analysis, this study provides a useful guide for the users and developers of online learning applications, leading to a better prospect of online learning.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE LEARNING AND ITS COMPARISONS WITH TRADITIONAL LEARNING

To sum up, these two factors have some overlap sections, since the mental conditions of migrant students are not only dependent upon students' own identity, but also have something to do with the external factors. To be specific, identification problems come very naturally in students' own mind in their urban life, but discrimination imposed on them also acts as a crucial factor contributing to the idea that they are still rural students since they can be conscious of being not accepted by the local circle.

2.1 The Development of Online Learning

As of December 2020, the size of China's Internet users reached 989 million, which is an increase of 85.4 million from March 2020, and the Internet penetration rate reached 70.4% [1]. The Chinese Internet Development Report shows that in 2020, under the guidance of the strategy of a strong network and a strong

science and technology. In detail, China's Internet industry has achieved rapid developments; the scale of Internet users grew steadily; the Internet infrastructure covered comprehensively, the digital economy flourished, high-tech accelerated exploration, network governance was gradually improved, and the construction of a strong network made historic achievements [2].

Contemporarily, there are plenty of online learning novel learning methods, which not only facilitate students to be able to study whenever and wherever they want but also benefit the development of society. The usage of online learning is usually not as limited as traditional teaching and learning. For example, the students do not have to go to the classroom to listen to lectures, and courses from different schools can be watched and learned by students from other schools on the Internet, which has greatly increased the flexibility of learning and allows for further improvement of talent. Furthermore, most of the modern online learning platforms on the market are free and open, which allow many excellent teaching resources to be available for learners across the country to get better education quality. Online learning is not only convenient for school students taking courses, but also for working professionals. It is estimated that about five out of six online learners are currently employed and do not have the time and energy to attend school [3]. In online learning, the Internet provides learners with learning materials and courses at their fingertips, eliminating the constraints of time and space among different disciplines. Especially during the epidemic, people cannot acquire knowledge by going to schools and classrooms through traditional teaching methods. In this case, online learning has shown its advantages by enabling people to acquire knowledge right through Internet, fostering the habit of online learning and promoting the development of online learning.

2.2. Compare Online Education with Traditional Teaching

Here, we will talk about the differences between online teaching and traditional education. Under the impact of COVID-19, online teaching has also grown tremendously today. Although the mainstream education method is still using ordinary classroom teaching, as far as the development of technology and the needs of modern teaching, online education is also penetrating the traditional teaching method as blended methods. Even though online education is developing rapidly, its main modes still need to be figured out. The first step is to compare and analyse on online education and traditional teaching.

Traditional education refers to the educational theories and teaching models of Herbart and his school. Its greatest effect on later generations is the division of the teaching process into four stages: clarity, association,

system, and method, which was introduced to China in the early 20th century. The American educator Dewey, in his book *School and Society*, first referred to Herbart's educational thought and its practice model as traditional education, which emphasized classroom teaching, the teacher's leading role in the teaching process, and the teacher's "speaking".

The Soviet educator Kaiipob inherited and developed Herbart's educational ideas, emphasizing the leading role of the teacher in the teaching process. On the basis of Herbart's four-stage teaching theory, he further proposed a classroom teaching structure of "five links", namely, organizing teaching, reviewing old lessons, teaching new lessons, reviewing and consolidating, and assigning homework. This teaching model has been used in the teaching of various subjects in China until now.

2.2.1 The Differences between Online Education and Traditional Education

2.2.1.1. The Objective of Education

Online Education: Online learners may vary greatly in age or knowledge level and may often come from different social backgrounds. Online education provides equal access to learning opportunities and resources for people of different identities and locations, allowing them to learn across time and space.

Traditional Education: Traditional education aims at children or adolescents of approximately the same age and knowledge level.

2.2.1.2. The Purpose of Education

Online Education: In online education, in addition to learning that partially corresponds to traditional education, it is more about continuing education, professional training for relative occupations, and lifelong learning for learners. Learners choose this kind of online education mainly to obtain the corresponding knowledge through this fast and convenient way of learning. Learners no longer put too much emphasis on the high- or low-test scores and are more concerned about the learning effect and whether the content they learn can be applied to their own practice. Online education is not only the expansion of traditional learning education, but also the integration of continuing education, vocational education, skills education, adult education, and higher education into one, allowing learners to learn at multiple levels simultaneously and providing more diversified education services.

In the traditional education concept, the main purpose is to allow students to complete the corresponding teacher's teaching plan and the corresponding tasks of students at different stages of study within a specific period, and then obtain the corresponding degree in the

examination. In traditional education, both students and teachers or parents take the result of the examination as the criterion for judging the quality of teaching. In the meantime, traditional education uses selection and elimination mechanisms to discover and cultivate talents, which sometimes may not be particularly fair to some students, because one mistake may affect the lifelong development.

2.2.1.3. Education Methodology

The most important aspect of online education is the "flipped classroom" model, in which the initiative and decision-making power is transferred from the teacher to the student. In this model, the teacher has more opportunities and time to communicate with the students. After the class, it is usually the students who plan the content and pace of their learning. The teacher's role is usually to help students solve their own challenges in independent learning, mainly to meet their individual learning needs.

In traditional education, the teacher would be the dominant figure in leading students' learning, and the teacher would judge the students' learning by their marks.

2.2.1.4. Educational Resources

Online education has more resources because the Internet makes it easy to make teaching resources from different locations available to learners across the country across geographic restrictions. Moreover, online education can also introduce foreign educational resources, allowing learners to learn about foreign related fields as quickly as possible.

In traditional education, the faculty is often unevenly distributed because of geographical and economic constraints in all areas.

2.2.1.5. Education Environment

With the development of mobile internet, students can now start classes by the way of Live and taped lessons anytime and anywhere, mainly on their subjective will, and can learn in pieces.

In traditional education, students are guided by their school teachers in person. The school teacher will set the time for students to go to from class and other school rules.

3. THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ONLINE EDUCATION

3.1 The Definition of Online Learning and Traditional Learning

Online learning is the delivery of a learning, training, or education program by electronic means. It involves the use of a computer or electronic device (e.g., a mobile phone) in some way to provide training, educational or learning material [4]. For instance, many universities in China use the National Open University network platform (MOOC) and digital learning resource library to set online education channel to provide all members of the society with various forms and rich contents of Live and taped lessons. According to the data collected by Coursera, there were 130,000 Chinese users registered on Coursera in 2013, ranking ninth in the world. In 2014, it reached 650,000, the growth rate far exceeding that of other countries. For every 8 new learners, one is from China (Coursera) [5]. With an online platform (e.g., Zoom), professors in universities can record their lectures and share with the whole society. Human beings can also attend the courses of university on their laptop or mobile phone. In addition, Nian argues that online teaching is not restricted by time and situation, which directly meets the needs of modern education and lifelong education, and fully reflects independent learning specialty [6]. It overcomes timing attendance and travel difficulties, providing courses to more public in the whole world. Based on online learning, everyone can receive their required courses with low costs, getting easy access to many kinds of knowledge and skill training.

Traditional learning refers to the teacher-centered class learning, which emphasis on the dispersion of knowledge including concepts, theories, methods, etc. The typical way of traditional learning is that a teacher takes lectures on the podium, and students keep taking notes, then review, and subsequently take exams from elementary school to university. Sui holds that traditional learning ignores the difference existing in the individuals and lacks the overall development of students such as their emotional situation and character [7]. In traditional learning, the evaluation method is focusing too much on the grades and lacks the development of personal interests, which makes it hard to get a clear and comprehensive description of students. Additionally, Dong argues that for a long time, education has been conducted in a traditional way (chalk and talk), which leads to the low sense of participation of students [8]. The lack of interaction with students will fail to arouse students' interest and receive their feedback in time, which has urgent needs for improvement.

3.2 The Advantage of Online Learning

Nowadays, many English learners in China enjoy learning English online especially via learning applications on their mobile phone. It is the advantage of online learning that makes the development of English applications so rapid. First of all, online learning is flexible in its conditions, which means students can start their class whenever they want without the cost of commuting and teachers can also make a lecture with much less limit. It is reported in the Babson Report that online education that when more than a quarter of higher education students study a course through online learning, distance education is obviously becoming the mainstream [9]. Besides, Ying argues that technology has enhanced the practicability and cost-effectiveness of most of the products and services in life. Afterwards quality education can be expanded at a low cost, which greatly extends its flexibility and achieve more opportunities. For instance, in some remote areas, the lack of traditional education resources makes the students there hard to get enough knowledge [10]. Nevertheless, after the popularization of online learning, they can choose the course and teacher they want only by a single mobile phone, which almost gives them another school to continue their academic work. It is reported by Xinhua News Agency that to address the problem of online courses in remote rural areas. In reality, it is necessary to increase policy support, speed up the construction of new infrastructure (e.g., network communications) and eliminate signal blind spots as soon as possible. Additionally, it also requires precise policies from all regions and departments to make every effort to care and help [11]. Moreover, their financial burdens will be considerably reduced compared with traditional class teaching since many online courses are free to the public.

In addition, another advantage of online learning is its promotion of the self-studying ability of students, which is beneficial for their overall development. Yang holds that online learning add vitality and innovation into the traditional teaching methods because it motivates students to participate in teaching activities by putting sound, images, video, etc. Students can focus on their own difficulties in studying and search for solution online [12]. Moreover, students can do research online to get information for the sake of their interest, which must greatly arouse their studying interest.

Another thing people can get from online learning is its rich academic resources. In class teaching all knowledge we can learn is from teachers and textbooks. However, when studying online, it is easy to get information about all the aspects, which is updated at every second. Cui claims that online education can provide information with approximately no limit and effectively make up for the lack of school education [13]. Through online searching, students are able to achieve comprehensive development and make after-class study

purely by their intention [13]. Thus, the combination of online learning with traditional class teaching will be the mainstream of basic education in the future.

3.3 The Disadvantage of Online Learning

However, online learning is also a double-edged sword for us. There are some potential disadvantages behind its prosperity. First of all, too much reliance on the self-study ability of students may not guarantee the result of their online learning due to the difference in the self-control of each student. Ashley argues that one drawback to e-learning is that it can be difficult for individuals who are not primarily self-motivated [14]. While self-directed learning has been appropriately praised for its versatility, it can be a trap for those who need the external motivations physical classrooms and instructors can provide. For those teenagers being exposed to online learning, they are not mature mentally and may not have enough self-control ability and to support their online learning. Thus, they will do online learning just from their personal interest, ignoring other subjects and necessary information. It is revealed in the questionnaire made by students in Hebei University of Technology that emotional and information communication is an important purpose for college students to surf the Internet, but the proportion of killing their time and playing games still accounts for 31.4%. In the survey of browsing information in daily life, up to 77.1% students pay attention to entertainment news. Besides, those who focus on education and learning only account for 25.4%. Compared with traditional class, at school teachers can have timely supervision on their students and make appropriate studying plans for them, which cannot be done online today [15].

In addition, it is reported in Udemy blog that the primary disadvantage of social networking is that most people do not know how to network effectively. As a result, the few benefits they get from their networking activity are not worth the time invested. In fact, nowadays there are still many Chinese families living without skilled master of electronic device, which may be caused by finance income or educational level. The investigation about the use of dictionaries on mobile phone among college students in remote minority areas. Li shows that the percentage of college students who do not have the experience of using online dictionaries is 11.4%, much higher than the equivalent figure in economically developed region [16]. For those who are not familiar with the procedure of online applications, it will cause more meaningless time to make online learning. Moreover, some students in remote areas do not have easy access to mobile phones or other devices to receive online class in time, which is not fair for education opportunities.

4. FUTURE DIRECTION OF MOBILE PHONE APPLICATIONS

At present there are many students in China while few studies focused on the relevant cell phone learning application market research survey. As a matter of fact, to carry out the appropriate research investigating future development of its will benefits in the relevant areas. Both the traditional teaching mode and the use of modern learning applications should be constantly researched and analysed to have continuous progress. From the development point of view, education is one of the necessary factors for the development of economy and human resources in the society. Besides, the constant updating of modern technology today is the main driving force for the relevant technology. Online learning is not only about resource-based independent learning, but also giving online learners a variety of learning support services. The ability of online learning to reduce dropout rates and ensure effective learning depends on the ability of online learning systems to provide appropriate, individualized, and effective learning support services [17]. In terms of research and development of related software, designers should explore more deeply in terms of teaching interaction, e.g., relevant resources access, online timely question-answer service, etc.

It is believed that the combination of theories and practice makes a better result Mobile phone learning applications have taken shape and some visible results in recent years, but this mostly stays only in the ideological construction. The development of cell phone learning applications should pay attention to the empirical investigation. Additionally, the next update development should be carried out under the data derived from the continuous practical proof, from the public case to the personal case. In the future cell, phone learning applications ought to be designed for considering the different situations of students in order to be better used by students and other users.

5. CONCLUSION

In summary, the popularity of online English learning applications among Chinese students these years has created a new way both in language acquisition pattern and traditional class teaching. As the new technical innovations emerge, students can receive abundant online resources and enjoy online lectures (e.g., MOOC) without limit of time and situation. However, the benefit it brings and problems it causes should both be taken into consideration. By revising the former researches about online English learning, this study makes a clear comparison between traditional teaching and online learning, talking about its advantages and disadvantages, which draws a conclusion about using value and future direction. Compared with traditional class, convenience, rich learning resources, flexible learning ways and strong sense of participation are all unique advantages of it

ascribed to its popularity. Nevertheless, the interaction with school teaching and more supervision on students' self-learning should be improved. Additionally, the developers can also focus on the practical application of second language acquisition theories. To design more functions suitable for language learners and make a deeper combination with traditional education, these findings should play an important role on its future direction. The primary actors of online English learning are students, school teachers and applications developers. Hence, the future development of online learning must realize the relationships of these actors in the online education are constructed depending on the relevant SLA theories and service conditions. The innovation of online English applications undoubtedly makes a great role in modern English learning and form an addition to the traditional language education, which makes this direction vital and meaningful. These results offer a guideline for both the users and developers of online English applications, which will lead to a better condition of online language learning.

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