

The Role of Technology in Teaching and Learning English

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Abstract

20th century underwent a tremendous and unprecedented revolution in each and every sphere of life. Whether it is science, arts, literature, language, culture, or knowledge as a whole adding to the wealth of this planet which is Earth. Even education has become more dynamic, modern, pristine and more effective with the advancement in technology in it. In ancient times language was mostly taught and learnt with the traditional methods like imitation, observation, listening, reading and writing. However these techniques still have their prestigious place in inculcating effective language skills, especially the language like English which is a Global language. With the help of technology teaching and learning English has become easier than ever before. Many teachers prefer teaching English with the help of various technical tools as doing so they can save their time. The use of Language Labs, LCD, LED Projectors, smart phones, computers, laptops, translating machines, online and offline dictionaries, sound recorder, audio as well as video lectures, Technology significantly helps teacher to communicate his message far effectively, making learning English interesting as an international language. Learning English with DVDs, electronic dictionaries and T.V., radio appeals to all our senses as students learn better with the first hand experience. Teachers too find themselves at ease while they interact with students with the help of technology the benefit of learning English with technology is not only confined to classrooms only as you can learn anywhere and anytime making learning English more interesting for students. However students today have a lot of opportunities to practice English through social media, newspapers where they can find a variety of methods by using which language can be learnt which is not always possible within four walls. Unlike reading from the textbooks in a familiar way students use tablets for reading as they can carry it anywhere. What is most technology catches our attention and retains it to longer time.

Introduction:-

Human civilization has progressed rapidly since Stone Age. We passed through Iron Age, Brass age, Copper age, Golden age. Now it is the age of technology. Life has become smoother and smoother as we marched ahead. Earlier we used to communicate through signs and symbols. Slowly and gradually language developed. There are thousands of languages in the world. Number one language spoken in the world is Mandarin language, next to it, is English language. Latin, French etc are widely spoken in their respective country and English is considered as an international language, a link language, a global language because English people has ruled over almost all the countries in the world. Common wealth countries are the best example. Wherever those people went they left their impression there. Asian countries have been influenced tremendously where English is used in Government offices on a wide scale.

England a small island during the progress of civilization has ruled all over the world. Wherever they went they took their language with them. Now English is widely spoken throughout the world and it is second largest language in the world. All trade and commerce are conducted in English. To spread their culture England conducted missionaries and left them the job of spreading their language and culture. Earlier before scientific inventions it was very difficult to reach to grass root level. But now due to advancement in science and technology everything has become easy.

Spread and Reach of English

England's common people spoke the English Language but it has become the language of knowledge. All science and technological books are written in this language. Hence it has become very necessary to learn English. It has become gateway of knowledge.

Various modern tools are available to teach English Language, of which some are 1) Audio –Visual Aids 2) LCD Projector 3) Language Labs 4) Translation machine 5) audio Cassettes 6) Electronic Dictionary. Language Lab: - Computer plays very important role in language labs. Computers are preloaded with software to teach English, Spanish, German, French etc. Head phones are used to listens standard language. These labs provide a very different experience from the traditional system of teaching and learning languages. They

facilitate teacher's role in creating more attractive environment for the students. Learning a language just by studying theory is not enough to guarantee a successful language learning experience. Language lab gives more practice and make student conversant in the language.

LCD Projector: - These are modern tools help to present power point presentation. Students can grasp concept easily with the help of power point presentation as visual things make great impact on learning. This is famously said as, "I hear, I forget. I see, I remember." Thus projector helps student to grasp study material quickly and they can easily retain their attention in the class. LCD projectors are widely used in big institute for their daily teaching. Computer labs are well equipped with all the facilities for presentation. Learners have access to the user technology. The internet connects people to a global network so a wide range of discussion and interaction is possible.

Audio-Visual Aids: -

DVDs are great source of audio visual aids. But limited laptops and limited computers in lab and wrong location of labs have created problems for Teachers. Lack of access to suitable educational hardware and software is a great barrier to ICT utilization in English Language Teaching. Lack of ICT resources such as trolleys with LCD Projectors in the classrooms hampered teacher's attempt to integrate ICT in their teaching.

Translation Machine:

Google translator is often confused as translation machine but it is software developed by Google. Translation facilitates people of various countries to interact with each other. Such tourists either can use translation machine or any software like Google translator. But translation system for many of global languages is at an early stage and the translations they produce are still a long way from professional quality, nonetheless they convey the gist of the original meaning. Sound recorders are equally useful in a way they can be very handy for students to check their pronunciation and correct it for better results and listen to in a proper way, thus they can learn how to pronounce certain words along Online and offline pronouncing dictionary software and apps help a lot for that matter. Through social media too students can have a lot of exposure to language.

Audio Cassettes:-

Either on your cassette player at home or school or in any vehicle you can listen. There are plenty of great audio study guides that will enable students to learn English language quickly. Thus audio cassettes can serve as a good study material to develop English or any other language. Teaching in smart classrooms having all necessary audio-visual aids is adding a positive outcome, as students learn effectively in this manner. They can fully concentrate on what is being taught example, e-seminar, webinars, online lectures etc. Using multimedia to create a context to teach English has its unique advantage.

Conclusion:-

To conclude we can say that we have a lot to choose from the world of Technology. Radio, TV, CD Rom, Computers, The internet, Electronic Dictionary, E-mails, Blogs, Audio Cassettes, Power point, Video's DVD'S Or VCD's. The last two decades have witnessed a revolution due to onset of technology. This rising and development of Information Technology has offered a best pattern to explore the new teaching model. Thus Technology plays a very important role in English teaching.

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