

English Language Teaching and Learning through ICT Tools: An Analytical Approach

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Abstract

Modern era is based on technology oriented approach. As far as current education system is concerned, it is focusing on pragmatic outcome which can be possible with the assistance of technology. ICT infuses to interact, network, seek help, gain access to information, and learn. Making the transition from traditional textbook learning and instructor-led classroom courses to the strange new world of online learning can be a daunting challenge-especially for first-time online learners who have never had to navigate a digital learning interface before. In the current dynamic and international environment there is a dire need of diversity in every sector may it be service sector or educational sector. This study focuses on the need of hands on training of ICT to the users so that they can fulfil the societal trends related to the information and communication technologies due to the fact that one of the required skills in our current era is technological literacy. In this context, the change in higher education institutions doesn't depend exclusively on these technologies, but more on the human resources and how they can approach and use all the new technologies and e-learning possibilities as it becomes part and parcel of current education system. ICT and e-learning can be helpful in improving the quality of higher education through innovative methods by increasing students' motivation, interest and engagement, by facilitating the acquisition of skills and by enhancing teacher training which will eventually improve communication and exchange of information. ICT is a broad term that comprises any communication device, encompassing radio, television, cell phones, computer and network hardware, satellite systems. It is important for students to engage with ICT so that children can enhance skills and develop their ICT capability and ICT literacy. It can improve their attainment levels in educational research. It will prepare them for an integrated society dominated by ICT development so that they can learn the notion of using ICT as a tool for lifelong learning. This present paper focuses on how a language teacher would make language acquisition more apt with the tint of ICT tools.

Keywords: Knowledge, society, innovation, information technology-enhanced learning, quality assurance

Introduction

Information and communication technology in educational point of view refers to the use of computers, tablets, smart phones, digital technology, and communications facilities that facilitate teaching, learning and a range of activities in education [QCA schemes of work for ICT in Kent country council, 2004].

The interactive and dynamic nature of ICT has the ability to meet the needs of each and every student by providing various opportunities to uninterrupted learning and to pursue information. ICT not only makes the learning easy but interesting for the students, especially subjects like English. In 21st century where world has become more digital, the role of ICT has become inevitable. The use of ICT is vital in every day classroom teaching and learning, so as to make it more logical, interesting and comprehensible. ICT provides an opportunity to teachers along with students to enhance the outcome of education. Certainly, it has become an essential instrument in providing wide spectrum in teaching-learning process at globe.

Literature Review

Change is the law of Nature. Older change the yielding place to new. Similarly, we are living in 21st century and heading

towards technological world. Year to year technology has exploded. It is one of the staggering promises and opportunity. Future is unpredictable but the advancement in technology is at a phenomenal pace. Life is a Gift and technology is a gift by His being. Technology is booming and is showing no sign of slowing down. It has become a vital factor in our workflow. New-age technology has made our work easier, faster, smarter. It has its roots not only in industries, markets MNC's, schools but also at home now. It has enabled us to communicate with people thousands of miles away through a simple click.

Technology provides and caters for a wide range of courses, e-learning programmes at various platforms like NAPAL, MOOC, UDMEY and Course Era for students and academicians. It has pushed education at a new level. If one reiterates to early 19th century, we had the Magic Lantern a modified version of a slide projector and after that it is where we are today smart phones, 5G gadgets. The evolution of technology has amplified the educational capabilities, which continues to grow day by day. Advancement of technology ensures that an educator's abilities will grow by leaps and bounds. The Internet with search engine facility is a vast electronic library.

Nothing has changed, only the perspective has changed. Books, reading skills, student-teacher learning and teaching are the same; the change is in the way of communication. With the advent of time Internet teaching is taking place of teaching in person but it has greater accessibility. Online teaching during COVID-19 pandemic has proved to be bane for the students. It has proved effective and time saving. Had this technology of online not been evolved, it would have been a difficult time for students where no studies could have ruined their education process.

Indeed, ICT enhances communication and language skills between peer learners. The use of ICT leads to two-way exchange of knowledge between home, school and college. The teacher abides key to the successful use of ICT for learning. The integration of ICT in language teaching and learning has grabbed the attention of many researchers, academicians and education practitioners.

An Analysis of Language Learning with ICT Tools

The language learning process is immensely facilitated with tools like CALL. It can be used to strengthen already learned content in the classroom or as a remedial tool to help learners requiring additional support. Reduction in the cost of computer systems has made it easily affordable for educational institutions. A well-equipped computer lab is nowadays seen as an essential requirement for any educational institution because of the increased awareness and requirement of technology among the students, teachers and managements.

Benefits:

- It helps in enriching English language skills.
- It connects a learning place to the outside world.
- It helps in relating academics to the practical needs of the outside world.
- It serves as a 'surrogate teacher'.
- It aids in collaborative and cooperative learning.
- It is ideal for carrying out repeated drills.
- It provides impartial feedback.
- It creates a realistic environment (for example, listening activities are combined with visuals).
- It is ideal for integrating skills such as reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- It provides a choice of an appropriate learning strategy.
- It acts as a ready-reckoner for all queries in the field of language learning/teaching.

Internet

The use of internet means a plethora of information and resources that teachers and learners can access and use to prepare teaching-learning process apt and up to the mark. There are various exclusively designed sites for teachers and learners from national and international newspapers, museums, galleries and so on. Teachers can use these materials for teaching and to create worksheets and exercises for their lessons. The access of high speed internet has brought the revolution in the perspective of teachers as well as students, as teaching tools offered through the internet were gradually becoming reliable.

Advantages of Online Learning

Thus, it can be inferred that the internet is a fantastic tool for teachers. It is not the answer to simple teaching or learning, but it is an incredibly motivating resource for both teachers and learners. It is time saving and a learner need not to move

out of the house to reach an institute while sitting at home one can avail the facility and it also saves energy.

E-Books

E-Book is an electronic book displayed or read on a computer or on a hand-held electronic device, instead of being printed on paper. Children love reading e books especially if they have animations in them. E books are more flexible. If one has problem in reading that small size text may increase the text size and is portable too. A whole week of lessons focused on reading can be a little difficult to manage sometimes, especially if your students are with you for a relatively short time. The reading can be switched with listening for either part or all of a lesson, with e-books. Some e-books even contain listening comprehension exercises built-in, helps in strengthening student's skill in making notes and learning more vocabulary.

Audio Books

The first literature heard, not read (Baskin and Harris, 1995:372). Audio books are not discovered in this century, not even in the last one, considering authentic books as equivalent to its content and not to its format (Baskin and Harris, 1995:372).

The majority of English learners do not come from English speaking countries. Learning English can also be done with the assistance of audio books as they give exposure to native speakers and various accents. They also allow you to become accustomed to longer dialogue, in addition to narrators pronounce and articulate words. It has become a great way to learn English. Using audio books as part of English studies will get the practice desired to become a better English speaker. Another way of reading and listening at the same time is Fluent U.

Webinar

Webinars increase the choice of courses students have. This has widened the skills of students, as well as increased the understanding of their field of interest. The webinar allows for better interaction between the students and the professors as it brings all the students on an equal foothold. It helps remove the scepticisms from the minds of the students who are not confident enough to raise their hands and ask questions in a classroom full of students. The use of webinar provides a platform to the lecturer to communicate with their students at an arranged time slot. These sessions can be utilised to provide information, give feedback to the students and to present a lecture. Webinar is definitely a time saving technology.

Audio Visual Aids

Audio visual aids acts as an instructional aid, used to convey various concepts more effectively and successfully to students. Such aids can attend many purposes in the teaching of English. The rationale of teaching through audio-visual aids lies in the fact that it's very helpful to escape excessive, empty and meaningless verbalization in teaching English. They enhance the direct sense experience to students and helps in developing clear and accurate concepts in English. Types of audio visual aids:

Black Board

Pros and cons go side by side similarly technology is no exception. Technology has proved beneficial as children are exposed to a new world, to new ways of thinking, both,

creative as well as logical. Education process, system has become advanced. Simultaneously it has flaws too but if we use technology from a right perspective, it could be effective and productive.

Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards are display board on which learning material on some topic is exhibited. Mostly, it is of the size of a black board but sometimes even bigger depending on the wall space available. It is a beneficial enhancement to the class room teaching, helps in arousing the interest of students in a specific subject. Such boards can be conveniently used for introducing a topic, sharing new information or for review of the topics as well.

Overhead Projectors/Slides

Projectors allow teachers to include PowerPoint presentations or other highly organized notes facilitating their teaching. Use of projectors in the classroom enables the students to take better notes with the proficiency to discern from the information displayed by the teacher.

Tape-Recorder/Gramophone

This is useful for teaching pronunciation, stress and intonation. Recorded information can be reproduced in the classroom. It provides an opening to the students to develop interest towards pronunciation. Students can also test their speaking skills. A tape is a memory device consisting of a long thin plastic strip used to record sounds. The tape recorder is an electrical device used for recording sounds on tape and for playing the recorded material. Listening to tape provides children to listen to vocabulary, pronunciation, intonation and Rhythm. Teacher may ask students to imitate and children may find it easy to imitate and pronounce.

Television

The most efficient medium for teaching is television. The television has very high appeal to both ears and eyes. It enables the learners to record some language teaching programmes in CD or Cassettes and can telecast them later when required. Radio and television brings the experience of real world into the classroom and shows substantial impact on the mind of the students. It makes teaching a very active process. Television is considered as a companion, entertainer and instructor.

Film Projector

Knowledge acquired through films has a lasting effect. We can project some educational films, dramas etc. This can develop the listening and speaking skills of the students.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phone has become a very essential tool for learning a language, nowadays. It is like a mini computer in every one's pocket. Mobile phones perform various function in addition to texting, email, functions etc. as computers do. In mobile phone assisted language learning we can find portability, social interactivity, community, individuality and immediacy

Research Methodology

In the present paper, an effort has been made to bring out the better outcome in teaching learning process with suitable use of ICT aids in English language learning and teaching. Analytic approach has been used in describing various aspects of ICT.

Hypothesis

Modern Teaching-learning process can be enhanced with suitable use of ICT tools. As far as English language teaching is concerned, it should be woven with class-room teaching and these aids should be used only to compliment the oral and written work being done in the class. While making use of any teaching aid an effort should be made that the teaching aids being used in any class are in conformity with the intellectual level of the students and in accordance with the prior experience of the students. Only such aids be preferred which provide a stimulus to the students for greater thinking and activity. The teaching aid practiced should be exact, accurate and real as far as practicable. Teaching aid should be used only after a proper planning so that best results can be acquired. The aid is used exactly at the point, where it best fits in the process of teaching. Teacher should ensure that a follow up programme where in a teaching aid has been used, follows the lesson.

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