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DIGITAL TOOLS FLIPGRID AND KAHOOT IN TEACHING ENGLISH IN PRIMARY SCOOL: GLIMPSES OF METHODOLODY

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ЦИФРОВІ ІНСТРУМЕНТИ FLIPGRID ТА KAHOOT У НАВЧАННІ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ У ПОЧАТКОВІЙ ШКОЛІ: МЕТОДИЧНІ АСПЕКТИ

In recent years, the integration of digital tools in teaching English has significantly transformed the methodology and pedagogical approaches used in language classrooms. Since society, technology, and communication methods evolve continuously the needs and expectations of English language learners change over time. Upgrading teaching methodology ensures that educators can address these evolving needs effectively, keeping instruction relevant and meaningful. The article analyzes the peculiarities of using digital tools Flipgrid and Kahoot! in the process of teaching the English language to primary school students. The author throws the light upon some methodological aspects of applying these online resources considering there advantages and disadvantages. It is proven that the mentioned tools enable educators to stay updated on the latest research, trends, and best practices in English language teaching, fostering continuous growth and improvement of the English language instruction in the primary school educational environment. By embracing these technologies, pre-service teachers learn how to create dynamic and engaging learning experiences that empower primary school students to achieve their language learning goals. Digital tools Flipgrid and Kahoot! help analyze students' performance data, identify areas of strengths and weaknesses, enabling pre-service teachers to differentiate instruction and provide targeted support.

Key words: digital tools, Flipgrid, Kahoot, teaching English, methodology, primary school.

Анотація. Інтеграція цифрових інструментів у навчальний процес суттєво змінила методологію та педагогічні підходи, що використовуються учителями на уроках англійської мови у початковій школі. Оскільки суспільство, технології та методи спілкування постійно розвиваються, потреби та очікування тих, хто вивчає англійську мову, з часом змінюються. Удосконалення методики навчання гарантує, що викладачі можуть ефективно задовольняти ці потреби учнів, зберігаючи навчальний процес актуальним і ефективним. У статті проаналізовано особливості використання цифрових інструментів Flipgrid та Kahoot! у процесі навчання англійської мови учнів початкової школи. Автор висвітлює деякі методологічні аспекти застосування цих онлайн-ресурсів, враховуючи їх переваги та недоліки. Доведено, що згадані інструменти дозволяють педагогам іти в ногу з часом останніх досліджень, тенденцій і передових практик у вивченні англійської мови, сприяючи безперервному вдосконаленню навчання англійської мови в освітньому середовищі початкової школи. Використання цифрових інструментів забезпечує підвищення рівня цифрової грамотності майбутніх та практикуючих педагогів, сприяє створенню ними динамічних і захоплюючих навчальних програм, які дають змогу учням початкової школи досягати своїх цілей у вивченні мови. Цифрові інструменти Flipgrid і Kahoot! допомагають педагогам якісно проаналізувати дані про успішність учнів, визначити сильні / слабкі сторони, прогалини в опануванні матеріалу, дозволяючи вчителям початкової школи диференціювати навчальний процес та надавати цільову підтримку здобувачам освіти.

Ключові слова: цифрові інструменти, Flipgrid, Kahoot, навчання англійської мови, методика, початкова школа.

General problem setting. Technology plays an increasingly significant role in modern education. Integrating digital tools and resources into English teaching methodology not only enhances engagement and motivation but also prepares students for the digital literacy skills they need in today's interconnected world. Students come from diverse linguistic, cultural, and educational backgrounds taking opportunities of self-development due to numerous education exchange programs, travelling for entertainment,

enrolling for international training courses and more. Upgrading methodology allows educators to implement differentiated instruction strategies, catering to the individual needs, preferences, and learning styles of students. This inclusivity fosters a supportive and efficient learning environment.

Research in language acquisition and educational psychology continually provides insights into effective teaching practices. There have been numerous studies in Ukraine and abroad discovering advantages and disadvantages of digital technologies in language learning. Scientific finding of some scholars (Ukrainian - N. Borysova, T.Blyznyuk, O. Budnyk, H. Genseruk, T. Kachak, N. Khrystych, S. Martynyuk, T.Tarnavska, and others; foreign - M. Bharathi, Thu.Bui, D. Diaconu, A. Ding, A. Ottenbreit-Leftwich, Y.H. Lu, K. Glazewski, V. Harsha, N. Hockly, G. Dudeney, J. Hsieh, V. Joseph, V. Khan, B. Moorhouse, F. Toma, etc.) are extremely crucial for our research. By staying updated on the latest developments and best world's practices, educators can refine their own methodologies to optimize learning outcomes and facilitate language acquisition more efficiently, in particular, if the aim is EFL. English is the language of global communication in nearly all the fields, including business, academia, and technology. Upgrading teaching methodology equips students with the language skills, cultural awareness, and communication strategies they need to navigate and succeed in an increasingly interconnected world. Educational institutions often have academic standards and curriculum requirements that must be met. Upgrading methodology ensures that English language instruction aligns with these standards, enabling students to achieve proficiency benchmarks and academic success. Innovative teaching methodologies emphasize the development of key soft skills, namely critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills alongside language proficiency. By incorporating innovative approaches such as project-based learning, inquiry-based instruction, and collaborative activities,

educators can cultivate these essential skills in English language learners. The use of interactive multimedia content (open educational resourses, online platform and services, digital tools and aps) for this purpose is essential.

The purpose of the scientific-methodological study is to unfold the efficiency of certain digilal tools in foreign language teaching. Interactive whiteboards, educational software, and multimedia resources provide teachers with dynamic materials to engage students. These tools enable teachers to incorporate diverse content formats such as short educational videos, audio recordings, animations, and interactive exercises, catering to different educational needs, learning styles and preferences.

Analysis of researches and publications. Education is a dynamic field, and effective educators are committed to continuous improvement. Upgrading teaching methodology involves reflecting on best teaching practices, seeking feedback from students and colleagues, and embracing professional development opportunities to refine instructional strategies and enhance English language teaching effectiveness.

The rise of digital tools has facilitated the implementation of blended learning models, combining traditional face-to-face instruction with online activities and resources *(Blyznyuk, Budnyk, Kachak, 2021)*. This approach allows for greater flexibility, personalized learning experiences, and the integration of technology-enhanced language learning activities into the curriculum.

Outline of the main research material. With the spread of language learning apps and platforms, students have access to a wide range of resources for practicing English skills outside the classroom as independent work. The following platforms often utilize gamification, spaced repetition, and adaptive learning technologies to create engaging and effective learning experiences. The most common among Ukrainian educators are Googe Meet and ZOOM. The latter enables Breakout Rooms which is perfect for online teamwork activities. Another advantage of this videoconferencing platform is

simultaneous use by the teacher and the students of an interactive whiteboard which offers possibilities of joining in a group project without switching to a separate digital tool, for instance, Paddled (https://uk.padlet.com/auth/login). In addition, ZOOM simplifies educational instruction by possibility of using Notes option, in which it is relevant to write down the most important information of the class for all the participants in the virtual classroom. Moreover, this platform offers a wide range of the most popular digital tools with can be used within ZOOM and in individual learning (Mentimeter, Flipgrid, Miro, Genially, Padlet, Poll Everywhere, Timer, Prezi, etc.). Other popular platforms such as Google Workspace, Microsoft Teams, and online forums facilitate communication and collaboration among students, fostering a sense of community and enhancing language fluency. Adaptive learning technologies use algorithms to tailor learning experiences to individual student needs, providing personalized feedback, remediation, and enrichment activities.

Digital tools enable collaborative learning experiences, allowing educators to arrange engaging interaction and students to work together on projects, participate in discussions, and provide peer feedback regardless of their physical location. Nowadays the Internet offers a vast array of authentic materials and resources for teaching English, including authentic texts, videos, podcasts, and social media platforms *(Hockly, Dudeney, 2018)*. Besides, there are numerous advanced training programs offered by Centeres of Innovations which systematically acquaint in and pre-service educators with cutting-edge innovations for foreign language teaching (https://ciot.pnu.edu.ua/en/). From my personal experience as a certified coach and expert in the use of educational innovations in teaching academic courses of the English cycle (https://ciot.pnu.edu.ua/en/blyzmnuk_t_o_ eng/), it is proved that after such training programs, educators bocome more competent in their digital literacy and start using those digital tools which are the most appropriate for a certain group of

students and educational environment.

As evidenced from researchers' findings *(Bui, 2022; Harsha, 2023; Hockly, Dudeney, 2018)* digital tools provide teachers with access to professional development opportunities, including webinars, online courses, virtual conferences, and educational blogs and podcasts. These resources enable educators to stay updated on the latest research, trends, and best practices in English language teaching, fostering continuous growth and improvement. In this paper I would like to draw teachers' attention to educational potential of the digital tools Flipgrid (https://flipgrid.com/) and Kahoot (https://kahoot.com/).

Flipgrid is a popular digital tool used in education that facilitates asynchronous video discussions. Here's an overview of Flipgrid and how it can be used in English teaching methodology *(Drawing 1)*.

Source: created by author

Engagement and Communication – Flipgrid allows students to record short video responses to instructions or questions assigned by the teacher. This approach promotes active participation and engagement, as students can express their ideas, opinions, and reflections using spoken language, which is particularly beneficial for English language learners who may feel more comfortable expressing themselves orally rather than in written form.

Speaking Practice – Flipgrid provides English language learners with valuable opportunities to practice their speaking skills in a low-pressure environment. By recording video messages, poems and topics suggested as memory work, reading / translation material, etc., students can focus on fluency improvement, pronunciation and intonation drill, while also receiving feedback from peers and the teacher.

Collaborative Learning – Flipgrid facilitates collaborative learning experiences by allowing students to view and respond to each other's video posts. This peer interaction fosters a sense of community and encourages students to engage in meaningful dialogue, share ideas, and provide constructive feedback, thereby enhancing their language proficiency and communication skills.

Feedback and Reflection - teachers can use Flipgrid to provide feedback to students on their video responses, offering personalized guidance, encouragement, and corrective feedback on language use and pronunciation. Additionally, Flipgrid's built-in feedback features allow students to reflect on their own speaking abilities and track their progress over time.

Cultural Exchange – Flipgrid enables English language learners to connect with peers from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. By participating in video discussions arranged by the teacher and sharing perspectives on various topics, students gain insight into different cultures, develop empathy, and broaden their worldview, contributing to their overall language and cultural proficiency.

Differentiation and Personalization – Flipgrid offers flexibility for teachers to differentiate instruction and tailor learning experiences to individual student needs and peculiarities. Teachers can create personalized activities based on students' proficiency levels, interests, and learning goals, ensuring that instruction is relevant, engaging, and scaffolded appropriately. It is good for independent work on missed classes and saves teacher's time and effort when it is necessary to check

Drawing 1

Key benefits of using Flipgrid in English language classroom

Drawing 2
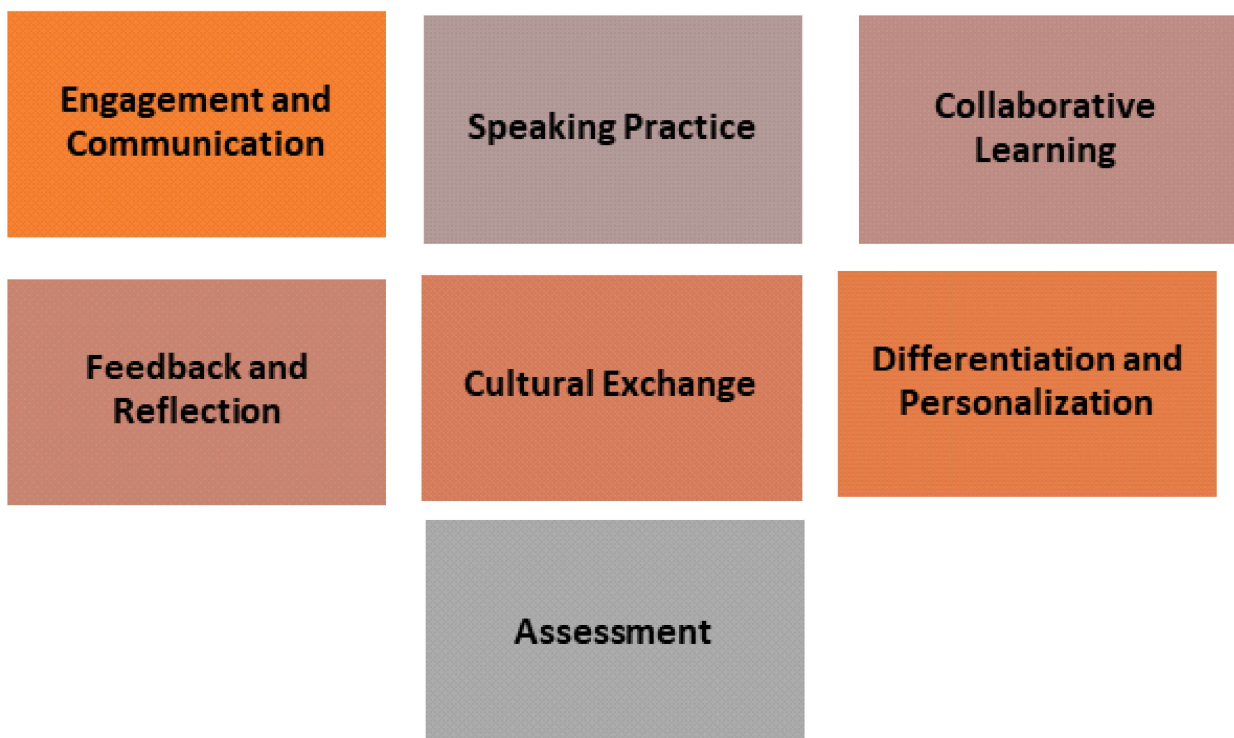
View of the desktop in Flipgrid Source: created by author
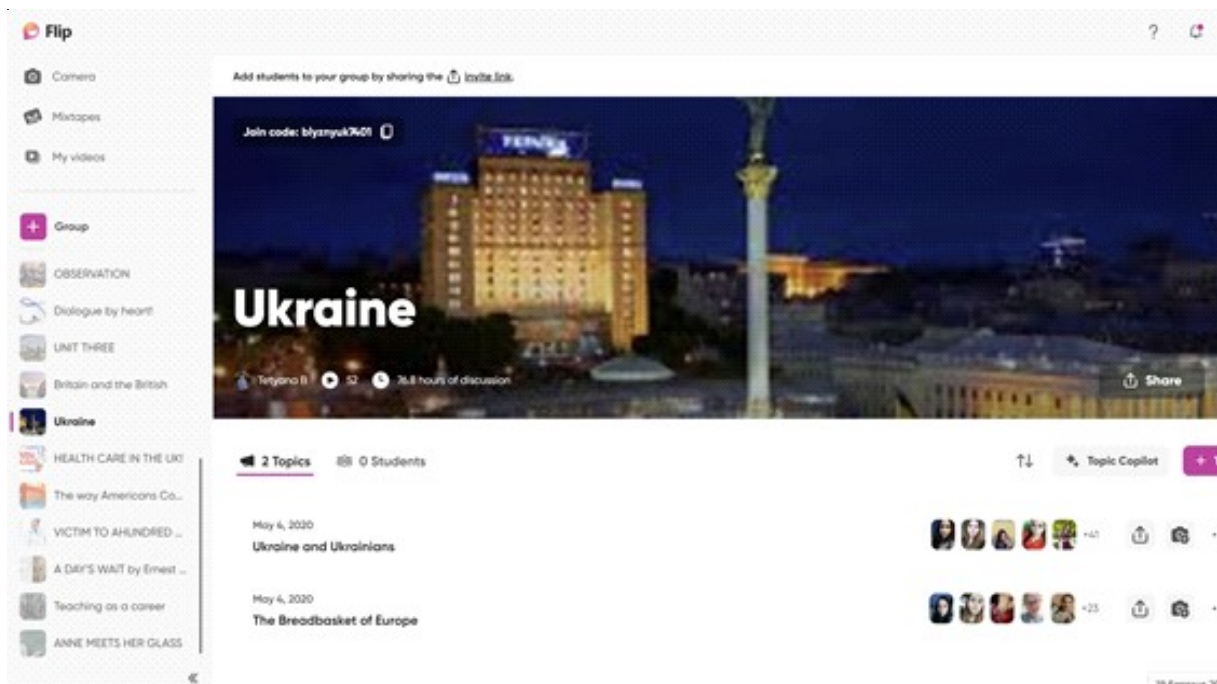
repetitive tasks in the virtual classroom.

Finally, assessment – Flipgrid is an efficient assessment tool and helps evaluate students' speaking proficiency, language development, and communication skills. Teachers can review students' video responses, assess their linguistic accuracy and fluency, and provide formative feedback to support their ongoing language learning progress.

Similar to the PC desktop organizer one is able to arrange the work on Flipgrid by creating groups depicting names of topics, and numerous subtopics within one group – just like a folder with files in it *(see Drawing 2.)*.

Additional benefit for the teacher id tracking students' attendance, punctuality and time-management skills before evaluating tasks. The latter are available without particular saving until the teacher decides to delete the files by him/herself *(see Drawing 3.)*.

Overall, Flipgrid is a versatile digital tool that can enhance English teaching methodology by promoting speaking practice, fostering collaboration and communication, facilitating feedback and reflection, and promoting cultural exchange. By integrating Flipgrid into their instruction, teachers can create dynamic and interactive learning

Drawing 3

Tracking students' attendance on Flipgrid Source: created by author
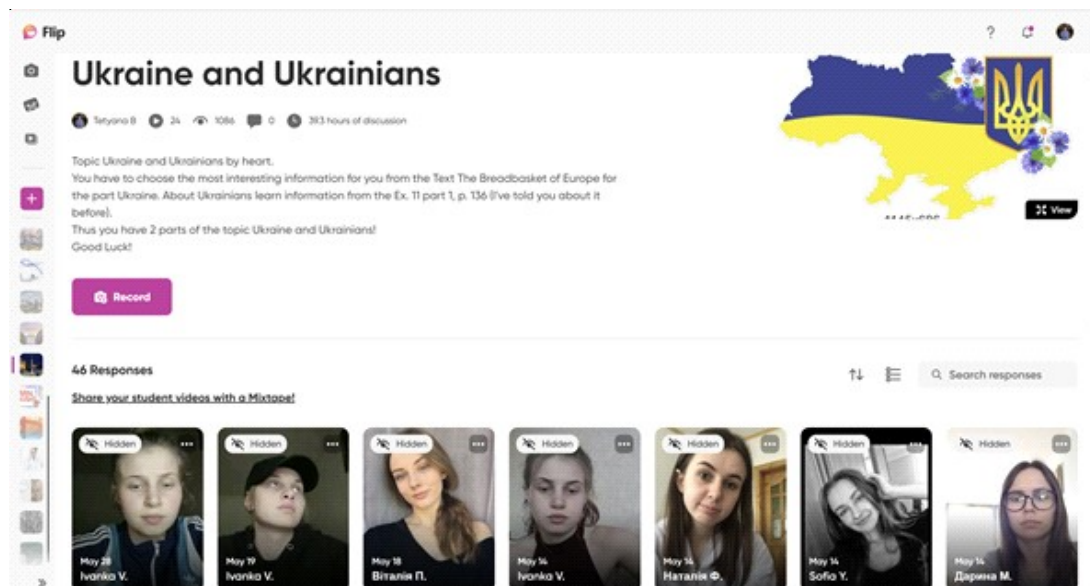
experiences that empower English language learners to develop their speaking skills and engage meaningfully with the language.

Digital tools have revolutionized the assessment process in education, offering a wide range of options for both formative and summative assessment. They streamline the assessment process, enabling teachers to administer quizzes, tests, and assignments online, collect and analyze student performance data, and provide timely feedback *(Genseruk, Martynyuk, 2020)*. These tools often include features such as automated grading, plagiarism detection, and performance analytics, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in assessment practices. There are many digital tools commonly used for each type of assessment, however, I would rather offer the following: Kahoot!, Nearpod, Quizizz, Google Forms, Socrative, Edmodo, Padlet, Moodle, Google Classroom and others. These are just a few examples of the many digital tools available for formative and summative assessment in education. When selecting a tool, it's essential to consider factors such as ease of use, compatibility with existing technology infrastructure, data security and privacy, and alignment with assessment goals and objectives.

Focusing on the benefits of the first one, it is worth mentioning Kahoot! is an interactive learning platform that has gained widespread popularity in educational settings due to its engaging and gamified approach to learning/teaching. It is one of the digital test tools used in the present English language learning process, increases classroom interaction and energy *(Harsha Vardhini, 2023; Noor, 2023; Tarnavska, 2019)*. This game-based learning tool that allows teachers to create interactive quizzes, surveys, and discussions. It provides immediate feedback to students, enabling teachers to gauge understanding and address misconceptions in real-time. Its educational potential lies in several key aspects: students' engagement and collaborative learning, differentiation of the instruction, accessibility, content creation, formative assessment and data analysis.

Being highly engaging for students due to its game-based format Kahoot! suggests competitive elements such as points, leaderboards, and timers to motivate students to actively participate and stay focused during language classes. This high level of engagement can lead to increased retention of material and a more positive attitude towards learning. Additionally, the tool supports collaborative learning experiences by allowing students to work together in teams or compete against each other in a friendly manner. This promotes peer interaction, communication skills, and teamwork while reinforcing learning concepts.

Kahoot! offers flexibility for teachers to differentiate instruction based on student needs. Teachers create quizzes on acquired language material with varying levels of difficulty or include questions that cater to different learning styles. This allows teachers to provide personalized learning experiences for diverse students. This digital tool is accessible across various devices, including computers, tablets, and smartphones, making it easy for students to participate both in the classroom activities and remotely. This flexibility ensures equitable access to learning opportunities for all students, regardless of their location or device availability.

With this resource teachers are able to create their own content, including quizzes, surveys, and discussions *(Noor, 2023; Toma, Diaconu, Popescu, 2021)*. This empowers teachers to tailor learning activities to specific curriculum objectives, learning outcomes, and

Drawing 4

Formative assessment possibilities Source: created by author

student interests. Additionally, teachers can share their Kahoots with colleagues, facilitating collaboration and resource sharing. Kahoot! is an effective tool for collecting actual, verifiable data for conducting formative assessment in the classroom in real-time *(see Drawing 4.)*. Immediate feedback and analytics features provided after each question allows teachers to measure student comprehension and address misconceptions on the spot. Thus, teachers track students' performance, monitor progress over time, and identify areas for improvement. This data can inform about instructional decisions, curriculum planning, and individualized interventions to support student learning.

Alongside better possibilities to be created for improving and measuring students' progress digital tools provide teachers with access to open educational resources worked out by their counterparts, professional development opportunities, including webinars, online courses, virtual conferences, and educational blogs and podcasts. These resources enable educators to stay updated on the latest research, trends, and best practices in English language teaching *(Bharathi, 2023),* fostering continuous growth and improvement. Teachers can leverage these resources to expose students to real-world language use, cultural contexts, and contemporary issues, enhancing language proficiency and cultural competence.

Conclusions and prospects for further research. Overall, the impact of digital tools in the classroom is profound and the integration of digital tools in teaching English has revolutionized language learning methodology, offering innovative approaches to instruction, assessment, and professional development. By embracing these technologies, educators can create dynamic and engaging learning experiences that empower students to achieve their language learning goals. Digital tools Flipgrid and Kahoot! analyze students' performance data to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses, enabling teachers to differentiate instruction and provide targeted support. As

technology is continuously advancing, the integration of digital tools will likely play an increasingly crucial role in shaping the future of English language education.

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