



Instagram as a Medium for Teaching and Learning English

Rasulova Nadira Baxadirovna

Senior teacher in the Department of Functional lexics of English language, UzSWLU

Abstract: *The goal of this research paper was to investigate the use of Instagram as a social media platform for learning English skills such as reading, speaking, listening, and writing. The researchers used a qualitative systematic review to search Google Scholar for 24 journal articles on the use of Instagram in English language teaching and learning for data saturation and analysis. This included reading and rereading the manuscripts, then coding the data, with each pass improving and modifying the codes. According to the findings of the study, Instagram can be used as a teaching tool for English language learners and be beneficial to their English learning. Teachers should take advantage of this advancement and begin using Instagram in the classroom. Students can practice writing about their daily activities and provide feedback on their classmates' writing on Instagram, which is one of the most popular social media platforms. Using Instagram to teach students how to write descriptive writings is beneficial, according to this study. Furthermore, students who received Instagram media therapy outperformed control students. The findings could be useful for English language teachers who want to use Instagram in their classrooms.*

Keywords: *Instagram; English learning; social media application; teaching media.*

Numerous studies on the use of Instagram in English language teaching and learning have been conducted. A qualitative systematic review of scientific articles on Instagram as a medium for English language teaching and learning, however, has yet to be completed. According to Sari and Wahyudin (2019), Instagram can be used as an effective instructional media and language learning tool outside of the classroom. Instagram has been shown in studies to help the learning process by enhancing subject learning.

Sari and Wahyudin (2019) went on to say that the popularity of social networking sites could be leveraged as a modern teaching medium. The teacher and students can share photos and videos on Instagram. It is thought to be beneficial as an effective educational experience for language classrooms because it can foster a meaningful learning environment.

In general, learning a new language necessitates the acquisition of four skills. First and foremost, it is critical to learn how to effectively communicate in English through speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Second, writing necessitates the development and application of three other language skills: listening, reading, and speaking. Third, in order for the reader to understand their writing, they must creatively convey their thoughts and feelings.

It is widely acknowledged that teaching English skills in an EFL classroom is a difficult task. First, teachers must teach students how to write effective essays; this is a time-consuming, multi-step process.

Teachers have used a variety of traditional and modern approaches and strategies to teach students reading, listening, and speaking skills. However, there has been little research to demonstrate its utility, particularly in the case of technology-enhanced education.



Globalization and popular culture are becoming increasingly important in all circles. The phenomenon of gadget obsession is gaining traction in many countries, including Uzbekistan. Social networking activities can help lecturers' professional development and the addition of media/ways to their instruction. Professors will have frequent contact with their students. They will be interactive in order to help English students improve their skills. Writing skill development, grammatical comprehension, and other exercises can be planned by students and professors.

Because of its excellent qualities, Instagram was chosen as a good tool for learning a foreign language, particularly English. It confirms that Instagram fosters a sense of community among students and facilitates meaningful communication. Make use of social media. Instagram is a messaging platform (app) that allows users to interact with a larger audience by posting photographs or videos, as well as features such as DM (direct message), comments, and love. Instagram (also abbreviated as IG or Insta) is a picture and video-sharing app that allows users to shoot images, record videos, apply digital filters, and share their work on a variety of social media platforms, including Instagram's own. There are numerous Instagram accounts that provide not only photographs and videos, but also specific information about English stuff. As a result of this, today's children have access to a wealth of technology. In terms of user numbers, Instagram has a sizable following and is well-known globally. There were more than 100 million active users in April 2012, less than two years after its launch. Its popularity has grown, with over 600 million users as of April 2017. Instagram has 90 million monthly active users at the moment.

Instagram was founded in 2010 as a photo-sharing platform, but as time passed, other features such as video, texting, and story sharing were added, significantly contributing to its growth. As a result of these considerations, it is reasonable to conclude that social media can be an effective tool for teachers to use in the classroom. Teachers and students each play a unique role in promoting learning on Instagram. To use online communities successfully, teachers must provide appropriate guidance and feedback. Students engage in self-authorship by creating materials that serve as the foundation for learning. These methods help to pique students' interest and encourage them to participate more actively in their own learning. Teachers can incorporate Instagram into their classes through a variety of activities. Instagram photos and videos are used as writing prompts, with students encouraged to write their own sentences beneath the posted content. Although Instagram and Snapchat are popular social media sites, the article contends that they are primarily used for informal purposes rather than learning complex information such as English speaking abilities because the slang phrases used generate negative attitudes and impressions. The study's goal is to determine the impact of social media on students' attitudes toward learning English skills such as reading, speaking, listening, and writing, with a focus on the Instagram application.

To reinforce speaking, grammar, writing, and vocabulary skills, Instagram was used as a learning tool to create content for one speaking exercise and two writing activities.

Instagram contributes to the transformation of the language classroom by allowing students to generate ideas for writing exercises using contextually relevant content while also providing a fun learning experience. This experiment yielded a few teaching ideas to improve the use of Instagram as a learning tool in language schools.

The most common reason for their use was to read content shared by other educators. We discuss the implications of our final findings for the work of educators and teacher educators in the digital age, as well as the future of research on educators' professional use of social media. Social media studies in ESL classrooms have been widely conducted. The studies look at how social media technologies like Facebook, blogs, Twitter, and Instagram are being used in language learning classrooms via cellphones, a phenomenon known as mobile learning. (Gonulal, 2019) investigated



the effectiveness of cell phone use for both synchronous and asynchronous engagement, as well as the development of students' listening and speaking skills. The author discovered that mobile devices can effectively support collaborative speaking and listening activities. Similarly, Lan, Sung, and Chang (2009) claimed that mobile devices allow students to build collaborative learning environments. They also increase their motivation to read. Borau et al. (2009) demonstrated the advantages of these devices, which allow students to actively participate in English language 'creation' and thus further develop their communicative ability.

After discussing Instagram and the activities associated with it, it is possible to conclude that Instagram benefits students' language skills. It is a useful educational tool because it allows students and teachers to easily communicate outside of office hours and the classroom. Instagram allows students to develop ideas through contextually relevant content while also providing an enjoyable learning experience. As a result, teachers can use Instagram to create engaging English exercises. Finally, it should be emphasized that when students and teachers use Instagram responsibly for instructional purposes, it can be a useful and innovative tool.

Students and teachers can save time by using Instagram English teaching pages, which provide alternatives for dealing with shortfalls in a variety of situations. There are some disadvantages to using Instagram as a mobile language learning tool. The prevalence of informal language on Instagram is one disadvantage frequently mentioned, particularly in qualitative data.

The reactions of students to using Instagram in class are both interesting and useful. Students' responses are intriguing because Instagram is well-known and allows quick access to the source of the lesson. Then there's Instagram, which encourages kids to be more creative while also making it easy to find sources. Instagram could be one of the options for supporting language teaching practice at the university level. The participants created and posted the English slangs on Instagram primarily to express self-identity and emotional sensations.

Most English teachers believe that teaching English speaking skills is extremely difficult. Teachers do not require students to practice English outside of the classroom. Practicing is essential because it is critical to bring English closer to the children in order for it to become a habit. Aside from Instagram, using social media for English improvement can be investigated as long as the medium is easy for students to identify and use. Instagram can also be used to help students develop their other skills.

Instagram users post images that include bragging, complaining, or humblebragging as a politeness strategy to mitigate the effect of their presentation to create positive and boastful disclosures elements that influence a student's ability to write. The lack of vocabulary, linguistic skills, and mechanics made it difficult for the children to express themselves. Their writing was riddled with errors. They made grammatical mistakes and used incorrect word forms in their vocabulary.

Most people who are interested in simple structure instruction use Instagram as a tool in their English language learning. Instagram can be used for many different things. Before sharing their photographs or videos, students can use their writing skills to add text to the "title" section and provide feedback in a comment column.

Instagram is about more than selfies, likes/comments, and reposts, according to this article. Teachers should seize this opportunity to advance their careers. Starting to use Instagram in the classroom is an excellent idea. Instagram has the potential to be an excellent teaching tool that makes learning more interesting, engaging, and perceptible. For listening purposes, short films and pronunciation exercises with questions in the comments section were posted on a regular basis. Furthermore, the positions required students to complete various tasks (such as conducting a job interview with two classmates) using videos in order to improve their speaking and listening



skills, and students may then use Instagram to practice writing about their daily activities. The use of Instagram as a technology for uploading students' writing demonstrates how technology can help improve educational benefits. Then, because most students use social media in their activities, Instagram is one of the most effective tools or media for teaching English skills. Every student uses this website on a daily basis. Instagram is popular among students. As a result, now is an excellent time to put it to good use.

Instagram, on the other hand, has grown in popularity in recent years as one of the most popular social media sites, despite the fact that little research has been conducted to investigate its utility as a language learning platform. Instagram, on the other hand, has grown in popularity as one of the most important social media sites in recent years, despite the fact that there has been little research into its usefulness as a language learning platform. The students demonstrated their curiosity throughout the teaching and learning process. The majority of them appreciated actively participating in expressing their ideas during the teaching writing process.

By using Instagram as a tool for learning a foreign language, we can take advantage of many activities available on the platform, such as speaking, reading, writing, and listening. All of these activities show that Instagram is a useful tool for teaching languages because it has many advantages in the teaching-learning process, particularly in the English learning process. For starters, Instagram improves communication skills and provides a back door for shy students. Second, Instagram is based on the written word, making it an excellent tool for developing writing skills. The third Instagram facilitates student collaboration and peer feedback, the fourth Instagram fosters interpersonal skills, and finally, this online tool invites teachers and students to a single platform where they can participate in a variety of fun activities and engagements.

Students reported a meaningful classroom setting, pleasant learning exercises, peer-review activity, effective corrective feedback, and finally, writing ability improvement via Instagram features such as live videos, Instagram groups, and caption writing. Teachers are advised to use social media to successfully mediate online learning.

By using Instagram as a teaching medium, students can become more confident in their writing by practicing writing an Instagram caption; in this session, they try to write sentences confidently, so their vocabulary improves, and they can do peer learning by responding to each other in the comment box or giving expression in the Instagram application feature.

Conclusion

Because of its numerous intriguing features, Instagram is a popular social networking platform among teenagers. Researchers can obtain multiple accounts that can be extremely useful in learning English because many people enjoy using social media. Instagram has been discovered to be a useful tool for language learning. According to the study's findings, students believe that social media platforms, specifically Instagram in this case, could be used for educational purposes. This platform's disadvantages include a lack of privacy, restrictions on personal use, a lack of structure in learning opportunities, and the presence of grammatical and spelling errors in public messages across the Internet.

Students and teachers can save time by using Instagram English teaching pages, which provide alternatives for dealing with shortfalls in a variety of situations. They can give students the option of taking classes with native teachers, and they can also increase learners' motivation by presenting materials in a variety of ways. The data revealed that the strategies used by students to improve their English vary by student and skill level. While using Instagram to teach writing in an EFL classroom is highly recommended, there are a few issues to address and overcome. To maximize the institution's capabilities, students' interaction, students' technological knowledge, the teacher's function, and the institution's internet access must all be improved. English instruction in



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After all of the students' projects have been posted, teachers can manage classroom discussions about the topic of students' book trailers. The teacher can use Instagram to teach basic English skills such as speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

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