

THE INFLUENCE OF LEARNING BY USING IXL LANGUAGE ART TOWARD STUDENTS' READING COMPREHENSION

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the impact of integrating IXL Language Art, a digital educational platform, on students' reading comprehension skills. The research aims to explore whether the interactive and personalized features of IXL Language Art can enhance students' ability to comprehend and interpret written texts. The study uses a quantitative approach to examine the effects of IXL Language Art on students' reading comprehension, as measured by standardized reading assessments. A total of 24 students participated in the study, with 12 students assigned to the experimental group, which used IXL Language Art as a supplementary instructional tool, and 12 students assigned to the control group, which received traditional reading instruction. The results of the study indicate that students who used IXL Language Art showed significant improvements in their reading comprehension scores compared to the control group.

Keywords: ICT, IXL Language Art, Reading Comprehension

INTRODUCTION

Enhancing English proficiency is crucial for academic success, career advancement, and effective communication. Regular online learning activities can significantly accelerate language acquisition and comprehension. Online educational platforms offer unparalleled flexibility, allowing students to search for and enroll in courses that cater to their specific needs, regardless of geographical constraints. They can access a vast array of digital resources, including e-books, articles, and multimedia lectures, and engage in virtual discussions with instructors and peers from diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, online learning enables students to submit assignments, participate in virtual seminars, and receive feedback from instructors, all from the convenience of their own devices. This digital learning environment fosters global connectivity, facilitating the formation of international networks and friendships that transcend geographical boundaries.

The incorporation of innovative digital tools has revolutionized the learning landscape, providing learners with immersive and interactive experiences that enhance language acquisition (Krashen, 2004). One such platform, IXL Language Arts, offers a comprehensive and engaging environment for students to develop their reading comprehension skills. By leveraging the platform's interactive exercises, games, and activities, students can improve their understanding of complex texts, identify main ideas, and make inferences (National Council of Teachers of English, 2012).

Research has shown that technology-based instruction can have a significant impact on students' reading comprehension, particularly when combined with traditional teaching methods (Coiro, 2003). Online platforms like IXL Language Arts provide learners with the autonomy to learn at their own pace, revisit challenging concepts, and track their progress, thereby fostering a sense of agency and motivation (Dziuban, Moskal, & Williams, 2018). Moreover, the platform's real-time feedback and assessment features enable instructors to identify areas of improvement and tailor their instruction to meet the diverse needs of their students.

The present study aims to investigate the influence of using IXL Language Arts on students' reading comprehension. By exploring the effectiveness of this digital platform, this research seeks to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on technology-enhanced language instruction and provide educators with valuable insights into the potential benefits of integrating IXL Language Arts into their teaching practices. Ultimately, this study hopes to shed light on the role of digital tools in promoting language proficiency and improving reading comprehension among students.

ICT (Information and Communication Technology)

Nowadays, Information and Communication Technology is one of the tools that is useful for humans. There are many countries that have started using technology in education.. Since educational technology is evolving so quickly in the field of teaching languages, there is an increasing emphasis on the use of ICT in language education, which raises the bar for both the caliber and requirements of how languages are taught and learned (Laabidi & Laabidi, 2016).

In other words, the use of ICT in education has the potential to significantly alter the way that people educate. Although instructors appear to recognize the value of ICT in the classroom. To combine ICT tools with academic elements of teaching, teachers need to be well-versed in cutting-edge technology and have received appropriate training (e.g. Rozgiene, I. Medvedeva, O. Strakova, 2008), basing interactions on the teacher-dominated model (Boumová, 2008). As a result of the rapid advancement of technology, language instructors must develop and enhance their technical proficiency in order to stay up with the most recent ICT changes. Consequently, EFL instructors' ICT proficiency has to be raised (Malinina, 2015). Besides, ICT may improve the concept and worth of education by supporting active learning, problem solving, focused teaching, real-time discourse, information gathering and analysis, critical thinking, and the capacity to interact, communicate, and learn (Yuen, Law, Wong, 2003).

IXL

IXL Language Arts is an online learning platform that provides a comprehensive and interactive way of teaching language skills to students. The program offers a range of activities and exercises that cater to different learning styles and abilities, making it

an effective tool for improving reading comprehension. Research has shown that technology-based instruction can have a positive impact on students' reading achievement (Kulmhofer, 2016). By using IXL Language Arts, students can engage in interactive lessons that promote critical thinking, vocabulary building, and comprehension skills.

One of the key features of IXL Language Arts is its adaptive technology, which adjusts the level of difficulty and content to meet the individual needs of each student. This personalized approach enables students to learn at their own pace and focus on areas where they need improvement. Studies have demonstrated that adaptive technology can lead to significant gains in reading comprehension, particularly for struggling readers (Wylie & Doherty, 2017). Moreover, IXL Language Arts provides real-time feedback and assessment data, allowing teachers to track student progress and identify areas that require additional support.

The use of IXL Language Arts has also been shown to increase student motivation and engagement in reading activities. The program's interactive and game-like features make learning fun and enjoyable, which can lead to a more positive attitude towards reading (Guthrie & Davis, 2003). Furthermore, IXL Language Arts offers a range of fiction and nonfiction texts that cater to different interests and reading levels, allowing students to develop a love for reading that extends beyond the classroom.

Reading Comprehension

Effective reading comprehension is a crucial skill that enables individuals to extract meaningful information from written texts. Research suggests that reading comprehension is a complex process that involves a range of cognitive skills, including attention, working memory, and language processing (Nation & Newton, 1997). [1] When readers engage with a text, they must first attend to the relevant information, then process and store it in their working memory, and finally, use linguistic knowledge to make sense of the text.

Moreover, reading comprehension is not just about decoding words, but also about constructing meaning from the text. This involves making inferences, identifying themes, and recognizing the author's purpose (Duke & Pearson, 2002). [2] For instance, when reading a narrative text, readers need to use their prior knowledge and experience to make connections between the characters, events, and setting. This process of making connections is critical to deep understanding and recall of the text.

Furthermore, research has shown that reading comprehension is closely linked to vocabulary knowledge (Biemiller, 2005). [3] When readers encounter unfamiliar vocabulary, they must use contextual clues and prior knowledge to infer the meaning of the words. This process of vocabulary acquisition is essential for reading comprehension, as it enables readers to access a wider range of texts and comprehend more complex ideas.

In conclusion, reading comprehension is a multifaceted process that involves a range of cognitive, linguistic, and vocabulary skills. By understanding the complexities of reading comprehension, educators and readers can develop strategies to improve their reading abilities and enhance their overall literacy skills. By recognizing the importance of reading comprehension, we can promote a culture of reading and learning that benefits individuals and society as a whole.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a quantitative research design to examine the impact of IXL Language Art on students' reading comprehension skills. The study's participants consisted of 24 students, randomly divided into two groups: an experimental group and a control group. The experimental group consisted of 12 students who received traditional reading instruction supplemented with IXL Language Art, while the control group consisted of 12 students who received only traditional reading instruction.

The data collection process involved administering standardized reading comprehension assessments to both groups at the beginning and end of the study. The assessments evaluated students' ability to comprehend and interpret written texts. The assessments were designed to measure students' reading comprehension skills, including identifying main ideas, making inferences, and understanding vocabulary in context.

The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics to compare the mean scores of the experimental and control groups. The results of the study were used to determine whether the integration of IXL Language Art had a significant impact on students' reading comprehension skills.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study indicate that the experimental group, which used IXL Language Art as a supplementary instructional tool, showed significant improvements in their reading comprehension scores compared to the control group. The mean score of the experimental group increased from 65.5 to 82.1, whereas the mean score of the control group increased from 62.2 to 68.5. The independent samples t-test revealed a significant difference between the mean scores of the two groups ($t = 3.45$, $p < 0.05$). The result of the t test from the experiment class can be viewed on the table below:

Paired Samples Test				
		t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pair 1	Pre test – Post test	3.45	22	0.000

The findings of this study suggest that the integration of IXL Language Art as a supplementary instructional tool has a positive impact on students' reading comprehension skills. The significant improvement in the experimental group's reading comprehension scores compared to the control group indicates that IXL Language Art can be an effective tool in enhancing students' ability to comprehend and interpret written texts.

The results of this study are consistent with previous research that suggests that technology-based instructional tools can have a positive impact on reading comprehension skills (Kamil et al., 2011). The interactive and personalized features of IXL Language Art may have contributed to the improved reading comprehension scores, as they provide students with engaging and tailored learning experiences.

The study's findings have implications for educational practice, as they suggest that integrating digital educational platforms like IXL Language Art into reading instruction can be an effective way to enhance students' reading comprehension skills. This is particularly important in today's digital age, where students are increasingly familiar with technology and expect interactive and engaging learning experiences.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion, the study's findings suggest that the integration of IXL Language Art as a supplementary instructional tool can have a positive impact on students' reading comprehension skills. The study's results have implications for educational practice, highlighting the potential benefits of incorporating digital educational platforms into reading instruction. As technology continues to play an increasingly prominent role in education, further research is needed to explore the effectiveness of digital tools like IXL Language Art in enhancing students' reading comprehension skills.

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