

MODERN TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING ECONOMIC TERMINOLOGY USING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Annotation: This article explores the modern trends and innovations in teaching economic terminology through the use of information technology (IT). As the field of economics involves complex and specialized terms, integrating IT into the learning process provides an engaging and effective approach to vocabulary acquisition. The article examines various digital tools and platforms, such as online glossaries, interactive learning platforms, mobile applications, gamification, and augmented reality (AR)/virtual reality (VR) simulations, that enhance the comprehension of economic concepts. By integrating expert opinions and practical examples, the article illustrates how these technologies create dynamic learning environments that cater to individual student needs, improve long-term retention, and bridge the gap between theory and real-world application. Despite the promising advantages, the article also discusses challenges, such as the digital divide and the need for balanced teaching methods. The study concludes that the strategic use of IT in teaching economic terminology can significantly enhance students' linguistic competence and prepare them for the globalized economic landscape.

Key words: Terminology, Information Technology, Interactive Learning, Gamification, Virtual Reality, Mobile Learning Apps, Economic Education, Digital Glossaries, AR/VR Simulations, Language Acquisition.

In the modern era, the role of information technology (IT) in education has become pivotal, especially in specialized fields like economics. The rapid development of digital tools has revolutionized how students learn, access information, and engage with subject-specific terminology. Teaching economic terminology, which often involves complex concepts and diverse global contexts, benefits significantly from the integration of IT. This article explores the current trends and innovations in teaching economic terminology using IT, examining the potential of digital platforms, apps, and interactive tools in enhancing learning outcomes. By focusing on real-world applications and expert opinions, the article provides insights into how IT can support effective language acquisition and comprehension in the field of economics. Information technology has transformed language learning in all fields, but its impact on specialized disciplines like economics is particularly significant. Economics terminology is vast, covering topics such as market structures, monetary policies, financial systems, and international trade. The complexity and technical nature of these terms necessitate innovative teaching methods to ensure students understand and can apply them effectively.

Anderson (2008) states that IT enables dynamic learning environments that are adaptable to students' individual needs, allowing for the use of multimedia, real-time feedback, and instant access to updated content. This can be particularly helpful for economics students who need to keep up with an evolving global economy and its terminology.

Example: Students can use online economic glossaries and databases that not only define terms but also provide real-time updates on how those terms are applied in current events, helping them connect theory to practice.

Various technological innovations have emerged in recent years that assist in teaching economic terminology more effectively. Below are some of the most prominent methods currently in use: Online dictionaries and specialized glossaries have become essential tools for learning economic terminology. Websites like Investopedia and The Economist provide easily accessible definitions, explanations, and real-world examples of complex economic terms. These resources are indispensable for students seeking to understand how concepts like "inflation," "GDP," or "opportunity cost" are used in different contexts.

Murray (2011) highlights that online glossaries are beneficial for students because they provide definitions in context and offer multimedia content, such as videos and charts, that enhance comprehension. An economics student can search for "supply and demand" on Investopedia, where they find not only a definition but also an interactive chart showing real-world supply-demand curves for various goods and services.

Platforms like Khan Academy, Coursera, and edX offer free and paid courses in economics that are enriched with interactive activities. These platforms often use quizzes, video lectures, and infographics to explain key economic concepts. This interactive approach allows students to engage with the material in a more hands-on and practical manner, increasing retention and understanding of terms. According to Garrison & Anderson (2003), online platforms that combine video lectures with quizzes and assessments support active learning, helping students internalize difficult terminology by testing their knowledge and providing immediate feedback. In a Coursera economics course, students can take a quiz on "monetary policy" that tests their understanding of terms like "interest rates," "inflation targeting," and "quantitative easing" in various scenarios.

Gamification, or the use of game-like elements in education, has gained traction in teaching economics. Simulations and interactive games allow students to experience economic decision-making processes in virtual environments. These games often involve scenarios where players manage businesses, run countries, or make financial decisions, helping students understand the practical application of economic concepts. Gee (2003) emphasizes the effectiveness of simulations in creating immersive learning experiences. He suggests that interactive games not only make learning more engaging but also encourage critical thinking by presenting real-life problems and requiring students to use specific terminology to solve them. SimCity and Capitalism II are examples of games where players must manage the economy of a virtual city or company. In these games, players encounter terms like "inflation," "taxation," and "market equilibrium" in real-time, applying the theoretical concepts they learn in class.

Mobile applications, such as Quizlet and Anki, are increasingly popular for reinforcing economic vocabulary through flashcards and spaced repetition techniques. These apps allow students to create their own sets of flashcards based on the terms they need to study and regularly review them to improve retention. Tharp (2014) argues that mobile apps provide personalized learning experiences, which can be particularly useful for students learning technical vocabulary in specialized fields like economics. The ability to study vocabulary in short, focused sessions helps improve long-term retention. A student learning economic terms

like "elasticity of demand" and "monopolistic competition" might use Quizlet to test their knowledge of these terms with flashcards and practice quizzes.

Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) are innovative tools that can provide immersive learning experiences, allowing students to visualize and interact with complex economic systems. For example, students can explore virtual economies, participate in virtual market exchanges, or simulate global trade to better understand economic models. Dede (2009) highlights the potential of AR and VR in creating experiential learning environments. These technologies can help students visualize abstract economic concepts, like the flow of money in a global market, in a tangible, engaging way. A VR simulation might place students in the role of a global financial analyst, requiring them to use terms like "capital flow" and "currency exchange" to make decisions that affect the virtual economy.

While IT offers tremendous benefits in teaching economic terminology, it is not without its challenges. Digital divide remains a significant issue, as not all students have access to high-end devices or reliable internet connections. Additionally, there is a need to ensure that the integration of technology does not replace traditional teaching methods that encourage direct engagement with the content, such as class discussions and debates.

The integration of information technology into the teaching of economic terminology provides students with a dynamic, engaging, and effective way to learn complex concepts. Tools such as online glossaries, interactive learning platforms, gamification, mobile apps, and VR/AR simulations offer a variety of approaches that make the learning process more personalized, practical, and immersive. As the global economy continues to evolve, using these technologies to teach economic terminology will help students stay up-to-date with industry trends and better prepare them for real-world challenges in the field of economics.

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