

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATED LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract

The world at present needs the English language as tool for communication. The trend in teaching experienced a rapid change; the technology is integrated in this process. In the country like ours, English is being taught as second language and in some places as first language. As on today, the prominence of English in our country is increasing compared to previous situation and it is also proven that as a key element in the curriculum as the medium of instruction. It had impact on the entire education system of our country.

The efficient integration of Technology tools, in teaching language has witnessed on the learners output. All the students are being aware of the latest gadgets to update their knowledge in grooming their communication skills. Many facilities at present scenario enable them to access all the resources from different platforms such as Digital libraries, on-line dictionaries, websites, e-journals, e-books and apps. This how the technology has replaced the teacher, but teacher is the source of basic learning.

Keywords : CALL, ELLs, internet, website, collaborative tools, audio-visuals, films etc.

Full Paper

The present paper focuses on how the effective usage of technology has taken toll on the English language classrooms. The trend in teaching also had a rapid change; the technology is integrated in this process. In the country like ours, English is being taught as second language and in some places as first language. As on today, the prominence of English in our country is

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English is the link language across the globe. Language is skill subject which has to be mastered by integrating four components, LSRW skills. More numbers of learners are showing interest in improving proficiency of language which is the need of the hour in both work-life as well as personal life.

The old classroom settings are equipped with language laboratory settings which is comfortable to heterogeneous group of learners. Many application softwares are being used to train them at different rates of speed, so that every student takes a chance to learn at his/her own pace of learning environment without a feel of inhibition. This enables them to make mistakes and understand it well and to practice further in privacy. This helps them to self-motivate towards learning.

The drastic advancements in technology had influence on continuously updating the classroom teaching and learning strategies to meet the needs of the learners. We should have the gravity of technology in our classroom teaching as it is omnipresent and powerful tool. Otherwise, students will not show interest towards learning. Because as the society has technology as its heart and mind, breathe with technology in all walks of life.

The classroom teaching also needs the impact of our life style. The learners do up the tasks seriously as well as learning also happens in them. In general, usage of internet is not always advisable; it pushes the sources, as water from the hose pipe which cannot quench our thirst. The right way of integrating the technology would results in extending and enhancing the process of learning. However, this generation learners know the basic computer and application background knowledge which enables them to navigate with technology. In fact, integrating of technology should support the four basic key components of learning: Active participation of learner, in groups or teams, effective interaction among students and feedback and should have real-world experience.

CALL and learners of English

CALL is an approach for teaching and learning, where the computer and computer-based resources such as the internet and software are used to present, reinforce and assess materials to be learnt. The curriculum is designed by the teachers by integrating technology as core element. The direct benefits of ELLs receives good signals, Emerging technologies and Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) used with ELLs are “ideal for fostering reading and writing skills in the target language” (Johns & Torrez, 2001, p. 11). Utilization of technology with ELLs develops language, literacy, and technological literacy skills. It further enable the teachers to differentiate content, process, and product for ELL, so that the areas of language efficiency level, motivation to learn, interest, background knowledge, and importance of learning are specified. The learners of ELLs are being enabled to get complete access to the curriculum in order to reach the same goals as the learners of mainstream.

The Role of Technology

Technology cannot be a mere add-on in the language classroom because there is a strong link between teachers' assumptions about language teaching and how they use technology in the classroom (Kern and Warschauer, 2000; MacKinnon, n.d.). In fact, teachers who relay in teaching grammar elements, uses the technology in teaching. As Different approaches involves in various usage of technology. The accuracy of grammar will remain the central idea in case of Structural Approach method. But technology is integrated to make the learners understand the elements of grammar. Teachers should make aware the students about excellent blogs such as Daily step English etc for easy learning.

Usage of Technology in the Language Class

As teaching methods are to cater the student's needs, the technology should be incorporated in the teaching contents. The support of multimedia approach to technology had given a concrete platform to this generation teachers. Firstly, the teacher is source and control towards the display of the matter, the students are the listeners and they do not interact with the technology. This permits in two transformations. As the focus shifts from the teacher to the student; teacher decides and controls the activities, students will be in learning process. Second, the focus shifts

from teacher to students; they comprehend and memorize the information in order to interpret to create the new sources for their tasks.

The integration of technology had broadened the role of assistance in the education process. The language classrooms are equipped with the recent tools that are in the current market without depending on the complex software's, hardwares or third-party vendors. The word-processing program is must for a teacher (such as Microsoft Word); this enables to project the contents on the screen with the help of a projector where students can view it. Above this, all the students must have access to computers in the classroom; this phenomenon works well if the three students of a group share a computer to collaborate to process the tasks. In fact, all the computers should have an internet facility to pool the sources of information for communication amongst them and also across the globe.

Listening and Speaking

The great strides of advancement in technology have initiated deep usage in the fields of information and communication technology. The major employability opportunities are based on the parameter 'fluency or proficiency' of English which is a criteria in all the fields. It's been proven that, English is the only language to cater the needs of national and international standards of trade and culture. The website carolinebrownlisteninglessons.com is caters listening activities with various topics and exercises covering pre-listening vocabulary, post-listening words, gap filling exercises, true or false statements etc. It also improves the concentration levels and enthusiasm towards learning. The communicative approach tries to promote effective process of communication. For example, learners practice the dialogues to learn the techniques of functional English such as greetings, extending pleasantries, negotiation, politeness, etc. These are the tools of collaboration which aims at the objective in learning language effectively, in order to hone speaking.

At the initial stage, the technology allowed only to store and retrieve audio files. Before computer era, the language teaching was done through media, by showing TV and radio programs to teach learners pronunciation practice and dialogues'. The content of this material has not changed, but it is much advanced in the sense of application softwares such as

pronunciation power-2, learn to speak English etc. Many blogs are accessed through internet to make learning very compatible for all the age groups.

Even such tasks can be created by the teachers for teaching purpose and students can also do it as projects. For instance, to create an Audio files we need a microphone and speakers, both of them should be devised in the computers. In audio-video clippings it requires still more efficiency. The tasks may be assigned to the students as project. Teacher should monitor students in the aspects of dialogues, pronunciation and performance. The enacted situation can be recorded by digital cameras, loaded on a computer and editing done by special software's for high quality. The Students have zeal to collaborate on mini-projects. The 5 minutes audio or video clips, such as self introduction, GDS or interviews can be done where students involve with great interest where they will get trained.

One more difficult task of effective communication is interaction with strangers who are in far locations, such as telephonic interviews and video conferencing. A group of people are allowed to interact in real-time scenario. In this context, we need high end technology to transmit voice in both directions. The Software such as Skype and high configuration hardware with webcam are needed to allow the learners to participant. If they do it in real-time context they may be exposed to the setbacks to hone their skills.

Reading Skills

As on today, we have a hub of knowledge resources across the globe. The days are changed as we are not only reading books and magazines manually. We had makeshift in the skill of e-reading sources such as e-papers, e-magazines, e-journals and e-books etc. Besides, Science and Technology too have explored us towards reading for information in the wake of knowledge. The ultimate academic success of the students depends on the habits of reading.

One should not limit only with Textbooks. Textbooks are meant for teaching and learning. Textbooks provide exercises for the students. Reading skill could be inculcated by providing comprehension passages and introducing pleasure for reading technique by giving them abridged literature books available in internet as well as hardcopy during lab hours which inculcates

reading. Students can only develop reading when they start reading other books than their textbooks. They develop extensive reading which is beyond the general reading.

Teachers are much wearied when they allow the learners to access internet because they may plagiarize instead of their own thinking lines. Internet would be a good source when learners access best e-books blog. The Study Skills Success Software helps to enhance skimming and scanning skills for better reading.

Teachers have to throw a open-ended questions as assignment tasks from pleasure for reading section to create an opportunity to refer and evaluate the available sources. These kinds of assignments enable them to refer primary sources and secondary sources. Learners exposed to critical reading which makes them aware of the subject. Learners also learn how to locate accurate information in the internet instead of relying on all kinds of information.

Enhancement of Writing Skill

The usage of computer has changed the lay man into a writer. Writing is a skill which needs excellent competence. But Microsoft Word and LATEX have changed the style and changed the way one writes. Here, only to press the keys than typing the letters by hand, the spelling are corrected and sentence structures are automatically framed based on the information what one types. The syntax and semantic errors are easily identified and corrected by linguistic tools and grammar and spelling check, discarding writing that no longer fits etc.

When the question arises, how much we can allow the students to access this facility? We know that writing needs high competence rather than other three skills. In writing, attention has to paid both to higher-level skills of planning and organization as well as lower-level aspects, such as spelling and punctuation (flower and Hayes, 1981). Student writers find it difficult to coordinate these complex skills and the problem is further compounded if their language proficiency is weak. Composing on the computer appears to help lower-ability students (Dalton and Hannafin, 1987) and ESL writers (Penningto, 1993), because computers enables writing process such as forming letters and spelling check tools, leaves the students free to generate and expand their own ideas. This makes them to learn easily and effectively.

Role of Internet

The technology invaded the human life in all walks. Without which it is highly difficult to survive. Gone are the days of old fashioned thoughts, now it is technology plays key role in our lives. Way back days, teacher asked the students to write composition to analyze their ability in the class-rooms. Even evaluation was done manually. But the trend has changed the entire world. E-classrooms are established and teachers play a role of mentors in supervising and guiding the students. Gadgets play the role of tools for learning the language.

The latest trends in teaching should be adopted by the teachers. Earlier, class-room teaching aids were chalk-talk which is outdated and replaced with computer-internet sources to look beyond the margin. Use of Information and Communication Technology in teaching and learning process has advent the field of education. It is expected to cope with the situation to cater the needs such education and training to the stakeholders who should equip to adopt themselves suitable to the changing scenario of the market demands in order to excel in the market of employability.

Students should be exposed to internet sources, for better scope of reference and synthesizing information from various sources. This enables them hone study skills to promote good critical reading and synthesizing information from various sources by paraphrasing and summarizing. It further allows the students towards reference skills and research skills.

Role of collaborative tools

Above all, the revolution in technology has emerged with many collaborative tools which can be used as a platform for discussion and interaction between teachers and learners, discussion forums, email and chat groups. The peer group can utilize the opportunity as they are in class-room situation. This kind of forums can be set up by the IT department of the college. So, that students group can exercise their assignments with others through forums. The amount of information and ideas can be exchanged easily and efficiently.

These forums provide two advantages as over-class and in-class with time limitation. Even during online-teaching the learners express their thoughts by posting on the forum. This enables

writing skills and analytical thinking. Even this technique improves the students who have inhibition, could not express during the class will post on the forums. This also enables the students to indulge in a deep discussion on the topic and kindles their communication skills and research skills.

These tools help the students or learners to have a comfort zone in learning the subject as well as their communication skills. The students are well versed in using technology rather than teachers. Assignment tasks should be given to the student groups to exchange the information and to submit a softcopy of it for evaluation. The objectives of teaching language are meted out to a large extent.

Thus, the role that a language teacher plays in the lives of students and the teacher's potential to improve the quality of life for students cannot be underestimated. Elementary school teachers have a major effect on how children will view school, possibly for the next twelve years of their lives. This effect can be compounded when students do not speak English. In order to foster acceptance, self-confidence, learning, and achievement, teachers of ESL students need to make the classroom a heaven for children, create meaningful learning situations for their students, and never give up on them (Thompson, 2000).

Conclusion: Communication technologies such as computer-mediated communication brought a paradigm shift in the teaching/ learning methods of English as a Second/Foreign language across the globe. Teachers should impart the communication skills with the support of technology. E-class rooms are gadget oriented and learner-centered. The learners are self-motivated and driven towards the employability.

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