DIGITAL STORY TELLING AS A METHOD FOR TEACHING ENGLISH

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Annotation. Digital story telling is a modern and effective method used in teaching English, combining traditional storytelling techniques with digital tools such as videos, images, audio recordings, and interactive media. This approach engages students actively, enhances their language skills, and fosters creativity and critical thinking. By integrating technology into language learning, teachers can create more dynamic and interactive lessons that cater to different learning styles. Digital story telling encourages students to construct narratives, express ideas clearly, and practice vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation in meaningful contexts. It also promotes collaboration and communication among students, as they often work in groups to create digital stories. This method is particularly significant in the classroom, where digital literacy is as important as language proficiency. Research shows that students who participate in digital story telling activities demonstrate improved motivation, retention, and overall language competence. Thus, digital story telling is not only a tool for language acquisition but also a way to prepare students for a digital and interconnected world.

Key Words: digital story telling, english language teaching, language skills, creativity, technology integration, student engagement, collaborative learning, digital literacy.

INTRODUCTION

In the modern world, technology plays a central role in education, transforming traditional teaching methods and creating new opportunities for effective learning. One innovative approach that has gained significant attention in recent years is digital story telling. Digital story telling combines the ancient art of story telling with contemporary digital tools such as videos, images, audio, animations, and interactive platforms. In teaching English, this method provides learners with a unique way to develop multiple language skills simultaneously, including reading, writing, listening, speaking, and pronunciation.

Digital story telling also promotes active learning, creativity, and critical thinking, as students are not only receivers of information but also creators of content. They learn to organize ideas, use appropriate language structures, and communicate messages effectively. Furthermore, this approach enhances student motivation and engagement because learners participate in meaningful, real-world activities that make language learning enjoyable and relevant. Collaboration is another key aspect of digital story telling, as many projects involve teamwork, peer feedback, and shared decision-making, which strengthen communication and social skills.In addition, digital story telling supports the development of digital literacy, an essential competence in the 21st century. By integrating technology with language learning, students become more prepared for the challenges of a digital and interconnected world. This introduction highlights the significance of digital story telling as a method for teaching English and sets the stage for exploring its applications, benefits, and impact on learners' language proficiency and creativity.

MAIN PART

In contemporary society,digital story telling is a method that combines traditional storytelling with modern digital tools, such as computers, smartphones, tablets, videos, images, animations, and audio recordings. In the context of teaching English, it allows students to create, share, and present stories using technology. Unlike conventional story telling, digital story telling enables learners to integrate multimedia elements, making narratives more engaging and interactive. This approach helps students not only improve their language skills but also develop creativity, digital literacy, and critical thinking. According to Robin (2008), digital story telling encourages students to take an active role in learning, transforming them from passive receivers of knowledge into active creators of content.Digital story telling is significant in teaching English because it promotes a student-centered learning environment. Learners actively participate in story creation, which improves their writing, speaking, and listening skills. For example, while producing a short digital story, students practice vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation in context, which strengthens retention and understanding. Moreover, digital story telling increases student motivation, as it transforms language learning into a creative and enjoyable process. Teachers can also adapt storytelling projects to different proficiency levels, making it a flexible and inclusive teaching method. Research by Sadik (2008) shows that students who engage in digital storytelling demonstrate higher engagement and better language performance compared to traditional classroom methods.The process of digital story telling in English classes generally includes several steps. First, students choose a topic or idea for their story, often based on personal experiences or cultural themes. Next, they plan the story structure, including the beginning, middle, and end. After planning, students create digital content by combining text, images, audio, and video. Finally, students present their stories to the class, receive feedback, and reflect on their learning. This process not only strengthens language skills but also fosters collaboration, as many projects are completed in groups. According to Robin (2016), following these steps ensures that storytelling activities are structured, meaningful, and aligned with learning objectives.Digital storytelling provides numerous benefits for learners of English. First, it enhances language proficiency by providing authentic contexts for using vocabulary and grammar. Second, it develops critical thinking skills, as students must organize ideas logically and convey messages clearly. Third, it improves technological skills and digital literacy, which are essential for 21st-century education. Fourth, it encourages collaborative learning, as students often work in pairs or groups to create and present stories. Finally, digital story telling increases motivation and engagement, as students feel ownership of their work and enjoy expressing themselves creatively. For example, in a study conducted by Lambert (2013), students reported feeling more confident in using English after creating and sharing digital stories.

Despite its many advantages, implementing digital story telling in English teaching can present challenges. These include limited access to technology, lack of teacher training, and time constraints in the curriculum. Teachers may also face difficulties in assessing multimedia projects objectively. However, these challenges can be overcome through careful planning, professional development, and the use of accessible tools and software. Platforms such as Adobe Spark, Storyboard That, and Canva make digital story telling easier to implement even with limited resources.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, digital story telling is a powerful and innovative method for teaching English that effectively combines traditional story telling with modern digital tools. It engages students actively, enhances their language skills, and fosters creativity, critical thinking, and digital literacy. By allowing learners to create and present their own stories, this approach transforms the classroom into a dynamic, student-centered learning environment. Digital story telling also promotes collaboration, communication, and motivation, making language learning more enjoyable and meaningful.Although challenges such as limited technology access and time constraints may arise, they can be addressed through careful planning, teacher training, and the use of accessible digital tools. The benefits of digital storytelling, including improved language proficiency, enhanced critical thinking, and greater engagement, make it an essential method in modern English education. In a world increasingly shaped by digital communication, integrating story telling with technology not only supports language learning but also prepares students for future academic and professional challenges.

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