Digital Storytelling to Enhance Second Language Learners' Language Proficiency through Text, Audio, Images, and Voice

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ABSTRACT

With the advent of digitalisation, the teaching-learning process has become more enhanced as it makes students involved voluntarily with self-interest. As students, when they involve themselves by themselves with a focus, it leads to Self-Directed Learning (SDL), which plays an important role in improving their language skills. In the process of acquiring language fluency, especially second language learners tend to use various techniques to make them flexible in improving their skills. One of the best ways to make the most excellent out of their learning is through digital storytelling. This paper mainly focuses on the usage of digital storytelling by the second language learners in making their learning more enhanced, which improves their vocabulary, grammar, creative thinking, critical analysis, and interpretation, which in turn improves their coherence and cohesive techniques.

Keywords- Digitalisation, Self-Directed Learning (SDL), Creative Thinking, Coherence.

I. INTRODUCTION

Digital storytelling (DST) is a cutting-edge, cooperative, arts-based research approach that uses technology, narrative, and teamwork to create two to three-minute video clips that combine sound, images, and other auditory devices to communicate personal tales.

To put it another way, "Data Storytelling" is the concept of fusing digital multimedia, including audio, video, and photographs, with the craft of storytelling. Almost all digital stories use a combination of text, video, music, recorded voice narration, and digital graphics to convey information about a particular subject. Similar to traditional storytelling, digital stories frequently have a certain point of view and centre on a selected theme. The stories, which are usually only a few minutes long, can be used for a number of purposes, such as narrating historical events, sharing personal anecdotes, or providing information or education on a certain subject.

Digital storytelling is a powerful educational tool for students to enhance their English language proficiency.

As said by Smeda et al. in the year 2014, digital storytelling is an innovative pedagogical approach that can engage students in deep and meaningful learning. The use of storytelling is an essential component of English language instruction. Stories are always a motivating teaching technique for fostering cultural values and a variety of linguistic abilities. Students in today's technologically advanced society lack the motivation to read novels and advance their reading abilities. Their poor reading and writing skills are a result of their lack of interest in reading. By combining text, images, and audio, it uses creative media to tell stories. Students can utilise digital storytelling as a multimedia tool in language learning to help them become more fluent in English by using technology to narrate the narrative in their own words and voices.

Teachers may truly engage pupils in the story's meaning by using digital storytelling. Both the heart and

the brain are influenced by digital storytelling. Students can learn the importance of emotional rhetoric from digital stories, which also provide them the chance to experiment with other ways of thinking or acting.

Stories involve key memory processes including movement, emotion, exaggeration, imagery, and personal connections, making them excellent teaching aids for new words and phrases. A story's ability to captivate makes it easier to absorb new information. We learn grammar and syntax through stories in the most organic way possible. Listening to a tale can help you learn grammar instinctively by allowing you to recognise and follow the patterns which

is seen. It's somewhat comparable to how students pick up grammar rules. They do not commit each one to memory from a textbook. Rather, they attempt to replicate them by absorbing them from the context, repetition, and continuous exposure.

Immersion in language and culture is made possible by stories. Gaining a deeper understanding of the language is important, but so is learning about the culture, traditions, and customs of the new nation.
As a result, digital storytelling makes the classroom more comfortable and increases the motivation of students who struggle with their English.
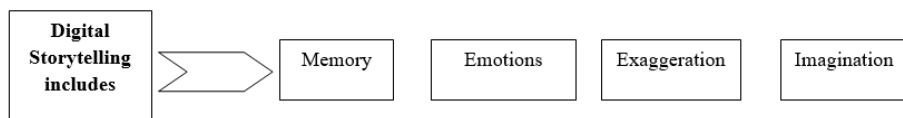
II.   BENEFITS OF STORY TELLING

➤ Digital storytelling in education boosts motivation, encourages students to learn deeply and meaningfully, and aids in the development of multiple literacy skills. It lets students demonstrate their understanding via creative projects and enables teachers to convey knowledge in an approachable manner. It helps in gaining 21st-century literacy abilities like information, visual, technological, and media literacy, allowing students to demonstrate their learning, and fostering meaningful listening are some advantages.

➤ Storytelling aids in the creation of new cultures and the preservation of ancient ones. Traditions, values, and rituals that have been passed down through the years are preserved through stories, which act as conduits for cultural legacy. They also provide people a feeling of identification and belonging, which binds them to their group and company.

➤ Students' individual tales are captured, their individuality is celebrated, their voice is developed, and they realise that their narrative matters.

➤ Students are given the option to choose the finest way to convey the narrative that is inside of them.

➤ By listening to others, we may develop empathy and understanding for their perspectives through digital storytelling.

➤ A more equal environment can be created by sharing each person's actual lived experience with the class through digital storytelling.

➤ It enables students to regularly gain teaching experience.

➤ It provides pupils with a more comprehensive grasp of communication abilities than just writing, enabling them to communicate through spoken language, images, music, and art.

➤ The communication style of digital storytelling is more similar to that of contemporary social media,

and it enables us to teach children prosocial standards and behaviours while also helping them comprehend it.

➤ Research has demonstrated that digital storytelling enhances pupils' social and emotional intelligence.

➤ Important 21st century skills including digital literacy, global literacy, technological literacy, and information literacy are taught through digital storytelling.

➤ Digital storytelling is entertaining. Teachers are eager to assess the children's stories, classmates are eager to watch them, and the children themselves are eager to share them.

III.   DIGITAL STORYTELLING LEADING TO SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING AMONG STUDENTS

It is well recognized that one of the best teaching methods is the storytelling technique. High motivation and active participation, increased creativity, cooperation among children, deeper comprehension of a subject, and an increase in attention span are the main advantages of the storytelling technique, which directs to self-directed learning among students. It also has a great deal of power and fosters a sense of community by giving students a platform to share their stories and connect with others who have similar experiences.

IV.   TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE DIGITAL DATA STORY TELLING

➤ First one need to deliberate on what the digital story is about and its aim.
➤ The script must be prepared.
➤ After the script is complete, the goals of the digital story must be determined.
➤ One must have the video ready based on the plot and script.

➢ Collect voiceovers using the script and pertinent visuals.
➢ Choose music and sound effects based on the scenario and screenplay.

V.　CHALLENGES FACED DURING DIGITAL STORY TELLING

Despite being a widely used teaching technique, storytelling has some disadvantages that may reduce its efficacy in classrooms.
➢ Passive education.
➢ Little practical experience.
➢ Content Predictability.
➢ Contextual misalignment.
➢ Student participation was low.

VI.　CONCLUSION

Developing resilient, curious, and literate citizens has always been the goal of teaching. Digital storytelling helps students acquire these talents, energizes classrooms, and provides direction for the curriculum. Digital storytelling projects can be a simple way to boost students' self-interest and values while encouraging them to study. This can lead to improvements in their vocabulary, grammar, critical thinking, creative thinking, and interpretation, all of which promote coherence and cohesive strategies.

Students gain technical expertise, research skills, writing ability, critical thinking, and creativity via the creation of digital stories. It also improves their capacity for information synthesis, analysis, and evaluation.

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