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The role of Internet in learning language to child

Djoudi Sayah

University of Bejaia

Algeria

E-mail: Djoudi.sayah@univ-bejaia.dz

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Abstract

The current era has witnessed significant developments in various economic, social, cultural, and technological fields. These developments have led to numerous transformations, discoveries, and astonishing inventions that have altered the course of life. Among these is the use of the internet, which offers programs and websites specifically designed for children. The internet is a crucial tool for language learning, given its rapid development and widespread adoption. It has become a powerful influence on human life, particularly on children and their language. Consequently, it is difficult for a child to spend a day without using the internet. So, how can the internet help children develop their language skills? It's important to remember that language is the key to a people's culture, and through it, children acquire a rich vocabulary.

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Introduction

The Internet has emerged as a primary vehicle for the dissemination of knowledge and the facilitation of a virtual social environment that parallels everyday life. It is widely recognized as a central symbol of global connectivity, individual autonomy in cultural engagement, and authentic freedom of expression. As a technological medium, it offers unparalleled speed and efficiency in transmitting information across geographical boundaries and within diverse domains, including science, education, economics, politics, entertainment, and various service sectors.

Recent technological advancements have reinforced the notion that the world has effectively become a unified digital community in which individuals can interact and observe one another continuously. Within this context, digital platforms—foremost among them the Internet—exert multifaceted media and cultural influences whose impact varies according to their social significance and the extent of their use.

Given its pervasive presence, the Internet has become an indispensable component of contemporary life and is often regarded as a fundamental priority. Its capacity to facilitate the exchange of information across all fields of knowledge has positioned it as a transformative force that reshapes human communication and renders the world a “global village.” Its utility is evident in both academic and professional spheres.

This significance is particularly pronounced for children, who are highly motivated to engage with digital technologies for entertainment, enjoyment, and visual exploration. The Internet affords them rich opportunities for interactive learning, including the acquisition of the Arabic language through a variety of educational programs and digital platforms specifically designed to support language development.

1. The Concept of the Internet

The emergence of the Internet has produced a profound transformation and a significant revolution in global communication, making possible the exchange of vast amounts of information worldwide. This technological development reflects a cumulative evolution in the documentation and transmission of knowledge, given the extensive services it provides in facilitating communication with the global community. The evolution of this new communication medium—namely the Internet—can be divided into two major phases: the 1970s and 1980s, during which the network primarily served military and scientific purposes; and the 1990s, which witnessed the establishment of the World Wide Web.

The Internet may be simply defined as a network of interconnected computers that share data and software. It is considered the most recent and rapidly developing global medium of communication, and one of the most significant technological innovations of the late twentieth century—driving what has been described as the new civilizational revolution based on the principle of “connect rather than relocate.” Furthermore, it has also been conceptualized as an internal network within institutions that enables coordination among various components, thereby increasing management efficiency and conserving time and effort.

It can thus be concluded that the Internet has become an indispensable tool in contemporary life, occupying a central place among individual priorities. It facilitates the transmission and reception of information across all fields of knowledge, and functions as an open, global communication system that tightly links numerous subsidiary networks.

3. Advantages of the Internet

The Internet provides numerous benefits, the most important of which include:

1. **Unlimited communication:** It allows instantaneous and low-cost communication with others through text, voice, or video applications such as Skype. The primary requirement is Internet access.
2. **Abundant informational resources:** The Internet is a vast repository of information on virtually any topic, accessible through multiple search engines. It enables users to consult diverse educational sources worldwide and participate in live online learning sessions.
3. **Ease of information sharing:** It facilitates rapid dissemination of information to large groups through social media platforms such as Facebook or Twitter, as well as the sharing of music, videos, and digital files.
4. **E-services and e-commerce:** Financial transactions, bill payments, ticket purchases, and home-based entrepreneurial activities can now be completed online with ease.
5. **Entertainment:** Entertainment remains one of the primary reasons people use the Internet, including watching films, listening to music, reading celebrity news, and playing online games.

4. The Importance of the Internet for Children

The Internet, as the most advanced medium for information exchange today, carries significant educational and developmental value. As noted by Ibrahim Al-Bendawi, its importance is reflected in the following aspects:

- High-speed transfer of information, with each connected device assigned a unique address.
- Rapid exchange of documents and files between Internet-connected devices.
- The ability to conduct discussions, conferences, and seminars through text, audio, and video.
- Opportunities for distance learning.
- Access to free software that can be downloaded and used across life domains.
- Learning various world languages, including English and German.
- Use of the Internet as a marketing tool between suppliers and local markets.
- Enhancement of institutional reputations through e-services.
- Facilitation of customer relations and inter-organizational communication.
- Reduction of physical effort and time expenditure.

- Increased accuracy and efficiency of services.
- Digital storage that protects data from damage or loss.

5. Purposes of Internet Use

The purposes for which individuals—especially youth—use the Internet include:

- **Social communication:** The primary use, where individuals seek connection and interaction with others across societies.
- **Blogging and digital publishing:** These activities enhance freedom of expression and content dissemination.
- **Media uses:** Common among youth working in marketing and digital media.
- **Access to news and information:** The Internet serves as a major news agency, enabling users to stay updated on local and global events.
- **Completion of personal tasks:** The Internet increasingly serves as an intermediary for accomplishing daily activities.
- **Educational uses:** Many children rely on platforms such as YouTube for learning and academic support.
- **Political uses:** Youth sometimes engage with the Internet for electoral campaigns or political advocacy.

However, excessive and uncontrolled use has led to issues such as social isolation, psychological and health problems, wasted time, academic decline, and exposure to harmful content.

6. The Importance of the Internet in Children's Language Learning

The Internet has become a fundamental aspect of daily life, surpassing many traditional needs and becoming indispensable for communication, learning, and entertainment. Many scholars consider it one of humanity's greatest achievements, enabling societies to transition from industrial to information-based structures. As a central educational tool, the Internet permeates all spheres of public and private life and represents an effective means for structured use of leisure time. Language, as a system of responses and a vehicle of thought and communication, plays a vital role in individual and societal development. The Internet supports children's language acquisition by providing audiovisual content that reinforces vocabulary, comprehension, and cognitive development. It also serves as a bridge between children and adults, facilitating social communication and learning. The Internet has produced profound changes in children's lives by satisfying their cognitive and recreational needs through programs, games, and multimedia resources that enrich their experiences and enhance their thinking skills. Many children begin using the Internet at an early age, engaging in activities that provide both entertainment and learning opportunities. Educational websites, through their colorful and interactive content, offer developmentally appropriate learning experiences. Since language and the Internet are intertwined systems in children's lives, digital content—such as animated videos—supports the development of linguistic and cognitive abilities.

Children benefit from the Internet by being able to select age-appropriate content, expand their knowledge of the environment, understand real-world concepts, and develop their senses and observational skills. The combination of sound, image, and movement in digital media significantly enhances language learning.

YouTube and television are particularly influential in this regard, as they are the most frequently used platforms among children and contribute meaningfully to language enrichment and skill development.

7. Negative Effects of Internet Addiction in Children

Internet overuse can expose children to several risks, including:

- Compromised privacy and exposure to cyber-threats such as fraud and extortion.
- Declines in psychological and physical health and reduced social interaction.
- Exposure to inappropriate or harmful content.
- Loss of time, diminished academic performance, and behavioral problems.

8. Prominent Educational Websites for Children: YouTube

According to Krach, YouTube is the most widely used video-hosting platform, allowing users to upload, view, and evaluate videos. It functions as a social media site that attracts millions of visitors, including children.

Its educational benefits include:

- Providing simple and effective learning tools through educational videos that teach letters, numbers, and shapes.
- Enhancing children's attention spans due to high visual engagement.
- Supporting early vocabulary comprehension.
- Serving as a rich source of knowledge and guidance for children.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Internet has become a powerful force that reshapes human existence, forming an essential part of modern life. It has revolutionized communication, learning, creativity, and access to knowledge. As a transformative tool, it has influenced human behavior, lifestyle, and social interaction, with children being among the most affected groups. Internet programs enrich children's language abilities, cognitive development, and creativity. However, misuse can result in substantial psychological, social, and moral harm. As a double-edged sword, responsible supervision by parents is essential to ensure safe and constructive use. When used wisely, the Internet provides children with opportunities for communication, learning, personal growth, and the development of cognitive and linguistic competencies.

Recommendations

- Continuous parental monitoring of children's Internet use.
- Providing diverse technological tools that promote children's abilities and talents.
- Developing specialized Arabic-language educational programs.
- Encouraging balanced use of time and preventing excessive Internet exposure.
- Guiding children to engage with libraries and religious texts.
- Discussing educational content with children to enhance understanding and correct

5. Suggestions:

Continuous monitoring of children's internet activity is essential.

- Various technological tools should be available to help children develop their abilities and talents.
- Programs specifically designed for the Arabic language should be created and prepared for use as a programming language.
- Parents should establish a structured family routine, including time management and avoiding excessive internet use.
- Children should be encouraged to visit libraries and engage with the Quran and Hadith.

- Parents should discuss educational programs with their children to clarify concepts.

Ethical Considerations

This study was conducted in accordance with generally accepted ethical standards in educational research. As the research is theoretical and descriptive in nature and does not involve direct experimentation, surveys, or interventions with children or other human participants, no formal ethical approval was required. Nevertheless, special care was taken to address issues related to children's exposure to internet content, emphasizing responsible use, parental supervision, and age-appropriate educational materials. The study respects the principles of child protection, privacy, and the ethical use of digital technologies in education.

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Conflict of Interest

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