

Helping teachers and students in the integration of ICT in their pedagogical practices in Albania

Anila Aliaj (Karanxha)*

PHD candidate, University of Tirana, Faculty of Foreign Languages.

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Abstract: The integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in education is essential for improving teaching and learning processes in the digital era. In Albania, although efforts have been made to integrate ICT into schools, significant challenges remain, such as limited access to resources, insufficient teacher training, and a low level of student engagement. This presentation aims to address the low level of student involvement by proposing practical models for a pilot school, with the goal of supporting teachers and students in the effective integration of ICT into pedagogical practice. The models will focus on embedding digital tools into lesson plans, making teaching more engaging, interactive, and student-centered. Concrete strategies include the use of multimedia resources, online quizzes, and collaborative platforms to enrich language-learning activities and those of other subjects.

In this paper, the most recommended digital tools have been identified and selected to support the development of the four main language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking). In addition, the models encourage a culture of active participation by involving students in content creation, such as writing blog posts, producing podcasts and videos, or developing collaborative projects through digital platforms. To support teachers, the presentation details the steps teachers can follow to access and use each identified platform for each language skill. Practicing with these platforms also contributes to teachers' professional development by strengthening their digital competencies.

This presentation is a pilot initiative that is expected to provide valuable insights into how educational technologies can be integrated into teaching and later expanded across the Albanian education system, accompanied by recommendations for policy improvements that support sustainable ICT integration.

Keywords: *ICT integration, teacher training, student engagement, digital tools, pedagogical practices.*

Introduction

In today's digital era, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has transformed education by providing tools that make learning more interactive and better tailored to individual needs. ICT enables personalized learning, allowing students to progress at their own pace while using a wide range of resources such as videos, simulations, and interactive quizzes that suit different learning styles. It has also narrowed the gap in access to information, enabling students and teachers—even in the most remote areas—to access high-quality educational materials and connect with experts around the world.

In addition, ICT promotes collaborative learning by connecting students beyond geographical boundaries, encouraging teamwork and cultural exchange through platforms such as virtual classrooms and collaborative projects. The increased use of digital tools has also changed the role of teachers, empowering them to act as facilitators who guide students in critically and creatively navigating information, rather than simply transmitting content. This shift is fundamental to preparing students with digital literacy and problem-solving skills needed in a rapidly evolving world.

In summary, the integration of ICT in education equips students with essential 21st-century skills, promotes lifelong learning, and creates more inclusive and motivating educational experiences.

Method

This paper is part of a bigger study which will be completed during the doctoral studies. The aim of this topic, helping teachers to integrate ICT into teaching English is to collect useful and practical information and share it with teachers and students. For this reason this paper is based on literature review where a selection of the most useful digital tools in teaching English is put together as well as a sample lesson plan for integrating digital tools.

Findings

The findings from the literature review are presented below and comprise a sample lesson plan, a selection of the main digital tools for incorporating in English classes.

Practical models to support teachers and students in integrating ICT effectively into pedagogical practices.

1- Sample lesson plan

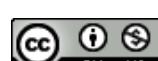
This is a type of lesson plan that aims to put digital tools into the teaching of English language to make learning more fun, hands-on, and focused on students. This lesson plan is made for high school English class and mixes different digital tools to boost words, understanding, and team skills. It shows how digital tools can be added into English language teaching to make a lively and hands-

*Corresponding Author

Anila Aliaj (Karanxha)*

PHD candidate, University of Tirana, Faculty of Foreign Languages.

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Digital Tools: Kahoot!, Mentimeter.

Activity:

Use Kahoot! to create an interactive quiz with multiple-choice and true/false questions about the video. For example:

"What is the main cause of deforestation?"

"True or False: Plastic waste can take hundreds of years to decompose."

Students participate in the quiz using their devices. The competitive nature of Kahoot! keeps students engaged and allows for instant feedback.

For more open-ended questions, use Mentimeter to let students share their thoughts on how these environmental issues might relate to their community. For example:

"What are some ways we can reduce plastic waste in our daily lives?"

Display the responses in real-time and facilitate a brief class discussion based on the answers.

This approach to the lesson keeps the students engaged, enhances their interest, competition between them and it contributes greatly to linking abstract concepts with visuals which ensures retention of new knowledge.

Step 3: Collaborative Project on Environmental Solutions (20 minutes)

Objective: Encourage teamwork and creativity by having students collaborate on a digital project proposing solutions to an environmental issue.

Digital Tools: Google Docs, Canva.

Activity:

Divide students into small groups (3–4 students per group) and assign each group a specific environmental issue (e.g., reducing plastic waste, conserving water, promoting renewable energy).

Each group collaboratively drafts a short action plan on Google Docs, outlining practical steps to address their assigned issue. For example:

"How can we reduce plastic waste in our school?"

"What are some ways to promote renewable energy in our community?"

Once the action plan is complete, students use Canva to create a visual poster summarizing their ideas. The poster should include:

- A catchy title
- Key points from their action plan
- Relevant images or icons
- Each group presents their poster to the class, explaining their proposed solutions.

Group work and engagement in projects is a good way to ensure team spirit, spot talent and practice.

Step 4: Reflection and Feedback (10 minutes)

Objective: Allow students to reflect on what they learned and provide feedback on the lesson.

Digital Tools: Padlet.

Activity:

Create a Padlet board titled "What I Learned Today."

Ask students to post one thing they learned from the lesson and one question they still have about environmental issues.

Review the Padlet board as a class, addressing any remaining questions and summarizing the key takeaways from the lesson.

Extension Activities (Optional):

Blog Post: Ask students to write a blog post on a platform like Blogger or WordPress, discussing the environmental issue they worked on and proposing solutions.

Podcast: Have students create a short podcast episode using Flip (formerly Flipgrid) or Anchor, where they discuss the importance of addressing environmental issues.

Virtual Field Trip: Organize a virtual field trip using Google Earth or National Geographic to explore areas affected by environmental issues, such as the Amazon rainforest or the Great Barrier Reef.

Digital Tools Used in This Lesson:

- Google Slides/PowerPoint: For introducing vocabulary and presenting visuals.
- YouTube: For providing context through video content.
- Quizlet: For vocabulary practice and reinforcement.
- Kahoot!: For interactive quizzes and instant feedback.
- Mentimeter: For real-time polling and class discussions.
- Google Docs: For collaborative writing and action planning.
- Canva: For creating visual posters.
- Padlet: For reflection and feedback.

Outcomes:

Students will have a deeper understanding of environmental issues and related vocabulary.

They will develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills by proposing solutions to real-world problems.

The use of digital tools will make the lesson more engaging, interactive, and student-centered, fostering creativity and collaboration.

2. Models and approaches for integrating technology into teaching

There are several models and approaches which can be used to enhance teaching, below are some proposed ones which have been described in several researches.

1. SAMR Model (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, Redefinition)

This model helps teachers understand the levels of technology integration:

- **Substitution:** Technology replaces a traditional tool (e.g., using a Word document instead of a notebook).

- **Augmentation:** Technology adds new functionalities (e.g., using a Google Doc for online collaboration).
- **Modification:** Technology transforms teaching (e.g., creating multimedia projects that combine text, video, and audio).
- **Redefinition:** Technology enables new activities that were previously impossible (e.g., students creating blogs or podcasts).

2. TPACK Framework (Technological, Pedagogical, and Content Knowledge)

TPACK combines three key components:

- **Content Knowledge (CK):** Knowledge of the subject being taught.
- **Pedagogical Knowledge (PK):** Teaching strategies and methods.
- **Technological Knowledge (TK):** Using technology to enhance teaching. Teachers can plan lessons by integrating these three components harmoniously.

3. Flipped Classroom

In this model, students learn the basic content independently (e.g., through video lectures or online materials), and class time is used for practical activities, such as discussions, projects, and problem-solving.

4. Blended Learning

This approach combines traditional teaching with the use of technology. For example:

- Some sessions are held in the classroom, while others are online.
- Using platforms like Google Classroom or Moodle to share materials and assess student work.

5. Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

This approach helps create lesson plans that are suitable for students with diverse needs:

- Using multimedia tools (video, audio, interactive text) to engage different learning styles.
- Personalized activities for students with different learning paces.

6. Project-Based Learning

In this model, technology is used to help students create projects related to learning objectives. For example:

- Creating multimedia presentations.
- Conducting online research.
- Using software for simulations or project design.

7. Digital Storytelling

- Students create personal stories or projects on specific topics using video, audio, and images.
- Teachers can use applications like iMovie, Adobe Spark, or Canva.

8. Gamification

- Introducing game elements into teaching to increase motivation.
- Using platforms like Kahoot, Quizizz, or Classcraft to create quizzes and interactive activities.

9. Hybrid Learning Environment

A combination of synchronous and asynchronous technologies, where students participate in online and in-class activities, using platforms for communication and collaboration.

10. Collaborative Learning Tools

Using applications and platforms that facilitate collaboration among students:

- Google Workspace (Docs, Slides, Jamboard) for group projects.
- Trello or Asana for managing student projects.

3. Digital Tools for Language Learning and Beyond

There are several effective ICT tools specifically tailored for English language teaching, categorized by their primary uses: These tools not only enhance teaching and learning in English language classes but also promote active engagement, collaboration, and personalized learning experiences for students. Each digital tool can be used to teach different skills such as reading, writing, speaking and listening. By integrating these ICT tools into lessons, teachers can foster a more dynamic and effective language learning environment.

1. Reading and Comprehension

Reading and comprehension are fundamental skills that form the basis of all learning. In the digital age, the integration of digital tools into teaching these skills has become increasingly important. Digital tools such as interactive eBooks, online quizzes, and multimedia resources offer innovative ways to engage students, personalize learning, and enhance comprehension. By leveraging these tools, educators can create more dynamic and effective learning experiences that cater to diverse student needs and prepare them for the demands of the 21st century.

• Proposed digital Tools:

Raz-Kids is an interactive platform offering leveled eBooks and quizzes for guided reading practice. It offers a vast library of leveled eBooks and quizzes that cater to students at different reading levels, from kindergarten to grade 5. The platform includes features such as read-aloud options, comprehension quizzes, and progress tracking.

How Teachers Can Access Raz-Kids:

- Teachers can sign up for a Raz-Kids account by visiting the official website: www.raz-kids.com.
- Schools or districts may purchase subscriptions, so teachers should check with their administration to see if a license is already available.

- After creating an account, teachers can set up a class by adding students' names and assigning them to appropriate reading levels.

- Raz-Kids provides a placement tool to help determine each student's reading level.

Newsela is a digital platform that provides news articles and nonfiction texts at various reading levels. It allows students to engage with current events while improving their reading skills. Each article is adapted to multiple Lexile levels, making it accessible to students with different reading abilities.

How Teachers Can Access Newsela:

- Teachers can sign up for a Newsela account by visiting www.newsela.com.
- Newsela offers both free and premium subscriptions. The free version provides access to a limited number of articles, while the premium version offers additional features such as advanced analytics and customized assignments.
- After creating an account, teachers can set up a class and add students. Newsela integrates with Google Classroom, making it easy to import student rosters.

ReadTheory is an online reading comprehension program that adapts to students' individual reading levels. It offers a wide range of reading passages and quizzes that adjust in difficulty based on students' performance. The platform is designed to help students improve their reading comprehension skills through personalized practice.

How Teachers Can Access ReadTheory:

- Teachers can create a free account by visiting www.readtheory.org.
- ReadTheory is free for teachers and students, making it an accessible option for schools with limited budgets.
- After creating an account, teachers can set up a class and add students. ReadTheory provides a unique login for each student, which they can use to access the platform.
- When students first log in, they take a placement test to determine their starting reading level. The platform then adjusts the difficulty of the passages and quizzes based on their performance.

2. Writing and Composition

Proposed Tools:

Grammarly is an AI-powered writing assistant that helps students improve their writing by checking grammar, punctuation, spelling, and style. It provides real-time suggestions for improvement, making it an excellent tool for students to refine their writing skills.

How Teachers Can Access Grammarly:

- Teachers and students can sign up for a free Grammarly account by visiting www.grammarly.com.
- Grammarly offers a free version with basic grammar and spelling checks, as well as a premium version with advanced features such as style and tone suggestions.
- Grammarly can be used as a browser extension (compatible with Chrome, Firefox, and Edge) or as a

desktop app. Teachers and students should install the extension to use Grammarly across various platforms, including Google Docs, email, and social media.

- Teachers can encourage students to use Grammarly when drafting essays, reports, or other written assignments. Grammarly's real-time feedback helps students identify and correct errors as they write.
- For example, students can use Grammarly to check their essays for grammar mistakes, awkward phrasing, or unclear sentences before submitting them.

Google Docs is a cloud-based word processing tool that allows students to create, edit, and share documents in real-time. It is particularly useful for collaborative writing projects and peer feedback.

How Teachers Can Access Google Docs:

- Teachers and students need a Google account to use Google Docs. If your school uses Google Workspace for Education, accounts may already be set up for students and teachers.
- Teachers can create a shared folder in Google Drive for each class. This folder can be used to store and organize students' writing assignments.
- Google Docs allows multiple students to work on the same document simultaneously. Teachers can assign group projects where students collaborate on essays, research papers, or creative writing pieces.
- For example, students can work together to write a group essay on a historical event, with each student contributing a different section.

Penzu is an online journaling tool that allows students to write and reflect on their thoughts in a private or shared digital journal. It is designed to encourage regular writing practice and self-reflection, helping students develop writing fluency.

How Teachers Can Access Penzu:

Teachers and students can sign up for a free Penzu account by visiting www.penzu.com.

Penzu offers a free version with basic features, as well as a premium version with additional customization options.

Teachers can create a shared journal for the class or ask students to create individual journals. Penzu allows users to customize the appearance of their journals, making the writing experience more personal and engaging.

For example, students can write daily reflections on what they learned in class or respond to prompts provided by the teacher.

3. Speaking and Listening

• Tools:

Flip (formerly Flipgrid) Digital tools can greatly enhance the teaching of speaking and listening skills by providing students with opportunities to practice, share, and receive feedback in engaging and interactive ways. Below is a detailed explanation of how teachers can access and use three popular tools for speaking and listening: **Flip (formerly Flipgrid)**, **Vocaroo**, and **Voicethread**.

1. Flip (formerly Flipgrid): Video Responses for Speaking Practice

Flip is a video discussion platform that allows students to record and share short video responses to prompts or questions. It fosters speaking practice and peer interaction, making it an excellent tool for developing oral communication skills.

How Teachers Can Access Flip:

- Teachers can sign up for a free Flip account by visiting www.flip.com.
- Flip is free for educators and integrates with platforms like Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams.
- After signing up, teachers can create a "Grid," which is a virtual space for their class. Each Grid can have multiple topics or prompts for students to respond to.
- Teachers can create video prompts for students to respond to. For example, a teacher might ask students to introduce themselves, discuss a topic, or explain a concept in their own words.
- Students record their responses using Flip's video recording feature, which can be accessed via a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Vocaroo is a straightforward online voice recording tool that allows students to record their voices and share the recordings via a link. It is ideal for quick speaking practice and receiving feedback.

How Teachers Can Access Vocaroo:

- Vocaroo is a web-based tool that does not require an account. Teachers and students can access it by visiting www.vocaroo.com.
- Users can start recording their voice directly on the website by clicking the "Record" button. Once the recording is complete, Vocaroo generates a shareable link that can be sent to teachers or peers.
- Teachers can assign speaking tasks where students record themselves reading a passage, answering a question, or practicing a dialogue. For example, students might record themselves reading a poem or explaining a concept in their own words.
- Vocaroo is particularly useful for quick, low-stakes speaking activities that can be completed in a short amount of time.

Voicethread is a multimedia tool that allows students to create and share presentations with audio, video, and text commentary. It encourages spoken language use in context and is ideal for collaborative projects and presentations.

How Teachers Can Access Voicethread:

- Teachers can sign up for a Voicethread account by visiting www.voicethread.com.
- Voicethread offers both free and premium versions. The free version allows for limited use, while the premium version offers additional features such as unlimited creation and sharing.

- After signing up, teachers can create a Voicethread by uploading slides, images, or videos. Students can then add audio, video, or text comments to the presentation.
- Teachers can use Voicethread to create interactive presentations where students add audio or video comments. For example, a teacher might upload a set of slides about a historical event and ask students to record their thoughts or questions about each slide.
- This approach encourages students to engage with the material and practice speaking in a meaningful context.

4. Vocabulary Development

- **Proposed Tools:**

Quizlet Quizlet is a digital flashcard app that allows students to learn and practice vocabulary through flashcards, games, and quizzes. It offers a variety of study modes, including matching games, multiple-choice quizzes, and timed challenges, making vocabulary practice more engaging and effective.

How Teachers Can Access Quizlet:

- Teachers can sign up for a free Quizlet account by visiting www.quizlet.com.
- Quizlet offers both free and premium versions. The free version provides access to basic features, while the premium version offers additional tools such as advanced analytics and custom images.
- After signing up, teachers can create a study set by entering vocabulary words and their definitions. Quizlet also allows teachers to import word lists from other sources or use pre-made sets created by other educators.
- Teachers can assign specific study sets to students based on their vocabulary levels. For example, a teacher might create a set of flashcards for a unit on environmental science, including terms like "sustainability," "biodiversity," and "ecosystem."
- Students can use Quizlet's various study modes (e.g., flashcards, matching games, and quizzes) to practice the words at their own pace.
- Quizlet's game-based learning features, such as "Match" and "Gravity," make vocabulary practice more engaging. For example, in the "Match" game, students race against the clock to match words with their definitions.

Vocabulary.com is an online platform that offers vocabulary lists and practice quizzes tailored to students' proficiency levels. It provides contextual usage examples, making it easier for students to understand how words are used in real-world situations.

How Teachers Can Access Vocabulary.com:

- Teachers can sign up for a free Vocabulary.com account by visiting www.vocabulary.com.
- Vocabulary.com offers both free and premium versions. The premium version provides additional features such as advanced analytics and custom word lists.
- Teachers can create custom vocabulary lists by entering words and definitions or by importing lists from other sources. Vocabulary.com also offers pre-made lists based

on popular books, standardized tests, and academic subjects.

- Vocabulary.com provides contextual examples for each word, helping students understand how the word is used in different contexts. For example, the word "ambiguous" might be shown in sentences from literature, news articles, and everyday conversations.
- Teachers can assign vocabulary lists that align with the curriculum, such as words from a novel or subject-specific terms.

Wordwall is a tool that allows teachers to create interactive games and quizzes for vocabulary review. It offers a variety of templates, including matching games, word searches, and multiple-choice quizzes, making vocabulary practice more engaging and interactive.

How Teachers Can Access Wordwall:

- Teachers can sign up for a free Wordwall account by visiting www.wordwall.net.
- Wordwall offers both free and premium versions. The free version allows teachers to create a limited number of activities, while the premium version offers unlimited creation and additional features.
- After signing up, teachers can create an activity by selecting a template and entering vocabulary words and definitions. Wordwall offers a variety of templates, including "Match Up," "Word Search," and "Quiz."
- Teachers can create interactive games to review vocabulary. For example, a "Match Up" game might require students to match words with their definitions, while a "Word Search" game helps students recognize and spell vocabulary words.
- These games can be used in the classroom as a fun way to review vocabulary or as homework assignments.
- Wordwall allows teachers to customize activities to suit their students' needs. For example, a teacher might create a multiple-choice quiz with questions about synonyms, antonyms, and word usage.
- Teachers can also adjust the difficulty level of the activities to match students' proficiency levels.

5. Grammar Practice

- **Proposed Tools:**

Kahoot! is an interactive quiz platform that allows teachers to create fun, competitive quizzes on various topics, including grammar. Students can participate in real-time quizzes using their devices, making grammar practice more engaging and interactive.

How Teachers Can Access Kahoot!:

- Teachers can sign up for a free Kahoot! account by visiting www.kahoot.com.
- Kahoot! offers both free and premium versions. The free version allows teachers to create and host quizzes, while the premium version offers additional features such as advanced analytics and team modes.

- After signing up, teachers can create a grammar quiz by selecting the "Quiz" option and entering questions and answers. Kahoot! allows teachers to add images and videos to make the quiz more engaging.
- For example, a teacher might create a quiz on subject-verb agreement, with questions like "Choose the correct verb: The dog (bark/barks) at the mailman."
- Teachers can use Kahoot! to create interactive grammar quizzes that students can complete individually or in teams. For example, a quiz on parts of speech might include questions like "Identify the noun in the following sentence: The cat sat on the mat."
- Kahoot! provides instant feedback on students' answers, allowing them to see their results immediately after each question. This immediate feedback helps students identify areas where they need improvement.
- Kahoot! can be used to create classroom competitions where students earn points for correct answers. Teachers can award prizes or recognition to the top scorers, making grammar practice more fun and motivating.
- Teachers can assign Kahoot! quizzes as homework, allowing students to practice grammar skills at home. Students can complete the quizzes on their own devices and review their results afterward.

NoRedInk is a personalized writing and grammar practice platform that adapts to students' interests. It offers engaging exercises that help students improve their grammar skills through practice and feedback.

How Teachers Can Access NoRedInk:

- Teachers can sign up for a free NoRedInk account by visiting www.noredink.com.
- NoRedInk offers both free and premium versions. The free version provides access to basic grammar exercises, while the premium version offers additional features such as advanced analytics and custom assignments.
- After signing up, teachers can set up a class by adding students' names and assigning them to appropriate grade levels. NoRedInk allows teachers to import student rosters from Google Classroom or other platforms.
- NoRedInk adapts to students' interests by incorporating their favorite topics into grammar exercises. For example, if a student is interested in sports, they might see sentences about basketball or soccer in their practice exercises.
- Teachers can assign specific grammar topics, such as punctuation, sentence structure, or verb tenses, based on students' needs.
- NoRedInk offers a variety of engaging exercises, including drag-and-drop activities, multiple-choice questions, and sentence correction tasks. These exercises make grammar practice more interactive and enjoyable.
- NoRedInk provides detailed analytics on students' progress, including which grammar skills they have mastered and which ones they need to work on. Teachers can use this data to provide targeted feedback and support.

EnglishGrammar.org EnglishGrammar.org is an online resource that provides grammar explanations and exercises on various topics. It is a valuable tool for students who want to practice grammar independently.

How Teachers Can Access EnglishGrammar.org:

- EnglishGrammar.org is a free resource that does not require an account. Teachers and students can access it by visiting www.englishgrammar.org.
- The website offers a wide range of grammar topics, including parts of speech, sentence structure, and punctuation. Each topic includes explanations and practice exercises.
- Teachers can direct students to EnglishGrammar.org for independent grammar practice. For example, a student who needs help with verb tenses can visit the website and complete exercises on that topic.
- The website's clear explanations and examples make it easy for students to understand and practice grammar concepts on their own.
- EnglishGrammar.org can be used as a supplementary resource to reinforce what is taught in class. For example, after a lesson on prepositions, a teacher might assign students to complete the preposition exercises on the website.
- Teachers can assign specific exercises from EnglishGrammar.org as homework. For example, a teacher might ask students to complete the exercises on subject-verb agreement and bring their answers to class for discussion

6. Literature and Analysis

• Proposed Tools:

Goodreads is a social platform for book lovers that allows users to discover, discuss, and track their reading progress. It is an excellent tool for fostering a love of reading and encouraging students to engage with literature.

How Teachers Can Access Goodreads:

- Teachers and students can sign up for a free Goodreads account by visiting www.goodreads.com.
- Goodreads is free to use, and no premium version is required for basic features.
- Teachers can create a private group for their class where students can share book recommendations, discuss readings, and participate in reading challenges.
- Teachers can set up reading challenges for their students, encouraging them to read a certain number of books or explore specific genres. For example, a teacher might challenge students to read five books from different genres (e.g., mystery, science fiction, historical fiction) over the course of a semester.
- Students can track their progress on Goodreads and share their achievements with the class.
- Goodreads allows students to participate in book discussions by posting reviews, ratings, and comments. Teachers can create discussion threads for specific books

or chapters, encouraging students to share their thoughts and insights.

- Goodreads offers personalized book recommendations based on users' reading history and preferences. Teachers can encourage students to explore new books and genres, expanding their literary horizons.

Storybird is an interactive storytelling platform that allows students to create illustrated stories using a library of professional artwork. It fosters creativity and helps students engage with narrative structures while developing their writing skills.

How Teachers Can Access Storybird:

- Teachers can sign up for a free Storybird account by visiting www.storybird.com.
- Storybird offers both free and premium versions. The free version allows teachers to create and share stories, while the premium version offers additional features such as advanced analytics and classroom management tools.
- Teachers can assign creative writing projects where students use Storybird to create illustrated stories. For example, students might write a short story based on a theme, such as "friendship" or "adventure," and illustrate it using Storybird's artwork.
- Storybird can be used to teach students about narrative structures, such as plot, character development, and setting. For example, students might create a story with a clear beginning, middle, and end, and then analyze how the artwork enhances the narrative.
- Storybird allows students to collaborate on stories, either by working together in pairs or as a class. For example, one student might write the text, while another selects the artwork, fostering teamwork and creativity.
- **Kahoot!**: While primarily a quiz tool, it can be used to host literature trivia games that promote discussion and analysis of texts.
- Teachers can use Kahoot! to create literature trivia games that test students' knowledge of specific texts or literary concepts. For example, a quiz on *The Great Gatsby* might include questions about the characters, themes, and symbolism.
- The competitive nature of Kahoot! motivates students to participate and reinforces their understanding of the text.
- Kahoot! quizzes can be used as discussion prompts to encourage deeper analysis of literary texts. For example, after a quiz on *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the teacher might lead a discussion on the themes of justice and morality based on the quiz questions.
- Kahoot! can be used to review key concepts and assess students' understanding of a text. For example, after finishing a novel, a teacher might host a Kahoot! quiz to review the plot, characters, and themes.

7. Collaborative Learning

Collaborative learning is a powerful approach that encourages students to work together, share ideas, and learn from one another. Digital tools can facilitate this process by providing platforms for real-time collaboration, communication, and project management.

Below is a detailed explanation of how teachers can access and use three popular tools for collaborative learning: Padlet, Microsoft Teams, and Google Slides.

Padlet

Padlet is a digital bulletin board that allows students to collaborate on projects, share ideas, and provide feedback on each other's work in real-time. It is a versatile tool that can be used for brainstorming, group discussions, and project presentations.

How Teachers Can Access Padlet:

- Padlet offers both free and premium versions. The free version allows teachers to create up to three Padlet boards, while the premium version offers unlimited boards and additional features.
- After signing up, teachers can create a Padlet board by selecting a template (e.g., wall, grid, timeline) and customizing it with a title, description, and background.
- Teachers can use Padlet to facilitate brainstorming sessions where students share ideas on a specific topic. For example, before starting a group project on climate change, students can post their ideas on a Padlet board, creating a visual map of their thoughts.
- This collaborative approach encourages students to build on each other's ideas and think creatively.
- Padlet can be used for group discussions where students post their responses to a question or prompt. For example, after reading a novel, students might post their thoughts on the theme of the story and respond to each other's comments.

Microsoft Teams is a collaboration platform that allows for the sharing of documents, communication, and project management. It is particularly useful for supporting group work in English projects, as it integrates with other Microsoft Office tools like Word, PowerPoint, and OneNote.

How Teachers Can Access Microsoft Teams:

- Teachers and students can access Microsoft Teams through their school's Microsoft 365 account. If your school does not have a Microsoft 365 subscription, you can sign up for a free version by visiting www.microsoft.com/teams
- After signing up, teachers can create a "Team" for their class, which serves as a central hub for collaboration. Students can be added to the Team, where they can access shared files, participate in discussions, and collaborate on projects.
- Microsoft Teams is ideal for managing group projects. Teachers can create channels within the Team for each group, where students can share documents, communicate, and track their progress.
- Microsoft Teams integrates with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, allowing students to collaborate on documents in real-time. For example, a group of students might work together on a PowerPoint presentation, with each student contributing a slide.
- Microsoft Teams includes a video conferencing feature that allows teachers to host virtual meetings with their

students. This is particularly useful for group discussions, project check-ins, or virtual office hours.

Google Slides is a cloud-based presentation tool that allows students to collaboratively create slideshows. It is particularly useful for group presentations, as it enables students to work together in real-time and provide peer feedback.

How Teachers Can Access Google Slides:

- Teachers and students need a Google account to use Google Slides. If your school uses Google Workspace for Education, accounts may already be set up for students and teachers.
- After signing up, teachers can create a shared presentation and invite students to collaborate. Google Slides allows multiple users to work on the same presentation simultaneously.
- Google Slides is ideal for group presentations, where students can work together to create a slideshow. For example, a group of students might create a presentation on a historical event, with each student responsible for a different section.
- This collaborative approach ensures that all group members contribute to the project and learn from each other.

8. Assessments and Feedback

Formative is an interactive assessment platform that allows teachers to create real-time quizzes, polls, and interactive exercises. It enables continuous assessment and allows educators to adjust their teaching based on student responses.

How Teachers Can Use It:

- Teachers can see students' responses in real-time and provide immediate feedback.
- Teachers can create open-ended questions, multiple-choice quizzes, and drawing-based responses.
- The platform provides analytics to track student progress and identify areas needing improvement.
- Formative allows for group-based activities and peer review, enhancing student engagement.

2. Socrative is a student response system that allows teachers to create quizzes, polls, and exit tickets. It provides instant feedback and insights into student understanding, making it a useful tool for formative assessment.

How Teachers Can Use It:

- Teachers can conduct real-time quizzes to assess students' grasp of the lesson.
- Before students leave class, teachers can ask a few questions to check their understanding of the topic.
- The "Space Race" feature allows students to compete in teams while answering questions, making learning more engaging.
- Teachers can encourage honest feedback by allowing students to submit responses anonymously.

3. Edmodo is a learning management system (LMS) that includes tools for assignments, assessments, and feedback. It is designed to create a collaborative digital classroom where teachers can manage coursework and interact with students.

How Teachers Can Use It:

- Teachers can post assignments and quizzes, track submissions, and grade student work online.
- Students can engage in discussions, ask questions, and receive peer feedback.
- Edmodo allows teachers to share student progress with parents, keeping them informed. Teachers can upload materials, videos, and links to support student learning.
- An interactive assessment platform that allows teachers to create quizzes and polls to gauge student understanding and adjust instruction accordingly.

Conclusion

The integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) into education is no longer a luxury but a necessity in the digital age. This research has emphasized the critical role of ICT in transforming teaching and learning processes, particularly in addressing challenges such as limited resources, insufficient teacher training, and low student engagement. By embedding digital tools into pedagogical practices, teachers can create more engaging, interactive, and student-centered learning environments that cater to diverse learning needs and prepare students for the demands of the 21st century.

The integration of ICT into education is a transformative process that requires careful planning, teacher training, and ongoing support. Without a proper lesson plan, the efficiency of digital tools can be lost. By utilizing digital tools, teachers can create more inclusive, engaging, and effective learning experiences that prepare students for the challenges of the digital age. The sample lesson plan and proposed tools presented in this research provide a practical framework for integrating ICT into the classroom, with the ultimate goal of improving educational outcomes and fostering a lifelong love of learning among students. Allowing students to use technology in the class makes them more interested in the lessons and goes hand in hand with their interests and technological developments.

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