

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF ICT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING**

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### **Abstract:**

The present paper discusses the need of technology in effective English language teaching and its various advantages. The growth of ICT has brought about drastic changes not only in language teaching but in each and every sphere of life also. Today ICT is regarded as primary and vital resource for the development of English language teaching. ICT and ELT both are closely interrelated terms like pestle and mortar because ICT provides the basic opportunities to understand the language from its basic core along with some latest teaching aids like videos, sounds, animations, graphics, etc.

**Key words:** technology , English language teaching , revolutionize education.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Gone are the days instructors teach while students listen and understand. About two decades ago, shortly personal computers were introduced, people thought that computers would revolutionize education and computer-based teaching and learning would become the savior of education. The change has already taken place. The area of language teaching and learning has no exception. English being the second language, in terms of a number of people communicating in it, because of its techno-friendly nature, is a language of global acceptance and popularly welcomed by the technocrats, professionals, corporate houses and the global business community.

Technology is concerned with “designing aids and tools to perfect the mind” ( Brown, A.L. 1994: 12 ). The purpose of ICT in education is generally to familiarize students with the use and workings of computers, and related social and ethical issues. Exposure and interaction are two important factors which help us to learn a language. To be able to learn a new language, we need to listen to the language in natural contexts, and have opportunities to genuinely interact with somebody in that language. Technology in the classroom can make that easy. ICT can improve learning outcomes. By incorporating ICT in education, changes may be introduced in both teaching-learning methods and content. Managing a language classroom is different from others and is a bit difficult for the teachers of English. It is necessary for the teacher to get the attention of students and use various methods and different ways to instill the interest in students. The teacher should mould and make the students settle in the class with ease and to be active and attentive in the classroom. As the students have different grasping levels of learning and come from diversified backgrounds, so the responsibility of the teachers increases. They should handle

them tactfully. No doubt, teaching is the major task of the teacher. But, now a day the definition of teaching has been moulded. The teacher should not teach the students but he should make them learn. The classroom should be learner oriented. With the help of various teaching methods he can do so. One of them is ICT. The inclusion of technology in teaching communication stimulates students' interest in learning technical aspects of communication. Inclusion of technology in technological aspects of communication, web lessons, and quizzes increase the output of teaching. Students can enjoy learning actively, such as by bringing outside world into the classroom or by interacting with peers, experts and others. Furthermore, the students will have the opportunity to learn different skills. Information and communication technologies can motivate and engage students in thinking and working creatively, exploring and experimenting, reflecting and planning, creating new possibilities, and ultimately achieving excellence.

ICT stands for new multimedia technologies, including computers, software and CD-ROM, internet, mobile phone, television, film and other technologies. Researches show that the use of ICT on students' language learning provides much evidence that ICT has a positive effect on motivation. It increases students' learning including language learning, achievement and enthusiasm in the use of ICT in their lessons. ICT dissolves the barriers of time and place and it throws open the possibility to initiate any human activity. The choice of ICT for educational communication is due to its user friendliness, speed, accuracy, high degree storage capacity, integrity, consistency, logicity, durability and probability. Use of ICT can transform learning.

Today we are living in the twenty-first century. The present age is surrounded and enlightened by technology. Education can be understood itself through language education and especially English language education. The study of ICT popularly known as "networking" is concerned with the science and technology for building communication network of communication links. In language teaching and learning, we have a lot to choose from the world of technology: Radio, Tape-recorder, TV, Computers, the Internet, Electronic Dictionary, Email, Blogs, Power Point, Videos, Language Laboratory, etc,

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING -AIDS**

### **RADIO**

Radio plays a vital role in communicating information. Information reaches even the most remote place of country. It imparts language education, provides entertainment, and disseminates information to both literate and illiterate listeners. Radio is used mainly for non-formal teaching. Through radio, we can educate the peasants by informing them about latest technology for agriculture, and it helps in teaching language and music. Through radio, we come to know about child care, women's health, hygiene, balanced diet, latest information, sports, etc. It is another kind of teaching-learning instrument. It was usually used as a means of communication in times of war and disaster, then became a means of entertainment. Radio plays a major role in language. The newsreader introduces standard pronunciation values to the phenomenon, words, phrases and sentences. It can be used effectively in the English classroom. The teacher of English may inform the students how English should be spoken with correct pronunciation, the pitch of voice and intonation by referring to BBC news and cricket commentary. So the important listening skill may be developed among students. With the invention of television, the charm of radio has diminished. However, it is getting popular with the FM broadcast.

## **TAPE RECORDER**

Tape recorder is another assistant of teacher. It is very useful for the beginner of any foreign language. It acts as an auditory teaching aid in classroom situation. It has two functions, one is to recording another is for cassette playing. It provides opportunities for students to hear a vast amount authentic native speech. It is used in grammar drills and listening comprehension. Listening to good models, like a native speaker can improve their pronunciation. Lessons in stress, rhythm and pause are recorded by experts that are made available for students to listen to. The pupils can record their own voice, compare with the model and correct themselves. Dictation material can be recorded beforehand and played for the students to take down.

## **TELEVISION**

Television is an effective and good audio-visual aid in teaching. It is the non-literacy medium. Television acts as a magic eye for learners as it can stimulate several situations and manipulate creativity. Video-conferencing facilitates in bridging the gaps between the haves and have-nots in education today. With addition to television, we can also use slide projector, OHP, films, tape recorder, videocassette and LCD as substitutes for chalkboard.

Television is advantageous in providing visuals to reinforce the information being presented in spoken form. Even in this field, language education plays a vital role, because additional cues compensate for dialectal difference between speakers and listeners. Telecasting information through TV is beneficial to the illiterate and literate people. Television provides a ground for additional cultural learning, and also facilitates to entertain and educate the viewers. It aims to enlarge both knowledge and understanding. It provides educational information regarding science, different cultures, civil war, wild life, agriculture, etc. we can bring educational programmes generated by experts. Critics call it the idiot box due to some mindless programmes, which promote mindless viewing.

## **COMPUTER**

Computer technology has become a most ubiquitous technological influence on our lives in the last part of 20<sup>th</sup> century.. When computers were introduced to education, they made a significant place in the teaching learning process. Traditionally, it is concerned as an instrument of numerical processing. The speed with which a computer works and provides result sets us thinking about harnessing this potential for language processing or, what we today call, word processing.

Computer is inbuilt with the features like RAM, Power Point Presentation, Word Excel, Internet, Video conferencing, Data Transfer, etc. It saves time and provides opportunities to be a smart worker. Now computers also help us to correct errors while typing a text. We can check our spelling mistakes through the computer. Nowadays computers have several features, which help us in checking our grammar and spelling mistakes. We can also store dictionary and grammar detecting applications. Our computer compares every word, spelling and grammar of the sentence and points out the mistake in that sentence. This helps a lot to the new user of the language and helps those who are regular users.

Computer is an audio-visual aid. The teacher of English may show them any movie or video clip regarding the syllabus and also he may listen to them speeches of ideal speakers.

## **INTERNET**

The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard Internet Protocol Suite (TCP/IP) to serve billion of users worldwide. IP (internet protocol) is the network level protocol. TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) and UPD (User Datagram Protocol) are the most commonly used protocols at the transport layer. The IP protocol can operate over any link layer that can transform IP packets. It is a network of networks that consists of millions of private, public, academic, business, and government networks of local to global scope that are linked by a broad array of electronic and optical networking technologies. The Internet carries a vast array of information resources and services, most notably the inter-linked hypertext documents of the World Wide Web (WWW) and the infrastructure to support electronic mail.

Internet refers to the worldwide inter-connection of packet networks that all use. It has a wide range of information about all sorts of topics, which we want to discuss in the classrooms and at the same time a source of professional knowledge for teachers. For accessing all sorts of information through the Internet one must have some practice and experience to know how to surf the Internet.

The Internet is a tool which offers unprecedented possibilities in the field of English Language Teaching. According to convention wisdom, the Internet consists of teaching materials. These materials make it possible to teach every language skill. With the help of internet, the teacher may explain students how to speak and write correct English without committing grammatical mistakes. In the teaching of play or novel he may show them related movie or actual play. Internet assisted ELT can enhance teacher's effectiveness, and facilitates his or her work. It also increases students' independence, motivation and provides a real information gap. The Internet helps students become more successful in school, enhances their critical thinking skills by allowing to judge the value of information they find. Internet is sometimes called the library of poor as the information is easily accessible for all people connected to Net. The number of sites offering ELT has been growing.

The Internet is the changing the very nature of society. World leading economics could not exist without the internet. Information is available to any user at any place and time. The web offers an inexhaustible source of resources including teaching resources. Using the Internet does not mean the compromising interactivity or spontaneity associated with face to face interactions. The tremendous opportunities should be exploited by ELT teacher to augment the process of foreign language teaching.

## **LANGUAGE LABORATORY**

Language laboratory is another kind of programmed learning, which use listening programmes. It is very useful for assessing students' speech. It provides students with the technical tools to get the best samples of pronunciation of the language. The electronic devices used in the laboratory stimulate the eyes and ears of the learner to acquire the language quickly and easily. The laboratory's collection is designed to assist learners in the acquisition and maintenance of aural comprehension, oral and written proficiency and cultural awareness. The language laboratory offers broadcasting, television programmes, web-assisted materials and videotaped recordings in the target language. In short, a learner can get the experience of having interaction with native speakers through the laboratory.

The significance of the language laboratory has been much felt in the domain of communication. We live in a multicultural world, which is being shrunk to the size of a village by the advancement of science and technology. The language laboratory exists to help one to use technology effectively to communicate. It not merely for learning a single language, but can be used for teaching a number of languages effectively. It helps one to learn pronunciation, accent, stress and all other aspects of the phonetics. Effective communicative programmes for the general public, private and corporate sectors, senior and junior level officers can be given through the language laboratory. Experts can utilize the laboratory for creating and editing scientific and technical materials for teaching language. The language laboratory enables one to conduct courses for various groups of people like students, faculties, businesspeople, etc, To acquire a sensibility of the sounds and rhythm of a language, one has to hear the best samples of a spoken language.

The language laboratory is a very helpful for practicing and assessing one's speech in any language. It provides a facility which allows the student to listen to model pronunciation, repeat and record the same, listen to their performance and compare with the model, and do self assessment. Since the language laboratory gives every learner of any language freedom to learn at their own pace. It is a flexible and does not necessarily require a teacher all the time. At the same time, it is possible for teachers to provide assistance individually and collectively. The language laboratory allows every participant his or her privacy to speak and listen. Hence the language laboratory has become the need of the hour in any language learning process for communication.

## **CONCLUSION**

Education through ICT is a complex, multifaceted process involves technology. It helps in institutional readiness, teacher competencies and long-term financing among others. ICT addresses four broad issues on education: effectiveness, cost, equity and sustainability. Introduction to ICTs in different fields is the most challenging task. It is the most powerful tool to attend educational opportunities. It is beneficial for those groups who are excluded from education due to cultural and social reason e.g. a person with disabilities, girls and women as well as persons who, because of cost or time constraints, are unable to enroll on campus.

Through ICT one can have asynchronous learning. Online courses materials are available. Teachers and learners are not solely dependent on books, and others study materials available in library with the help of the Internet and the World Wide Web provides a wide range of subject material in each and every subject. One can surf the Internet anywhere or anytime. At one time, an unlimited number of people can access the Internet. It also facilitates access to persons-researches, business leaders, experts, mentors and peers all over the world.

To conclude, the use of ICT on language learning has a positive effect on motivation, and its use can contribute to our language learning and teaching. A better understanding of motivational aspects of use of ICT can make it more effective and increase potential for ICT to be more wisely used in language teaching and learning around the world. ICT can improve or enhance the education to facilitate the acquisition of basic skills by enhancing teacher's training. In my opinion, a teacher should be resourceful in introducing the language to the students, especially in means of communication which I believe is the main purpose of learning a language. Therefore, the teacher should explore using technology without just sticking to the course books.

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