

## BLENDED LEARNING MODELS: COMBINING ANIMATION AND TRADITIONAL ENGLISH TEACHING METHODS

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### ABSTRACT:

Blended learning has emerged as a dynamic and effective model for language education, combining the strengths of traditional teaching methods with innovative digital tools such as animation. This article explores the benefits of integrating animation into traditional English teaching practices, creating a hybrid model that enhances engagement, comprehension, and participation. By leveraging the interactive and visual appeal of animation alongside the structured, human-centered approach of traditional methods, educators can cater to diverse learning styles and preferences. The article examines how this combination addresses common challenges in English language teaching and highlights expert insights, practical applications, and challenges associated with implementing blended learning models.

**KEYWORDS:** Blended learning, animation in education, traditional teaching methods, English language teaching, educational technology, hybrid learning models.

### INTRODUCTION

Blended learning has revolutionized language education by merging face-to-face instruction with digital tools. This approach provides a flexible, student-centered environment where learners benefit from the best of both worlds. In English language teaching (ELT), combining traditional methods with animation creates an engaging and effective learning experience. Traditional methods provide structure, teacher guidance, and interpersonal interaction, while animation brings interactivity, visual stimulation, and contextualized learning opportunities.

**Blended Learning: A Hybrid Approach.** Blended learning involves the integration of digital and in-person instruction to create a cohesive learning experience. In ELT, this model can enhance traditional approaches by addressing their limitations and incorporating engaging multimedia elements. Richard Mayer, in his Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning, emphasizes the effectiveness of combining words and visuals: “People learn better from a combination of text and graphics than from text alone”. By using animation alongside traditional methods, educators can provide learners with multimodal input that caters to different learning styles.

#### **Advantages of Combining Animation and Traditional Methods**

**1. Enhancing Engagement.** Traditional classroom methods often struggle to maintain student interest, especially in language learning. Animation, with its vibrant visuals and interactive

elements, captures learners' attention and motivates them to participate actively. Example: During a lesson on adjectives, animated characters can demonstrate expressions of happiness, sadness, or surprise, making the concept more relatable and memorable.

**2. Contextualizing Language Learning.** Animation offers a unique ability to place grammar, vocabulary, and communication skills in authentic contexts. Traditional methods often present rules in isolation, whereas animation can depict real-life scenarios. Example: Animated videos showing conversations in a coffee shop or at a train station provide learners with examples of language use in practical settings, which can be reinforced through traditional role-play activities in the classroom. Diane Larsen-Freeman emphasizes, "Contextualized grammar instruction helps learners understand how language functions in real-world situations".

### 3. Supporting Diverse Learning Styles

Visual learners: Benefit from animated videos and graphics that illustrate abstract concepts.

Auditory learners: Respond well to narration and character dialogues in animations.

Kinesthetic learners: Engage with interactive animation features, such as drag-and-drop exercises or clickable elements. By combining these elements with traditional activities like discussions and written exercises, educators can ensure an inclusive learning environment.

**4. Reinforcing Knowledge Through Repetition.** Animation allows learners to revisit content at their own pace. Traditional methods often rely on classroom time alone for instruction, but animation-based content can be accessed repeatedly, reinforcing understanding. Example: Animated grammar tutorials can supplement classroom instruction, allowing learners to review challenging concepts at home.

### Practical Applications in Blended Learning

1. Grammar Instruction. Traditional grammar teaching can be complemented by animation-based explanations. Teachers can introduce grammar rules in class and reinforce them with animated tutorials or interactive quizzes. Example: An animation illustrating the use of prepositions in different contexts (e.g., on the table, under the bed) can provide learners with a clear and memorable visual reference.

2. Vocabulary Building. Animation can help students visualize and contextualize new vocabulary. For example, animated flashcards can pair images with words to enhance retention. Classroom Integration: Teachers can use animated videos to introduce vocabulary during lessons, followed by group activities such as sentence-building exercises.

3. Listening and Speaking Skills. Animations featuring dialogues in various accents and contexts improve listening comprehension and pronunciation. These can be used as a prelude to traditional speaking exercises like role-plays or presentations. Example: After watching an animated conversation, students can practice similar dialogues in pairs during class.

4. Cultural Learning. Animation can introduce cultural nuances, idioms, and expressions that may be difficult to convey through traditional methods alone. Example: An animated story about daily life in an English-speaking country can provide cultural context, sparking classroom discussions and critical thinking exercises.

### Challenges and Solutions

1. Resource and Technological Constraints. Creating high-quality animations can be time-consuming and resource-intensive. Schools with limited technology may also face barriers to implementing blended learning.

Solution: Educators can use free or low-cost tools such as Powtoon, Animaker, or Canva for animation creation. Additionally, mobile-friendly and offline-capable solutions can address infrastructure limitations.

2. Teacher Training. Teachers may lack the technical skills needed to integrate animation into their lessons effectively.

Solution: Professional development programs and online tutorials can equip educators with the necessary skills to implement blended learning models successfully.

3. Balancing Digital and Traditional Methods. Overreliance on digital tools can detract from the interpersonal benefits of traditional teaching methods.

Solution: A well-structured blended model should strike a balance, using animation to complement, not replace, traditional instruction.

### CONCLUSION

Blended learning models that combine animation and traditional English teaching methods offer a powerful approach to language education. By integrating the interactivity and visual appeal of animation with the structured, human-centered aspects of traditional teaching, educators can create a dynamic learning environment that caters to diverse student needs. While challenges such as resource constraints and teacher training exist, the growing accessibility of digital tools and professional development opportunities makes this model increasingly viable. As Richard Mayer highlights, “The combination of multimedia tools and traditional instruction represents the future of education, creating opportunities for richer and more effective learning experiences”. By embracing blended learning, educators can ensure that English language instruction is engaging, inclusive, and aligned with the demands of the modern educational landscape.

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