

THE ADVANTAGES OF TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract: This paper discusses the role of technology in teaching English language. Technology is the best means to create an environment to language learning. Curriculum with the technology integrative involves the technology as a tool to enhance the learning and listening skills. Technology should become integral part of classroom activity because students love and enjoy collaboration and easily work with technology. It would help them in learning, discovering and focusing. They can join in e-mail discussion and socio-political issues. The main purpose of technology for teaching English is to help student to learn language interesting and the help the teacher to do job more effectively. It also motivates student to learn more and more. Teaching through technology is more interesting and best then face to face communication. The lectures, notebooks, homework, assignment, project make student annoyed. Therefore a system is to be generated so that students enjoys their lesson. Effective learning skills can be generated in students by effective technology. Education is shifted from teacher centered to learner centered but teachers play a crucial role. These learning are students centered, interactive and also more knowledgeable. Technology improves the learners listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Technology creates new culture for learning.

Keywords: Technology, learning, interesting.

INTRODUCTION

English language is ever considered a lingua franca to the Indians. Every Indian intends to learn and master English language as it makes their employable. The English teacher needs to keep adding a charm to their transactional strategies to keep their students motivated to learn this language. The definition of classroom has changed. The modernized equipments are used for teaching such as slide projector, Radio tape recorder, television DVD and computer. Students are more exposed to computers. The use of technology lends color and variety in teaching. Software learning system enable students to achieve language learning in comprehensive manner. It helps to develop skills and to develop a professional approach.

Language Teaching

Language teaching is not an easy task. The teacher has to be competent enough to deal with students of different origin and interests. It can be made easy through new ways of teaching. It is estimated that almost sixty percentage of the world population is multilingual. Throughout history, foreign language teaching and learning, particularly English, has always been an important practical concern. As Peter Stevens says, language teaching is not an easy profession, but:

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is a task in which intelligence, imagination, training, command of language, experience, a body of knowledge and the exercise of judgment and compassion are essential qualities, and in which high standards are imposed and maintained, on a worldwide basis by a particular branch of profession of education.(P.13)

Of course, many scholars almost for the past one-century have been advocating many methods in language teaching. At the same time, bilingualism and multilingualism have become an indispensable matter to the people for various reasons. Teachers have realized their professional responsibilities in the current society. According to the changing social needs and educational functions of foreign languages, changed expectations and attitudes of learners, they have begun to experiment in a number of approaches and methods.

Technology in Teaching English

The use of technology is perpetuate the traditional models of teaching and learning. Technology has also been facilitating a lot in the teaching and learning process:

It is equally important in the sheltered, academic-area classrooms where its ability to provide comprehensible input serves as a scaffold to support students as they study a academically challenging subject matter[...]. Technology can provide students with language experiences as they move through various stages of languages acquisition[...] The role of technology as a source for instruction of second language learners is increasing as educators recognize its ability to create both independent and collaborative learning environments in which student can acquire and practice a new language. (Butler, P.3)

Students are exposed to the computers which are similar to the workbooks in their language learning process. The use of multimedia technology lends color and variety teaching English. English language learners require a new language experience which will make interesting and exciting. The language teachers teach the learners with the digital age challenges to use technology in ways that facilitate language learning. The learners and teachers will benefit from technology in its supporting role in the English language classroom. The technology learning software is really beneficial in the listening activities. Students can use the computer to record their voice and compare the pronunciations to a target pronunciation. In the same manner reading and writing can also be practiced.

Software learning systems enable students to achieve language learning in comprehensive manner. It helps to develop skills and to a professional approach. Getting exposed to new features of technology increases the interest of learners. Web –based software learning also facilitates learners to develop their skills precisely and clearly. Exploitation of technology by English language teachers helps learners

to develop a professional approach towards learning. Use of technology as a tool for learning communications skills enables the learners to master the language efficiently and successfully. You can learn language and teach language with the help of technology. To do this we need to understand how we learn a language and how we can teach a language. We also need to know how to use technology to learn a language and how to use technology to teach a language use appropriate technology when it contributes to the message you are delivering.

Internet has become a very important part of everyone's life. A life without internet cannot be imagined. From the fact it is seen that India will be the largest internet using country in globe by 2015. Indian teachers are becoming computer savvy to cater present need of learners. It is seen that a student should have sharp listening, speaking, reading and writing skills which would help them in interview. Learning English is not so easy but if we try to learn English through net resource it would empower the learners with language skill but also help them grasp the basic computer skill. This will enhance their job opportunities. These net sources provide adequate materials for beginners and advanced learners. These net sources provide learner friendly material and sufficient material to enhance their communicative abilities. They are cost effective and are not time bound. They provide learners autonomy and allow them to choose suitable material for their language need. They are always up-to-date and provided a challenging environment. We are living in an era of information explosion where there is no dearth of information. Net sources are very useful if used in proper way.

Some of the online sites like www.go4english.com, www.onestopenglish.com, www.l-language.com, www.worldenglishclub.com etc are really helping many teachers to prepare with new content. These sites are really useful for beginners, intermediate and advanced learners. The accessible resources are flashcards, alphabet sheets, phonics sheets, writing sheets latest articles, English dialects, English Grammar, English proverbs, and methods to learn English and speak English. Teachers also can use other advanced Web sources like pod casting sites like www.podcastinenglish.com, www.podcast.net, www.podcasts.yahoo.com and etc. These sites can be used for downloading audio and video programmes for using in language classes. Language teachers need to understand is that she/he should be able to handle technology appropriately and to the optimum. If she is Technophobic then a day is not very far in their career when the students start rejecting.

Teachers can use websites to post class schedules, assignment requirements and even samples for student and parent use. Further, when teachers do need to contact an individual parent, the contact information is easily accessible through the technology systems. In conclusion, we may say that information technology is an indivisible part of education in the twenty-first century. When used correctly in the classroom, technology can allow students to experience situations and circumstances

that the students of 20 years ago could only dream about. Through technology, books and figures can suddenly become alive and applicable to the real world.

CONCLUSION

Technology provides an even greater avenue for interaction between teacher and students. At the English lessons different videos, exercises, games, listening drills may be done. Information technology makes learning English available to a wider range of learners as well. It is concluded that the technology oriented teaching may enhance the motivation of learners in their pursuit of excellence and their endeavor to compete with the crowd of job seekers. This method is not an alternative methods but complementary to the existing methods with its additional advantages.

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