A Review of Literature on the Role of Digital Technologies in Assisting Adult Immigrants with Local Language Acquisition

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Background

This review has considered literature on the relation between integration of immigrants into the host society and language proficiency. Additionally the review considers the benefits of digital technologies to improve language proficiency.

Migration

Immigrants are faced with tensions - to adapt to their new host culture and to keep their native cultures alive. Tensions are often negotiated around 'biculturalism or integration' (Berry, 2001; Thelamour, 2017).

[Photograph of Integration of Immigrants in European Labour Markets}. (2017). https://www.ceps.eu/ceps-publications/integration-immigrants-european-labour-markets/

Integration and language proficiency

Many immigrants never reach satisfactory proficiency that can make them feel comfortable in communicating with people in the host country. Therefore, insights into the underlying processes and associated factors, that is, individual circumstances and aspirations, are crucial for designing measures to improve language proficiency (Isphording, 2015). With regard to the first area of research, this literature review has identified a gap concerning of socio-cultural integration among adult immigrants.

Language proficiency and digital technology

Anecdotally, there are two main approaches to improving language proficiency: by a formal structured approach to learning and informally through the use of digital technologies. Digital technology has the potential to help learners analyse their own language production and assist with learning needs. With the help of digital technologies, language learners can converse with native speakers of the language orally and textually whenever and wherever is appropriate (Esteves & Sampaio, 2013).

References

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