

The Use of ICT in Teaching and Learning English Language

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Abstract:

The use of technology in English language teaching and learning is one of the recent and modern methodologies in language learning and teaching. Presently, language teachers, researchers and professionals have started to realize the importance of using variety of technological devices in teaching English. This rapid development of information technology has offered a better pattern to explore the new teaching model. As a result technology plays a very important role in English teaching. This paper investigates the attitudes of teachers towards the use of information communication technologies for English language learning. Further, it will interpret the attitudes, perception and feedback of teachers towards the role of ICTs for Teaching and learning English. It also aims to make English teachers aware of the strategies and to use it in an effective way. Finally, implications are suggested to make this technique or approach more learner centered.

1. Introduction:

English language is used throughout the world as first language or second language. In India, for most of the people, English is considered as their first language though it is a foreign language. There is a strong relationship between English and the vernacular languages of India. Though English is a second language (SL) in India, it enjoys a high prestige in our nation. The role of English is high and the number of English speakers is

tremendously increased and the various teaching methods have implemented to achieve the expected outcomes. There are many strategies in learning English language. One can learn English language from reading and speaking. In the modern days, learners have a number of facilities to learn English easily and the use of technology becomes a new trend in learning English language. With the spread and development of English around the world, English has been learned and used by more and more speakers. According to David Graddol (1997:16) English is the language at the leading edge of scientific and technological development, new thinking in economics and management, new literatures and entertainment genre.

2. Information and Communication Technology:

Information and communication technology in education is the method of education that uses technology to support, improve, and make the learning more efficient. Information and Communication Technology, or ICT, refers to technological tools that are used to communicate and to manage information. Internet, Mobile Phones, Tablets, Computers, Audio Players, Electronic Dictionary, Email, Blogs, Audio Cassettes, Power Point, Videos, DVD's or VCD's etc, have a great impact on the process of teaching and learning English language. ICT also includes technologies such as Instant Relay Messenger (Face- book, WhatsApp), smart phones, projectors (LED, LCD), graphics, Television, You Tube, E-books, animations and emojis. Learners, who are exposed to technology, have better knowledge, presentation skills, and innovative ideas and are ready to take more efforts in learning. The contemporary period opens new challenges and duties to both the modern teachers and learners. Technology makes teaching more interesting, more effective, and more productive and it is an important factor that brings both social and linguistic change. Graddol: (1997:16) states that technology lies at the heart of the globalization process; affecting education work and culture. Technology is utilized for the upliftment of modern styles; it satisfies both visual and auditory senses of the students.

3. Use of Technology in ELT Classroom:

In language teaching and learning class creativity plays a vital role as it can improve the ability of the learners. The use of English has increased and so the need for qualified

teachers or the trainers are needed more in this era. Though there is a huge development in technology, there are certain traditional teachers who are not ready to adapt the new technologies in their teaching methods. It doesn't mean that those traditional methods are bad or damaging students. There are some other ways to improve the teaching and learning English language. Use of ICT in the class room improves the ability and the confidence level of the students. Effective use of technology makes learner to learn language better and faster. In teaching and learning process many technological devices employed to make effective learning of English language. This integration of technology with English language is a kind of innovative way of teaching and learning English. Teacher can make teaching process more effective as well as the students also can make learning fruitful.

4. Application of Technology in Teaching and Learning EL:

- a) To develop students' interest in study. Nowadays, the traditional teaching methods are unpopular while multimedia technology featuring audio, visual animation effects naturally makes us more access to information. Multimedia technology offers a sense of reality and functions very well, which greatly cultivates students' interest and motivation in study and their involvement in class activities.
- b) To encourage students' communication capacity-Multimedia technology seeks integration of teaching and learning and provides the students greater motivation. The PPT activates students' thinking the visual and vivid picture help them to transforms English learning into capacity cultivation.
- c) Multimedia technology teaching has uniquely inspired students' positive thinking and communication skills in social practice. .
- d) It expands students' knowledge to gain the understanding of Western Culture. ICT class room provides the students abundant information about cultural background and rich content, whereas traditional teaching limited the students' capacity to understand other languages and made the learners mere passive listeners.
- e) It creates a platform for the students to have interaction with teachers.It enhances the importance of "interaction" between teachers and students. A

major feature of multimedia teaching is to train and improve students' ability to listen and speak, and to develop their communicative competence. In this way, teachers in the classroom no longer blindly input information and force students to receive it in a passive way.

5. Guidelines to apply ICT in Language Classroom:

There are certain guidelines which support teaching and learning English language through technology. The following suggestions can be applied differently in ELT classrooms.

- a) Use technology to assist the pedagogical goals of the class and curriculum. The use of technology must be lesser than the lecture and in other words the teacher should not use technology much in ELT classrooms. If multimedia technology would be properly implemented in English teaching, the students could make full use of English speaking and listening materials and develop their overall capacities, which is the objective to introduce multimedia technology to modern teaching thus, this leads to systematic training on students' listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- b) Make technology as a tool as we use teaching aid to support the teaching and learning in a fruitful way. The computer or other technologies cannot serve as a teacher or they cannot replace the role of a teacher in the classroom. The most useful way to look at technology is as a tool that supports learning in a wide variety ways.
- c) Effective use of multimedia technology makes the students learn better and faster. Utilizing the usage of ICT can create an enhanced environment in the classroom.
- d) Use technology in an efficient way. Efficient signifies that technology accomplishes learning with less time. It consumes our time and energy.

6. Problems evolved in using ICT:

In spite of advantages, there are certain problems that have to be carried out in using ICT in teaching and learning English language. Technology is only an assisting instrument. If

we totally dependent on multimedia devices during teaching, the teachers may be turned into slaves to the multimedia and cannot play the leading role in teaching. The use of technology too much brings lack of communication between teachers and students. Replacement of teacher's voice by technology makes the students mere the viewers rather than the participants of class activities. Most of the times, it also restricts students' thinking capacity and the abstract thinking capacity of the students will be replaced by imaginable thinking.

7. Conclusion:

The ultimate aim of ICT in teaching and learning EL is to promote student's motivation and learning interest. Thus the learning becomes student-centric and not teacher-centric. Shi says, "Ideally, the purpose of both the traditional and computer-assisted cooperative language learning classrooms is to provide a space in which the facilitation of learning, and learning itself, can take place" (Shi, 2008: 76). We believe that this process can thoroughly improve students' practical language skills, creativity and useful for the effective result of teaching and learning English Language.

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