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**Investigating the impact of the Amazon Alexa on the development of
L2 listening and speaking skills**

ABSTRACT (50 words)

Advanced technology may be potentially helpful for language learning. Intelligent personal assistants (IPAs) have attracted much attention because they may induce dialogic interactions. This study thus explored the effects of IPAs on listening and speaking development. The pedagogical implications of the study are discussed and suggestions made for using IPAs.

ABSTRACT (300 words)

With advances in technology, intelligent personal assistants (IPAs) have become available to assist users with a variety of tasks (e.g., sending emails) using voice commands. Because of the potential of the IPAs in inducing dialogic interactions, many researchers indicated that IPAs may benefit language learning, especially regarding pronunciation, listening and speaking. Despite of its potential, very few experimental studies have examined the effects of IPAs. The present study examined the effects of one popular IPA, the Amazon Echo Show, on L2 learners' listening and speaking skills as well as the learners' perceptions of the IPA. Two classes were recruited and randomly assigned as a control and an experimental group. Four to five learners were categorized as a group to complete all the in-class activities. While the control group continued with their regular lessons, the experimental group received seven Alexa sessions (each of around 50 minutes). Both groups took mock TOEIC listening and speaking tests before and after the Alexa sessions and the experimental group completed a survey exploring their perceptions of working with the IPA. A significant difference was found regarding speaking, suggesting that learners can improve their speaking skills through interacting with an IPA. The learners reported that IPAs offered more oral interactions and also reduced their speaking anxieties. These positive findings suggest that researchers should further explore the potential of IPAs.

Keywords: Intelligent personal assistants (IPAs); listening skills; speaking skills; learners' perceptions; interactions