

Rain Class's influence on students' comprehensive learning of English as the aiding method of TESOL blended learning

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Abstract. In nowadays Chinese universities, teachers and research staff have been exploring better methods for educating and carrying out TESOL education. Due to this occasion, lots of teaching methods have been derived, including mixed teaching, which combines both online and offline learning processes, to help the students better learn English conveniently and easily to review the knowledge that they had learned. This paper mainly focuses on the app called Rain Class, which has been extensively used by many Chinese college students majoring in English and has many distinct functions which could benefit both teachers and students. Therefore, this study focuses on the benefits that this app brings to TESOL blended learning and seeks students' comprehensive understanding of their knowledge. By examining its benefits and possible limitations, this paper provides a thorough reference for future studies in technology-facilitated language learning, especially in the area of using mobile apps in higher education English classes.

1 Introduction

Chinese universities have long struggled with teaching English. In the current context of higher education, the real question in TESOL instruction is how to address this difficulty and come up with effective ways to impart knowledge while allowing students to develop a thorough understanding of the language. Chinese researchers have spent years developing and testing a wide range of instructional strategies that have been adopted by other nations for their TESOL programs. These strategies include the direct style of teaching, the Total Physical Response technique, the Natural method, the Cognitive approach, and more, which are all beneficial to English education and training in China. By this occasion and also with the development of technology, a new kind of teaching method had been developed, which is blended learning. A relatively recent approach to education called mixed teaching combines online and offline learning. This one takes advantage of both online and offline education to provide a fluid, flexible, and bountiful learning experience that promotes effective study habits. Although there are certain requirements associated with this teaching approach, such as the educational background of the teachers, its main benefit is that it allows students to learn English more effectively, regardless of the course, and allows them to review

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digital course materials at anytime and anywhere. It also helps each student reinforce prior knowledge. Years ago, the American NMC said that this type of teaching approach would be widely adopted. As a result, it is currently employed at many universities worldwide, including China, and the government has issued several rules to support it since it is appropriate for the national conditions of China. China has emphasized using education internationalization to lead to education modernization. Due to this occasion, many education apps and web apps have been developed and could be used in blended learning, like the app of this research focus: Rain Class. This app has shown its ability to make students' daily studying more convenient and more intellectual.

This app has many features, including shared PowerPoint, individual quizzes, and online course scores. It has also been widely used in Chinese universities to teach TESOL. This raises the question, though, of why so many schools have adopted it as their main teaching tool and why the performance of the students on the app is taken into account when evaluating their overall performance, as well as how the app helped the students gain a thorough understanding.

2 Literature review

Blended learning is the effective combination of different modes of delivery, models of teaching, and styles of learning, and its core idea is 'student-centered education' [1]. This definition is more comprehensive, adding the dimensions of teaching and learning styles [2]. With this situation, a suitable app would benefit a lot. Although this app is not commonly utilized in any other course than TESOL, applied research in language teaching is not frequently employed in Chinese institutions these days. However, TESOL instruction makes significant use of this app. This indicates that institutions adopted this software extensively because they recognized that Rain Class, when utilized as a teaching aid in TESOL instruction, might contribute to a more thorough comprehension [3].

According to research, when feedback from the teaching process is not quantized, it is difficult to determine how well students are learning. Instead, tests must be manually created, and points must be awarded to each student based on their ability. However, Rain Class has its own data collection system, which includes the possibility of an auto quiz based on questions from the question bank as well as auto-checking. This saves teachers time and lets students know what they missed and act quickly to improve the scope of their review. The teacher can then easily determine whether the student has grasped the material based on the automatically generated score. This has been verified by the university's education experiment, so Rain Class did enhance the education qualities [4]. Additionally, it has adaptable teaching methods that may effectively support students' multiple development [5]. It may be readily inferred from the class report that the outcome is favorable and that learning is more individualized and fragmented [6]. It can also enhance teacher-student communication both within and outside of the classroom [7]. Therefore, this app supports teachers from TESOL learning as well as students' study and improvement in English learning.

3 Application

This app has two categories of functions both serving the teachers and students, teachers, could monitor students' comprehensive English learning, which includes grammar, phrases, listening, etc. The university teachers interviewed mostly have a background in language teaching so they could successfully carry out teaching research with this app [8]. The teachers could set a specific line to prevent some students from skipping the quiz. After each time

students had finished their quiz in class, the survey would be transferred into recorded data and shown in percentage, recording the students' correctness, so that the teacher could easily locate the major weaknesses towards current learning progress. Due to the current situation, Rain Class would present several options to help teachers organize the right teaching method for further education. With this help, teachers would find creating lesson plans easy and direct, and students could get more promotion in score and learning depth.

While the main benefit of this app is that it extends the learning experience for students, using the quizzes and exercises from the app's question bank helps students become more self-aware and aware of where they are in the course. The app also provides percentage points for each quiz, allowing students to see what areas they should concentrate on in their subsequent studies. Moreover, students could use the online PowerPoint to connect and interact with the teacher so they could leave each question at any spot on the courseware. On this occasion, teachers would easily find out the weak spots in all the students. Finally, the app gives a rating scale to students so that they can let the teachers know the classes' problems and fix them. Hence, the app assists educators and learners in obtaining additional advancements using these apps.

4 Effect

There are three sections to this app: before, during, and after class. By keeping an eye on the students' preview situations during the preparation phase, the instructor may quickly identify any issues and use that information to summarize and reflect. Teachers should benefit from using this phrase to emphasize the significance of the challenge of bedding the after-school consolidation while also utilizing teaching practice. Lastly, teachers can take the appropriate measurements following the outcome of the lesson. Many statistical methods have been used in these apps for teaching quality evaluation, making the evaluation more objective and accurate [9]. From the data from other research, in its research class, more than 90% of the students had known Rain Class and more than half of them had used this app for studying before. They all have the same feeling that this app widely used in TESOL teaching, makes the students get a closer connection with the teachers and get a higher grade, cause this app helps the students to evaluate their weaknesses and figure out what should be focused on over the next study period. On the subsequent quiz, all students who had utilized this app as a study aid scored higher, indicating that they had retained the material more consistently. Being more adaptable than in the past also benefits the class. It offers a variety of strategies to assist students in finishing their reviews while boosting their self-esteem and enthusiasm. Many students begin to understand the class study techniques, and their improved score also encourages them to keep up the beneficial practice of utilizing this program for previewing and revising. This software also aids in the advancement of blended learning. With each update, it makes the study approach more comprehensive and effective and validates its use, encouraging more universities to adopt it in place of traditional language education programs. Following the implementation of Rain Class as an assisting technique, the majority of students report more satisfaction with the course than they did previously. This indicates that the course will fare better when used the following semester and when evaluated by professors. Overall, each component of English learning usually benefits from this app.

5 Limitation

Anything has its limitations, and this app also has as well. Even though this app did expand the ways of Blended Learning, this app could not monitor the student's conscientiousness. Many students tend to cheat in the quiz section so that they can get a higher score and achieve

a better regular grade, cause in many schools Rain Class has been used as a part of the daily evaluation and counts in part of the score of the course. A lot of teachers struggled with using the more advanced technology; they were only able to determine whether or not the students had completed the assignment or test, not whether or not they had answered the questions correctly. This implies that not all educators who use Rain Class are able to assist students in finding solutions and adjusting their lesson plans. Students are faced with electronic equipment for a long time, and such a scenario leads to a lack of motivation to study [10]. Teachers' lack of learning modern digital literacy would affect the app's function and make students not benefit much from this app. Moreover, this would deeply affect blended teaching, making this teaching method less functional and hardly an advantage over other teaching methods. Therefore, in order to successfully expand the use of this app into blended learning, it is necessary to educate instructors about contemporary technology and assist them in integrating it into their lesson plans. Only this solution could assist educators in becoming comfortable with modern technology and reaping its benefits, while also enhancing their capacity to teach, integrating blended learning with Rain Class, and assisting in the completion of the course and learning process.

6 Conclusion

While this limitation has been mentioned and has been noticed, this means that many educational researchers have tried to solve the problems from the combination of the Rain Class and Blended Learning. Hence, the app had to improve its function to help the teachers better monitor students' multiple knowledge by myriad methods. This is not the most important part, but educating teachers by teaching them methods of learning modern technology could lead to a revolution in teachers' teaching methods, which could make them start to create a revolution towards the old teaching methods. Yet, only revolution is not enough, letting the teachers begin to transform the data into their use in education and other fields could help students in the end. The app could be combined with Blended Learning so that there would be a better mix-up, making both progress. The combination has a promising future, so both need to be developed more sustainably and scientifically. The future of Blended Learning is bright and meaningful, with the development of technology and more combination of the experience from other kinds of teaching methods, this brand new teaching method could lead to a much higher status, and make more students benefit from language learning courses section, especially in English major, and this could lead to a much brighter future towards the entire study progress.

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