Use of Technology in English Language Teaching: Is it Helping Students and Teachers?

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Abstract
Electronic devices have affected flea markets daily. Nowadays everybody is using all sorts of devices. Many new apps, devices and soft wares have come in the markets which are serving really educational purpose. The present study focuses on the use of technology in ELT. It tells about the use and misuse of technology and gives a suggestive way of using technology in English teaching. Also some apps and soft wares are suggested which can be used for ELT.

Keywords: Bilingualism, Technology, Multimedia, Globalisation, Presentations.

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Introduction

With the spread and development of Globalisation around the World, English is used as a connecting language in the world and many countries are using it as L_2 but with a difference. Their Mother Tongue is blended with English. Countries like India, where Hindi in Mother Tongue, with nearly 100s of Regional languages which serve as Mother Tongue, English is L_2 but a large part of the country speak, work, communicate and earn in English. So, at present stage, English has become a major issue in bread earning process. As the number of persons versatile in English is increasing day by day and many innovations are taking place, we have to make our teaching of English language more technology oriented. There was a time when second language acquisition was based on teacher student interaction and repeating the teacher's version only. But with the advancement of technology many devices and forms of technology have come to make teaching interesting, focussed and accurate. We can choose many gadgets as T.V., CD-ROMs, Computers, Internet and many net connect devices to make English teaching accurate and approachable to all.

The traditional English teacher was the one who use to wear English costumes and keep Dictionary, many books and use to give answers after a long consultation. Now that place is replaced by just an IPad, Laptop with internet connection to give answers to all the queries and confusions. Technology is important for linguistic change also. Although majority of teachers are still away from technology in English teaching if we talk about developing countries but developed countries have started using and are really getting wonderful results.

In language teaching and learning, we have to enrich our self with the help of technology. There was a time when language and technology were said to be parallel things but blending of them can be an ultimate for the growth of English. There is plenty of technological advancement which makes really productive results for L_2 learners. A rapid change in learning process is the result of development of ICT. Technology was there for language learning by the time when Radio or Tape recorder was introduced. Imagine a time when our elders grasp all British pronunciation, after listening speeches and news at BBC. And Tape Recorder is used for repeating and practising pronunciation problems. But in modern era when we think of technology, we instantly think about laptops, I pads, computers and Internet. Blackboard teaching and other traditional things have become obsolete. Technology has made the teaching organised, fast, easier, interesting and innovative.

ELT and Technology:

With the advent of technology and globalisation, 21st century has become the era of bilingualism or multilingualism. A survey suggests that from year 2000, English speaking and learning has become a necessity. And in 14 years after 2000 graphs of English speakers and learners is increasing day by day. Recently I got a chance to visit Oxford university for a summer seminar, and was really astonished to know that many countries like ours one facing problems in L_2 learning. They have pronunciation problems, grammatical errors and construction problems too. But many countries are using modern gadgets and are technologically advanced. They made a fusion of English teaching with technology and electronic aid. They are progressing and finding good results.

There we have been introduced with many devices, apps and soft wares which are really helpful for English teaching. English is spoken as L2 in many countries but use of technical aids has made teaching easier, apt and accessible.

Necessity of ICT in English Teaching

- To enhance students' interest in teaching, use of ICT and multimedia is necessary. There are many apps, devices and their use which attracts students to learn.
- Traditional teaching always hampers students to interact with each other. As a result they become passive listeners only. They don't understand structure, meaning and comprehension of language, so can't make sentences and speak. Technological introduction give them opportunity to see visual and audio aid and enhance communication skills.
- Use of ICT and multimedia enhance students' knowledge and give them some opening in classroom study.
- Multimedia enriches teaching content and they are many apps which offer the teacher to interact with students one-to-one at any time even when they are not physically present.
- Technology always makes liveliness in teaching. Class become interesting, interactive as ICT offers sound and picture coming together. Students can use these things in the absence of teacher and revise the content for better understanding.
- Language Teaching is not a one day process. It's a continuous process and needs special attention and revisions. So, Teachers can give tasks to students and they can see their contents with the help of devices as per their need. Students can use technology, contact their teachers through Net when not in class and get their expert advice as and when required.

Problems in the use of ICT

Every coin has two aspects. The use of Multimedia is sometimes not as good as we think. The main problems it has:

- Dependence on Devices can be sometimes a problem in itself as Teachers becomes slaves of instruments and their features and they cannot give their own suggestions to the practical problems students face. The creativity of the teacher sometimes disappears.
- One to one speech and teacher student eye contact totally diminished which is not good. It is necessary that Teacher should talk to students.
- Thinking capability of students and teachers both disappears. They know that they have to give certain commands, click such and such buttons. Teachers guide students to think and cultivate capacity to solve problems but all process is so time consuming that they cannot give and take feedback.
- Multimedia takes away students ability to think, analyse and explore. They know that by clicking certain buttons they will get everything to their habit of query, thirst for quest of knowledge is finished.
- Use of technology is good for universities and college where student teacher ratio is 20 or below. But the countries like India and other Asian countries that have larger population and large classrooms, they cannot take technology to be their fair friend.

Some suggestions for blending of Technology with Traditional Teaching

The traditional teaching and its application is quite different from technological teaching. These days SMART classes are in great demand an even teachers feel comfortable with technological blending. As this make teaching not only easier and innovative but it arouses student's interest in classroom as well as home tasks. Technology make students involved and they try to discover here and then all the time. Here are some fruitful suggestions:-

- Combination of technology with application in classroom teaching has to be adequate. Teachers should play lead role in it. They should not leave class unattended but try to interpret all the aspects which are shown through the use of technology.
- Blackboard teaching should always be encouraged along with use of computers and other devices. Although computers, laptops, I pad and projectors can do a lot but still importance of Blackboard cannot be over looked (It can be white board or Green Board). When a teacher use board to give their view point it inscribed at once in memory.
- Use of technology contains many apps and soft wares such as use of presentations with the help of animations, power points and other things but some issues need to be discussed in person only and sometimes students want to speak by their own. So, a teacher should always encourage his students to speak their own views without any hesitation.
- Multimedia and technology can give many good replacements but still all the devices used traditionally such as boards, chalks and use of even traditional Tape recorder for speaking is still great. Although there are many soft wares which work as replacements such a 'Vocaroo' but the personal touch a student needed is also important.
- Surfeiting is always injurious. Similarly, excess of technology may make classroom studies little dull. Teachers use it to show that students like it but students don't apply their brain but students and teachers both have become slave of devices and their use. Apparently students sit in class and seeing all the things but actually them not paying proper attention. Language teaching is based on students' participation and interaction. So, to some extent when students become dull and don't complete their tasks of listening, speaking and writing, use of technology changes at once. So, excess of technology can be avoided in ELT.

Why this Technology needed for ELT

The present generation is called Net generation. The present target students are born in or after 1994 at least. They are called computer and net generation. They all are electronic and devices lovers. They use net, search engines and have fascination for technologies. Their brain is called wired differently as they use devices better than traditional tools. So they want to use technology in everything. They find new and innovative information through Net and apply them in their reading, writing and learning. Even for social networking and community communication they use technology. So, it is really imperative to use technology for their second language learning.

Some Apps and devices which help for ELT

1. **Ed modo –** an app on which teachers and students make an account in group and can discuss and share their views. Even tasks, home works can be given and discussed. Even parents can join it to check activities of their children.
2. **Vocaroo –** An app which allows teachers to check their students' task and give them feedback vocally directly. This app is again one to one conversation where teacher directly give his/her feedback to student.
3. **YouTube –** is full of Audios, videos and many films on each subject students want to learn or read. It gives picturisation of all the desired material. Even Grammar notes can be shared with the help of YouTube.
4. **E books –** In this present time, when purchasing books of many authors has become a costly affair, students can download chapters or even books for internet and read them as and when required.
5. **Storydice –** It is an app that works on android phones and laptops. This app is used in making videos of students and their presentations.

Conclusion:

It was said in 20th century that science is a good servant but a bad master. So, we must follow the message of this line. With the use of technology, skills like reading, writing, listening and speaking can be grasped faster and easier. Students' knowledge of technology and communication skills also improves as they can connect globally. They can connect and collaborate with many other countries and their education system if they want to learn on a wider platform. Naturally it will increase their knowledge of English too. The quality teaching can be achieved with the help of technology. English language it taking new turns and steps daily. So, to give best of knowledge of English to students' technology should be added in ELT. If we combine the areas where technology can mingle with teaching and financial problems are not there, use of technology is really a gem to add in ELT.

References

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