

INSTAGRAM AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR A GROUP OF PARAGUAYAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

Education faces a new digital generation of students that is constantly exposed to information and informal learning. They browse daily through social networking sites, where they spend an important amount of time. This generation challenges the traditional system of teaching and learning at the school. Therefore, educational institutions need to seek techniques to improve the learning experience and expose students to useful knowledge during and after the lessons. Social media such as Instagram presents interesting features that could be useful for educational purposes. This study aims to find how Instagram can be used as an educational platform for EFL lessons. The study analyzes the perceptions of the students who participated in the use of Instagram as an educational tool for English lessons in a Paraguayan private high school. The qualitative data obtained from the participants through questionnaires and interviews, plus the data registered on Instagram during the academic year 2020 was analyzed to provide the outcome. The results showed that most students agreed that Instagram can be a useful educational tool. Students remarked that tools such as Instagram TV, the stories, short videos, quizzes, etc., fostered their learning process. They mentioned that the main negative aspect of this platform is the distraction it causes. According to the general results, Instagram is a useful tool for English lessons if used properly by the teacher.

Keywords: Adaptability, Didactics, Social Media, Educational tool, Instagram.

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