# The role of e-learning on strengthening the english language learning process

## El rol del aprendizaje en línea en el fortalecimiento del proceso de aprendizaje del idioma inglés

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## ABSTRACT

The study titled The Role of E-Learning on Strengthening the English Language Learning Process aimed to analyze the impact of e-learning tools, specifically the Learn English application, on the English learning process of fourth-level students from Pedagogía de los Idiomas Nacionales y Extranjeros program from Universidad Estatal del Sur de Manabí. Using a quantitative approach, a survey was administered to students to evaluate the effectiveness of the application in developing language skills such as listening comprehension, pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary. The results showed that 85% of the students considered the application to have improved their language skills, highlighting the usefulness of tools such as virtual teachers, listening exercises, and gamified activities. Additionally, 80% of the teachers emphasized that the application increased students' confidence in speaking English. However, areas for improvement were identified, such as the need to optimize listening comprehension and offer more activities focused on oral production. A relevant conclusion is that digital platforms, such as Learn English, are effective tools for complementing traditional teaching, promoting autonomous and motivating learning. Nevertheless, their educational impact depends on continuous improvements in the personalization and adaptability of content.

**Keywords:** Autonomy, E-learning, Digital tools, English learning, Motivation.

## RESUMEN

El estudio titulado El papel del aprendizaje en línea en el fortalecimiento del proceso de aprendizaje del idioma inglés tuvo como objetivo analizar el impacto de las herramientas de aprendizaje en línea, específicamente la aplicación Learn English, en el proceso de aprendizaje del inglés de los estudiantes de cuarto nivel del programa de Pedagogía de los Idiomas Nacionales y Extranjeros de la Universidad Estatal del Sur de Manabí. Utilizando un enfoque cuantitativo y un diseño descriptivo, se aplicaron encuestas a los estudiantes para evaluar la efectividad de la aplicación en el desarrollo de habilidades lingüísticas como la comprensión auditiva, la pronunciación, la fluidez y el vocabulario. Los resultados mostraron que el 85% de los estudiantes consideró que la aplicación mejoró sus habilidades lingüísticas, destacando la utilidad de herramientas como los profesores virtuales, los ejercicios de escucha y las actividades gamificadas. Además, el 80% de los docentes enfatizó que la aplicación aumentó la confianza de los estudiantes al hablar en inglés. Sin embargo, se identificaron áreas de mejora, como la necesidad de optimizar la comprensión auditiva y ofrecer más actividades centradas en la producción oral. Una conclusión relevante es que las plataformas digitales, como Learn English, son herramientas efectivas para complementar la enseñanza tradicional, promoviendo un aprendizaje autónomo y motivador. No obstante, su impacto educativo depende de mejoras continuas en la personalización y adaptabilidad del contenido.

**Palabras clave:** Autonomía, E-learning, Herramientas digitales, Aprendizaje del inglés; Motivación.

## Introduction

The incorporation of technology into education is no longer optional; it has become part of how students and teachers interact with knowledge. In language learning, especially English, digital platforms have opened new possibilities that were difficult to achieve through traditional methods alone. Several studies indicate that e-learning tools allow students to practice more frequently, access personalized materials, and receive immediate feedback, which strengthens skills such as listening, pronunciation, and fluency (Zakarneh, 2018).

Despite these global advances, English proficiency in Ecuador remains a persistent challenge. International reports, such as the EF English Proficiency Index, continue to place the country in lower-ranking categories, which highlights the need for innovative approaches in higher education (De Angelis, 2022). For many institutions, integrating e-learning resources has become an alternative to compensate for limited classroom exposure and to create spaces where students can practice the language in a more autonomous way.

At the Universidad Estatal del Sur de Manabí (UNESUM), the Pedagogía de los Idiomas Nacionales y Extranjeros program has adopted several initiatives that seek to improve students' communicative competence through technology. Recent studies carried out in Ecuadorian universities suggest that well-designed online platforms can help students strengthen vocabulary, develop listening comprehension, and engage more actively with the language (Santos, 2024). However, there is still little research on locally developed tools and their specific effects on students' performance.

This study addresses that gap by analyzing the impact of the Learn English App, a digital platform designed by students from the ICT Engineering program in collaboration with the Languages program at UNESUM. The app was created to complement classroom instruction and provide additional opportunities for practice. The research focuses on how the tool influences fourth-semester students' language skills, their motivation to learn, and their ability to work independently.

## Theoretical framework

### Definition of E-learning

E-Learning is an application specifically designed for students pursuing a degree in National and Foreign Language Pedagogy at the University. Its purpose is to facilitate the learning of a new language, particularly English, through interactive digital resources. This tool is presented as a comprehensive digital education system aimed at providing a flexible, accessible, and personalized learning experience, tailored to the individual needs of students. According to Anderson (2020), "E-learning has become a fundamental tool for developing language skills due to its accessibility, flexibility, and ability to provide student-centered learning. Applications that incorporate advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence and automatic translators, not only enhance content comprehension but also enable students to learn at their own pace and practice interactively, fostering deeper and more autonomous learning." The app is aimed at providing a comprehensive educational environment for autonomous language learning, offering interactive materials that promote the active practice of language skills. The application is designed to be used both in the classroom and independently, allowing students to access educational content anytime and anywhere. To make the learning process more dynamic and engaging, E-Learning incorporates games and interactive activities such as word completion, sentence formation, and adding terms to a personalized vocabulary, reinforcing grammar, vocabulary, and language comprehension in a fun and motivating way. Moreover, the platform adapts to each student's level, allowing them to progress at their own pace through exercises and games selec-

ted based on their previous performance, ensuring the right level of challenge without causing frustration. In this way, E-Learning stands out as a comprehensive tool that combines technology, personalization, and entertainment to optimize English learning effectively and accessibly (Chiquito, 2024).

The advantages of learning languages through online platforms have made digital education an increasingly popular alternative. According, online language learning offers unparalleled convenience, as it requires only a device and an internet connection, eliminating many obstacles associated with traditional learning methods. One of the most evident benefits is the significant amount of time saved, as students who would otherwise need to commute to language schools can instead dedicate that time directly to studying. Additionally, flexibility is a key advantage of online learning, as it allows students to adapt their study schedules to their personal and professional commitments. While flexibility could be considered part of convenience, it deserves its own recognition due to the autonomy it provides learners in managing their time. Another essential benefit is personalization; as online learning can be customized to varying degrees depending on the chosen platform. While private in-person tutoring may offer a high level of personalization, certain online applications also provide adaptive learning paths that cater to individual student needs.

## Advantages or Digital Learning

Acording to Lesson Mag (2024), the rise of e-learning has brought about numerous advantages, transforming how education is perceived and delivered.

One of the most significant advantages of e-learning is its accessibility. Students from all corners of the world can access high-quality education without geographical constraints. This democratization of education has opened doors for individuals who may not have had the opportunity to

pursue traditional education due to various barriers, such as location, financial limitations, or time constraints.

E-learning also offers unparalleled flexibility. Learners can access course materials at their own pace and on their own schedule. This is particularly beneficial for working professionals, parents, or anyone balancing multiple responsibilities. The ability to learn anytime and anywhere makes e-learning a preferred choice for many.

## Personalized Learning Experiences

E-learning platforms are increasingly leveraging data analytics and artificial intelligence to offer personalized learning experiences. These technologies can analyze a learner's progress, identify strengths and weaknesses, and tailor content to meet individual needs. This level of personalization is difficult to achieve in traditional classroom settings, where the pace and content are often dictated by the group rather than the individual.

With personalized learning, students can focus on areas where they need improvement, skip content they have already mastered, and engage with materials that align with their interests and learning styles. This approach not only enhances learning outcomes but also increases motivation and engagement.

E-learning is often more cost-effective than traditional education. It eliminates the need for physical infrastructure, reduces commuting costs, and allows for the reuse of digital resources. Additionally, many online courses are offered at a lower cost than their in-person counterparts, making education more affordable and accessible.

Moreover, organizations and institutions benefit from e-learning by saving on training costs. Online training programs can be scaled easily, delivered to a global audience, and updated regularly without the need for physical materials or in-person instruction.

## Diverse Learning Materials

E-learning platforms offer a rich variety of learning materials, including videos, podcasts, interactive simulations, and gamified content. This diversity caters to different learning preferences, whether a student prefers visual, auditory, or kinesthetic learning. Interactive elements, such as quizzes and discussion forums, further enhance the learning experience by encouraging active participation and collaboration.

Furthermore, the integration of multimedia content helps to break down complex concepts, making them easier to understand and retain. For instance, a subject like biology can be made more engaging through virtual dissections or 3D models, providing a hands-on experience without the need for physical labs.

**Challenges of e-learning implementation**

When the Web caught on and teachers realized that they could easily transfer their notes online, many thought this was the answer to all their teaching problems. Students could access the notes at any time or place they wanted and staff could cut down on the amount of teaching because the students already had the material. Students would somehow under- stand the material more easily and be able to pass their exams. This is where many people's approaches to e-learning falls down, because they see e-learning simply as a replacement for face-to-face teaching. E-learning will only add value to the learning process if both staff and students alike approach it with a clear view of what is to be achieved.

From the staff point of view, e-learning must be embedded within the curriculum, with well thought out delivery mechanisms and learning outcomes that provide appropriate support for students. From the students' point of view, they must appreciate that, with the greater flexibility afforded them in the manner, time and format with which they can access resources, comes responsibility. Students can no longer expect to be spoon-fed if e-learning provides all the means and

resources to allow them to take control of their own learning (Thamarana, 2016).

E-learning refers to the intentional use of networked information and communication technologies in teaching and learning. It can also be defined as the application of electronic systems such as the internet, computers, and multimedia discs, whose primary goal is to reduce costs and minimize unnecessary travel. According to Mohammadi, Ghorbani, & Hamidi (2011), e-learning has both advantages and disadvantages, which can be interpreted as inherent characteristics of this educational approach.Among its most notable advantages is that it is a student-centered teaching process, where the teacher assumes the role of a guide or facilitator rather than being the sole source of knowledge (Chhabra, 2012), presents various tools that play a crucial role in shaping learning through e-learning. These tools, commonly referred to as apps, have a significant influence on modern education. The internet serves as an abundant resource, offering articles, courses, and online conferences that facilitate both teaching and learning. Teachers can assign work, conduct exams, and share materials via emails and online platforms, while parents can monitor their children's progress at any time. Students have access to lessons through webcams, worksheets, and online whiteboards, ensuring continuity in education. Schools also benefit from online networks, allowing them to collaborate, develop shared projects, and maintain their own websites. Free educational tools, such as Spelling Bee, enhance learning by providing students with opportunities to practice English spelling at customizable difficulty levels.

**E-learning and English Language Acquisition.**

E-learning in language acquisition, such as English, is understood as a digital technology–mediated educational approach that combines flexibility, accessibility, and personalized learning. This method allows

students to learn at their own pace, anytime and anywhere, using a wide variety of interactive resources such as videos, podcasts, simulations, and gamified activities. Additionally, it facilitates interaction with native-speaking tutors and peers, encourages collaboration in global environments, and provides immediate feedback. According to Graham (2025), e-learning not only optimizes resource use and reduces costs but also contributes to the development of communicative skills, motivation, and learner autonomy, establishing itself as an efficient and modern tool for language education.

## Methodology

This study employed a quantitative design to analyze the influence of e-learning tools—specifically the Learn English App—on English language learning among university students. The research was conducted at the Universidad Estatal del Sur de Manabí and approved by academic experts to ensure methodological soundness. The study targeted fourth-semester students from the Carrera de Pedagogía de los Idiomas Nacionales y Extranjeros, students from section "B" were evaluated based on accessibility and direct experience with the app.

Data collection was carried out through a survey, which was designed based on the research objectives and validated by experts to ensure their reliability. A closed-ended Likert-scale questionnaire was used as the primary instrument, allowing for the quantification of subjective opinions regarding the influence of e-learning tools on English learning. This methodological framework enabled the researchers to systematically evaluate the impact of a context-specific digital learning tool within a defined educational environment, contributing valuable evidence to the field of technology-assisted language education.

## Findings

The results obtained from the structured surveys administered to fourth-semester students of the Carrera de Pedagogía de los Idiomas Nacionales y Extranjeros revealed key insights into the impact of the Learn English App on the development of English language skills. The data were analyzed across two main dimensions: frequency of use and perceived effectiveness. In terms of frequency, a majority of students reported consistent interaction with the app, particularly for vocabulary review and grammar practice. Regarding perceived effectiveness, students highlighted improved comprehension, greater motivation to practice outside the classroom, and increased engagement with the language. Within the dimension of technological limitations, some students mentioned difficulties related to internet connectivity and the need for more advanced features within the app. Finally, in terms of language learning outcomes, respondents noted positive progress in areas such as vocabulary acquisition, listening comprehension, and reading fluency. This quantitative analysis offered a clear and structured understanding of how targeted digital tools like the Learn English App can support and enhance English language acquisition in a higher education setting.

1. **I frequently use the e-learning app to practice English:**

**Table 1.**

*E-learning app usage*

| Alternatives | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly agree | 12 | 43% |
| Agree | 12 | 43% |
| Neutral | 3 | 11% |
| Disagree | 1 | 3% |
| Strongly disagree | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 28 | 100 % |

**Figure 1.**
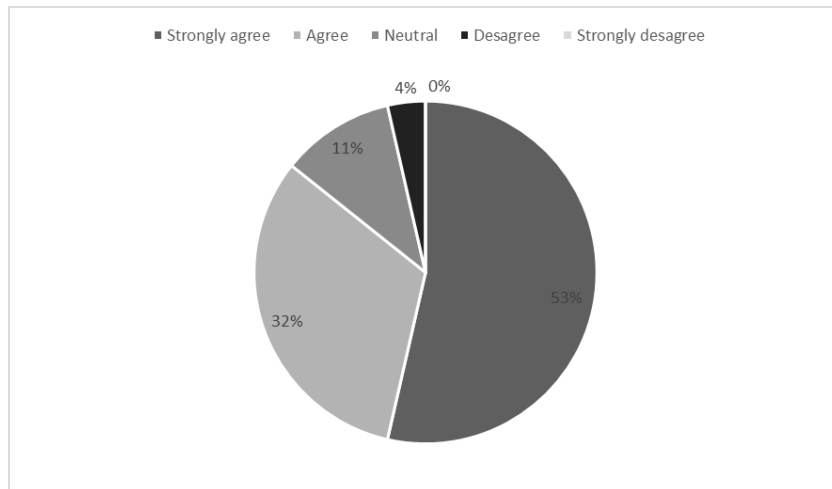
*E-learning app usage*
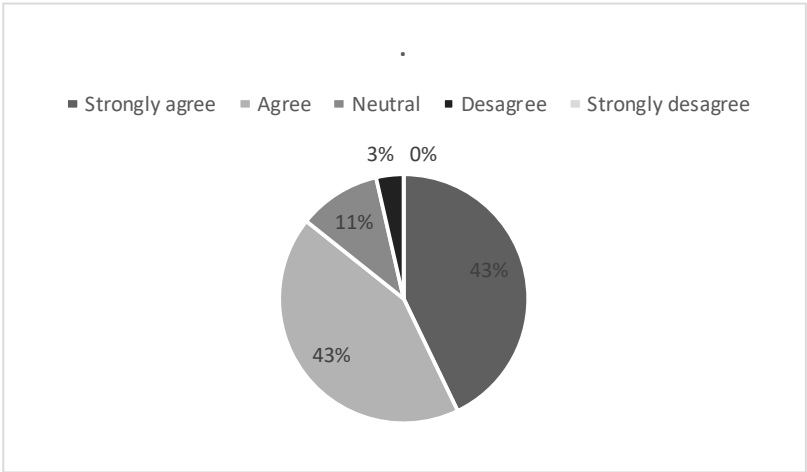


**2. The e-learning app is effective for improving my English learning:**

**Table 2.**

*The effectiveness of e-learning app*

| Alternatives | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly agree | 15 | 53% |
| Agree | 9 | 32% |
| Neutral | 3 | 11% |
| Disagree | 1 | 4% |
| Strongly disagree | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 28 | 100 % |

**Figure 2.**

*The effectiveness of e-learning app*



## Discussion

The findings indicate a generally positive perception of the Learn English application among both students and instructors. Specifically, 85% of the students reported improvements in pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary, while 80% of instructors emphasized its role in enhancing learners' speaking confidence. These results are consistent with prior research demonstrating the positive impact of digital tools on linguistic competence (Falcón & Herrera, 2005).

Theoretically, these findings support the application of constructivist learning principles (Ariza & Hancock, 2003) which emphasize student-centered learning and active engagement with educational content. In practice, the app was perceived as a dynamic and accessible tool that fosters learner autonomy and promotes ongoing language practice. However, 40% of instructors noted that listening comprehension remains an area for development, indicating the need for further refinement of the app's auditory components.

While the findings are promising, the study is limited by its scope, having been conducted within a single institutional context. This limitation may restrict the generalizability of the results. Future research should consider broader and more diverse populations and explore the long-term impact of the app on language development. Additionally, incorporating adaptive strategies to support oral production and individualized learning could enhance the app's pedagogical effectiveness. Prior evidence suggests that personalized learning environments significantly improve language acquisition (He, 2020)

In conclusion, the integration of the Learn English application into the language learning process has been met with strong approval from its users. The study underscores the value of incorporating interactive and gamified methodologies in second language instruction. Continued development and innovation of digital learning tools hold the potential to transform language education, aligning with current trends in educational technology and pedagogy (Castledown Publishers, 2024).

## Conclusions

* The study demonstrates that the Learn English application is an effective tool for learning English among fourth-level students in the Pedagogy of National and Foreign Languages program. Most participants recognize its positive impact on language skill development, highlighting

improvements in pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary expansion. These results emphasize the key role of digital platforms in language teaching by providing accessible, dynamic, and motivating resources that promote constant practice.

- The application's features, such as virtual teachers, interactive exercises, and the integrated translator, have been fundamental elements in the learning process. Students have found significant support in these tools, especially in improving their pronunciation and fluency. Additionally, the integrated translator has facilitated vocabulary acquisition, confirming that the combination of technology and interactive methodologies contributes to more autonomous and effective learning.

- Despite the predominantly positive perception, areas for improvement have been identified to optimize the application and better align it with students' specific needs. It is suggested to strengthen the virtual teachers' feedback system, offer a greater variety of exercises tailored to different proficiency levels, and enhance the user interface for a more intuitive and accessible experience.

- The implementation of digital tools such as Learn English represents a valuable strategy for enhancing English learning. However, its effectiveness depends on continuous improvement and adaptation to user needs. The development of new functionalities and the constant updating of content will maximize its impact on the educational process, fostering more effective, flexible, and accessible English language instruction for all students

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