

**ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF LEARNING A FOREIGN
LANGUAGE IN VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT.**

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Abstract: *Digital education is an innovative incorporation of modern technology to assist the learning process. During COVID-19, its urgent need was underscored. Learning process has become more interactive and appealing due to the emergence of the ever-evolving technology, including its limitations. It has become more accessible, leading to a greater convergence of online and traditional teaching methods. Because of the advancement of the virtual environment, learning a foreign language from online and pieces training have benefits such as reduced costs, career advancement opportunities and immediate feedback. On the other hand, it also has some disadvantages of learning new language on social media. Easier procrastination, self-motivation and prolonged screen exposure causes health problems. The experts' given solution on a national and international level to overcome the flaws must be discussed and the state should formulate educational policies to overcome these potential and improve the quality of the virtual learning process.*

Keyword; *online learning, advantages, disadvantages, virtual environment*

Introduction.

It is indeed becoming increasingly common for learning a foreign language in a virtual environment has become significantly popular due to advancements in technology. Online learning is the use of diverse software to teach and instruct students and deliver content and skills out of traditional and conventional classroom teaching [1]. All the studies will be done online institutions' apps. The internet has a huge impact on distance or online education because it is the only way to build connections with people around the world. Online education or remote learning became more popular and subject to focus on when COVID-19 started and affected the globe. Since then, institutions and governments have looked forward to think about how to keep the life cycle and run business in their normay way. Not only have educational sectores started to have online education, but also all businesses have shifted from face-to-face to online or remote interaction.

Due to reaching out to students and providing an authentic study environment, educational departments in every country has started online learning or virtual environment. Even in some countries, like Turkiy, Uzbekistan and other popular countries, educational departments provide classes on Tv channels and ask students to

watch and give report. This study implemented in one of the international schools which provide information for teachers and propose possible solutions for those drawbacks.

Literatures review.

In the twenty-first century, the rapid development of technology brought an enormous amount of facility for the people around the world such as communication systems, education, business, traveling as well as learning new culture and traditions. Most important, modern technology has shifted the traditional way of learning to virtual learning environment or remote learning during the Covid-19 period. Shifting from face-to-face learning to online was of learning a new experience for people, especially for schools and university students. Shifting was easier for some progressed and well-equipped countries compared to less progressed and poorly equipped countries. To build connections, the internet plays a significant role in online or remote learning and business meetings. In addition to that, lots of apps introduced to the market due to other remote interactions. This research article focuses on the advantages and disadvantages of virtual learning environment.

1. Advantages of online learning in virtual environment.

Flexible schedule and environment

By studying online, students or other people might choose their own learning environment or convenient time to do their homework, such as a bedroom, quiet place or the café across the street. If students are using traditional methods of learning, they will need to adhere to a defined timetable of instruction based on the school's curriculum. However, other forms of remote learning let students determine their learning schedules at their convenience rather than adhering to a set course of study (Brown 2017, cited in Sadegi, 2019). Since students have little control over the scheduled class meetings in a regular classroom, they must plan their calendars around these times. The majority of people who choose online education have other responsibilities and prefer this format of learning because it gives allocate their time to their various assignments (Ghoshal, 2020).

Access to diverse resources

Virtual platforms provide a variety of tools, such as videos, interactive exercises and language games, which make learning more engaging. Apparently, most games are in a foreign language like Russian or English, so a user may get exposed to new language and expand his/her vocabulary bank. A good example, I learned many English words playing GTA vice city when I was 12 years old. Learners can connect with native speakers and professional tutors worldwide for immersive practice. I think that it is convenient and give less money to distance learning than traditional learning whereas they do not to pay for transportation, course materials, book supplies, and learning by professional teachers.

Immediate feedback

Integrating with online learning coursework, one can get immediate feedback rather than wait for days, weeks, or months. The professors will give the feedback so the students can get it quickly without any delay. By receiving sooner the feedback they can

learn faster and be motivated toward their learning process. They can adjust their time for future assignment [20].

2. Disadvantages of online learning in social media. Despite these benefits, I would argue that the potential issues of learning new language in virtual environment. Followings are some of the disadvantages of online class.

Limit real-life interaction

Virtual learning may lack the spontaneous conversations and cultural immersion that come with face-to-face interactions. If learners are reluctant to learn the topic, they cannot take feedback or exchange ideas. For instance, students in traditional education can attend seminars and discuss their topics with partners or teacher during the lesson while virtual learning are restricted to chatting through websites. Schaeffer and Konetes elucidated that students, who enrolled in an online course, dropping out of their course at a higher rate than students who were in the on-campus program. It is evident from these researches that the attrition rate is higher among online learners as compared to the students of offline courses.

Easier to procrastinate

Students tend to procrastinate even in offline classes but it comes to online classes, it becomes easier. Students will delay joining the classes, will skip class discussions, or remained incomplete assignments because there is no one to remind them about these activities. They are required to do all the activities on their own without any reminders from the instructors, as offline classes. Elvers et al. reported that the likelihood of procrastination was higher in virtual environment as students are prone to procrastinate more when they are not supposed to behave in a particular way for their learning [24].

Self-motivation and discipline

Self-directed learning requires strong motivation and discipline, which some individuals may struggle with. A lack of self-motivation and self-management skills in a student will lead to failure in completing the online course. In addition, the lack of a structured classroom environment might lead to procrastination and inconsistent study habits. As a resulting of that they may feel unmotivated and less communicate with people.

Prolonged screen exposure can lead to health problems

For online classes, a student has to spend hours in front of the screen. This prolonged exposure can lead to many physical and psychological health issues. Recent research has clearly explained that there are some health risks associated to screen time. Wong found that e-learning requires time but has some risk factors attached to an individual's health that brain development and well-being [30].

The literature revealed numerous benefits and limitation of virtual learning environment. Flexible schedule and environment, access to diverse resources, student centered learning reduced costs and increased collaboration, exchange ideas, variety of courses, professional teachers and learning styles, enhanced time management skills, and immediate feedbacks are the critical advantages of digital learning while it also has some

disadvantages as limit life interaction, easier to procrastination, self-motivation, discipline, and prolonged screen exposure cause health problems.

Conclusion

Learning a foreign language in a virtual life offers unparalleled accessibility and resources, making it an excellent option for many. Online learning or remote learning and business has been a concern of people for a long time. This study focused on the benefits and drawbacks of online learning in one of the international schools during COVID-19 pandemic. The findings of this study revealed that there were many advantages of online learning in comparison to the previous studies. For instance, flexible schedule and environment, immediate feedback had the highest percentages. However, to maximize its benefits, learners should combine it with real-world practice and maintain a consistent, disciplined approach. Balancing virtual tools with immersive experiences ensures a more holistic and effective language learning journey.

Technological development has brought huge changes in every aspect of life in the twenty-first century, especially in both the educational system and business. The previous research articles that were done about the advantages and disadvantages of online or remote education, and the one that was conducted recently, presented many pros and cons. I recommend others conduct research on this topic after the Covid-19 pandemic and ask lots of participants to participate and share their experiences. This one will fill in the gaps and reveal those pros and cons that were not expressed in the previous research articles.

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