

English Language Teaching and Technology

1. Mrs. Kavya. U (Author)

Asst. Professor

Department of English

SDM College of Business Management

Mangalore- 575003

Contact no: 8867338437

Email: kavyaubellare@gmail.com

2. Mrs. Preethika Dharmapal (Co Author)

Asst. Professor

Department of HRD

SDM College of Business Management

Mangalore- 575003

Contact no: 8904406133

Email: Preethikad12@yahoo.in

ABSTRACT:

Technology plays an integral role in classroom today. We need to develop an understanding of how technology influences our education system. Considering digital technologies widespread availability and influence in everyday life, the use of different technologies for educational purposes is an important subject for teachers. Meaningful technology use can support positive teaching and results in positive learning outcomes. Technology-enriched classrooms have the ability to support student-centered, constructivist learning environments, which in turn, may offer advantages for student learning in the secondary English classroom. Technology has the ability to support students' higher order thinking skills, motivation, and engagement when used constructively. To support an active learning environment, teachers must engage students with technology. English teachers must develop a level of technological skill that supports their usage of technology. Consequently, the use of technology in the English classroom should not replace strong instruction, negatively influence the quality of instruction, or decrease student opportunity for creativity or replace key instructional materials. Technology is also more likely to be used when teachers understand how the specific technology enhances instruction and provides individualized support for struggling students. A wide range of multimedia can be implemented to enhance the quality of education and boost the effectiveness of second language teaching. The concept of the enhancement of writing skills by encouraging students to create online blogs is also worth considering. Blogging platforms such as Blogger, or Word Press, give students an opportunity to create blogs for free. The paper aims to bring out the positive aspects of technology in English language teaching.

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Introduction

The benefit of multimedia usage is considered important, especially by the present generation of language teachers who understand and support the idea of technology in the classroom, on the contrary to the older generation which underestimates its importance.

Meeting students' individual needs and implementing variety of methods and approaches can be satisfied by introducing digital materials. This makes it possible adjusting to individual expectations, interests or needs of the language learners in the group. Such activities not only initiate creative thinking, but also encourage students to practice the language inside and outside the classroom. They expose students to the language practice in the environment which they are familiarized with. Technology might help the students to break the language barrier as they do not feel isolated anymore.

Lessons can be personalized and directed outside the course book. Students gain an opportunity of facing the authentic language materials. Students become open to the real world expectations and requirements connected to language skills. Students are familiar with the way of collecting useful information and materials, as nowadays, the majority of them uses such devices as smart phones, personal computers, and tablet computers at home. Moreover, students are more eager to learn and they can stay focused longer during the classes, because the variety of materials available prevents students from the feeling of monotony and boredom. Their sphere of interest widens as a result of being exposed to different areas and aspects of living. Their learning process becomes more efficient and self-directed. By browsing the Internet at home, students enhance their own pace of language learning and use additional teaching platforms which help them to update and consolidate their knowledge.

Advanced technology in the classroom allows students to develop and enhance abilities needed in their future and can be positively used at their workplaces. The students acquire practical skills such as research and critical thinking which are important for the present generation.

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Education' is utilized in three senses: Knowledge, Subject and a Process. In English the term "Education" has been derived from two Latin words Educare (Educere) and Educatum. "Educare" means to train or shape. The term "Educatum" denotes the act of teaching. It throws light on the principles and practice of teaching. The term Educare or Educere mainly indicates enhancement of the inactive faculties of the student. The student does not know these possibilities. It is the educator or the teacher can understand this aspect and take appropriate methods to develop the latent skills of the student.

The influences or modes of influences in the school are purposefully planned, selected and employed by the community for the welfare of the members of the upcoming generation. The purpose of these influences is to change the behavior of the child in such a way that he may become different from what he would have been without education. It makes possible a better adjustment of human nature to their environment.

Purpose of technology in the educational sector.

1) Active involvement with the learning material

Technology is interactive, and students become active learners by doing, researching, and gaining feedback for their work. This helps students become passionate about what they are learning. For example, students might study English using interactive software which enhances their grammatical skills.

2) Use of real-world issues to explain classroom curriculum.

Using technology encourages the use of real-world problems in the classroom. Real issues related to the classroom curriculum can be understood in a better way with the help of technology. This helps students to be familiar with the lesson being taught to them and they develop an understanding of real problems and real people.

3) Simulation and modeling.

Various software helps to bring to the classroom real activities that would be impossible to see

without technology. Modeling software offers similar features. Instead of the undeviating models used in previous decades, these tools allow students to see the dynamic characteristics of models.

4) Discussion and debate boards and forums to have an understanding from a larger group. By using the Internet or software tools, students can create online groups, Web pages, and virtual communities that connect them in real time with students and teachers anywhere around the world. The students can obtain constructive feedback from their teachers and share questions and concerns about the lessons taught to them. By listening to and reading about others' opinions and feedback, students refine their thinking, reaching higher levels of comprehension and deeper understanding. Online groups also present the opportunity for students to interact with others and clarify their doubts around the world. A large group is created when we connect through technology which ultimately collaborates different ideas from different people.

.5) Development of working groups.

Technology-focused education doesn't involve a class of students learning by themselves, staring at a book. Working groups foster group activities, discussions, and debates, and they encourage the establishment of democratic group dynamics.

6) Coaching in an advanced way.

Teachers play more of a coaching role these days. They aren't just instructors who deliver a lesson. Rather, they support and guide student activities as coaches do. They contribute feedback and coaching to the class so that students receive the suitable information and academic training which can enhance their knowledge. Teachers guide the students in developing skills in problem solving, research, and decision-making.

7) Developmental assessment

Teachers make it certain that students are learning not only the concepts, instead they teach to maximize the use of technology and benefit from the resources they have. Critical-thinking and problem-solving skills are the areas of concern to be focused with the help of technology. .

Teachers provide constant feedback and work as facilitators ultimately enabling students to achieve deeper levels of understanding.

Teaching is all about introducing students to a whole world of concepts that they didn't know about yet. Technology in the classroom is like an incursion into modern invention – and you get to be the expedition leader. The younger generation lays a strong trust on the teachers who facilitate them in their learning process and help them to explore the areas which will enhance the knowledge of the young minds with the help of digital technology.

Educational Technology

Teachers can deliver information to the students in a unique way and create a trend of Educational Technology which benefits the students in their overall development. In doing so, teachers will use mechanism of informational technology to deliver educational materials

Benefits of Educational Technology

Improves overall skills in Reading, listening, speaking and Writing: Students can be exposed to various study materials in order to enhance their proficiency over language. Students are exposed to various tools in language which can bring a drastic change in their way of communication. When we try to relate with apt examples it is easier for the student to understand and incorporate the skills within them giving them a broader exposure to the concepts.

Breaks the mundane learning cycle, learning becomes more interesting: technology can break the old boring way of teaching with the tools which can make learning interesting and educative. Students find the topics interesting when we try to bring in new things with them. They learn to adapt to new things as it makes them familiar to work with technology.

Prepares students for the future. The acquisition of devices and elevation in the use of technology in classrooms is not only about teaching the students facts but it also keeps the students ready for the future technological world. . It's about engaging students in a way that increases their learning and ultimately sets them up for success. Technology enhances learning experience among

students making them equipped with future-ready skills which can be applied in the workforce. Technology keeps individuals updated with the advancement that is happening around us.

Reaching out Language Education to a larger group

Technology has the ability to reach a larger group and inspire them with its benefits. Technology makes it possible to reach vast group of people ultimately helping out people to do better. In language learning, it means teachers can be hired locally and students' access courses that are taught by native language speakers – ensuring proper language immersion. Everyone can access to online courses and its resources if technological advancements are taken into consideration. Teaching and learning should not be restricted to one particular area or a specific classroom. It has to be widespread where in students remote areas can access the benefit.

A Blend of Language Learning Courses

A combination or blend of courses will increase the involvement of the students, wherein they learn more and gain more from them. Classroom teaching and online training are complements each other. The role of the teacher shifts to being a facilitator who help the students to critically think and bring out new thoughts and dimensions in their study. . Students complete structured, comprehensive E Learning modules that teach them the language then attend classroom discussions where the teacher can focus on class weaknesses rather than simply reciting language rules to the students. Language development is possible with the help of technology which ultimately promotes language a new trend in language learning.

Importance of Interactive Language Learning

Language learning only through verbal input is not only ineffective but is also not successful at achieving learner language development. Interactive learning environment created by technological tools and resources can benefit the students to gain more knowledge on the area of their study. For students learning a language, it's key to 'do' things with language rather than just learning about language from your teacher. Students gather a more complete understanding of all of the language components when they interact with their language courses and other members with similar areas of study.

Real World Examples for better understanding of relevant themes.

The study material provided to the students are outdated with topics and examples that are not relevant in the current scenario. The symbols and graphics represented do not resemble or are not connected with the current area of study, it has turned out to be outdated. We need regular updates over a period of time with advent of new concepts. Students should be connected with the virtual world with the content of their study which will help them understand things in the context of the environment they live and not the outdated examples of the past generation.

Encourages Student Collaboration

People make way for misconceptions that mixing education and technology individualizes and singles out students in classroom. Students nowadays are extremely technologically adept and experts agree that the use of technology for educational methods in classrooms create a collaborative language learning environment where students can live in a world of learner's autonomy and learn from one another. Technological platforms can enhance the quality of education where in students and instructors can share ideas, documents, host online courses, run training seminars, and give each other honest individual feedback. Like minded learners can interact with each other with the help of technology. The group of learners come together with the bridge being built with the help of technology. It fulfills the objective of having technology as a part of learning process.

Our life becomes easier and organized with the use of technological tools, our lives have become dependent on the technological tools. Advancements in these areas have proved useful in our day to day activities. In this modern age technological advancements and development go hand in hand. Innovative developments in the area of language study is bridging the gap between a teacher and student as various language courses are available to the entire world. The educational sector is no exception here; technology has been beneficial for language learning and development

Promotes Teamwork

A sense of teamwork is developed among students when they work with technology. Students put in a collaborating effort, work on team projects and share each other's idea even though they stay

in distant places. The geographical barriers and distance between learners will also be of no concern during this trend of technological advancement. . As students work together, they learn how to listen, work well with others and work through conflict to find the best solution.

Establishment of Critical Thinking Skills

An employer always accepts that the employee has critical thinking skills. One of the top skills on employer wish-lists is critical thinking. Employers don't want to spend time explaining how to complete a task they just assigned in so much detail they could have just done it themselves. The upcoming generation has a greater access to the world of technology which can be used creatively and effectively to learn the students become successful at the work place if they are good at critical thinking, where in they learn to troubleshoot problems that they undergo.

Develops Responsibility

When schools establishes certain devices of study each student is required to abide by them regarding the use and material accessed on the device. This agreement develops a degree of ownership and responsibility on the student. If the student doesn't take care of their assigned device or violates their code of conduct, they can be subject to device revocation and disciplinary action.

Adapting to the new trend

Younger generation adapts themselves easily to the new trends with the support of peer group. Even before the technology is adapted in the classroom, students develop a hands on experience upon the advancements in technology. With the advancement in technology students will develop the foundation in technology that allows them to quickly adapt to future technologies.

Inculcates Career Learning

The use of technology in the classroom develops a new learning process which helps students become more engaged, it teaches students to enjoy and embrace the learning process which happens without they understanding the change within them. Students explore new ways to understand the new methodology and try to accumulate new information. Their career learning

process has already started. Ultimately leading to personal and professional development of the student.

There are several benefit of using technology in the classroom as it makes the students to collaborate, develop problem-solving, explore subjects and enhance their confidence. These skills will help them to develop and move forward which ultimately keeps them ready for the future.

. Develops a positive attitude towards learning

With increased use of technology students develop a sense of positive attitude towards learning. Learning makes a joyful process with peer group. Students enjoy this process wherein they ultimately learn from the entire journey with technology.

Increases skills of students

Students become skillful and get prepared for the challenging outer world. Skills which are needed in the challenging world are acquired by the involvement of technology in their academic scenario.

Increases work skills for the workforce.

Employers have identified a skills gap in graduates entering the workplace. So an important element of any course should be supporting students to develop their employability skills.

Technology as an aid in English teaching.

Vocabulary Development: Technology can be used as one of the tool to teach vocabulary.

Students learn more when they receive information through various visual aids Technology can provide this rich, contextual environment. The technology also allows students to become active learners in a one-on-one environment. Technology can incorporate various learning strategies as well as accommodate a variety of learning styles.

Reading

Technology can increase the interest level in students by keeping the text simple and easy to read. Benefit of using technology for reading instruction is that it offers immediate feedback on performance. They also can provide added practice when necessary. Students have been able to improve their word vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Technology based reading instruction allows for increased interaction with texts, attention to individual needs, and increased independence through an ability to read .

Writing

Technology can also help language students develop their writing skills. Writing for beginning learners should be a guided activity for students. When using technology, the use of graphics can make this much more enjoyable. Computerized clip art can also help students to transfer their thoughts distinctly. A teacher can direct students to highlight a specific grammatical usage throughout their writing such as underlining, italicizing, or changing the font size, color or type. Using technology as a medium for studying grammar is much more motivating for students.

Merging technology and education

Making learning visible: Technology can bring another culture into the classroom. Using technology tools that connect to multi various lands and display how others live allows students to see and experience language in a whole new way.

Differentiating: Not all students are the same. Each one has with different strengths and needs. Technology tools give teachers additional resources to reach all learners.

Engaging students: Technology these days is often **interactive**, allowing users a chance to be engaged in learning experiences. You can't do that with a book!

Applying language: With language acquisition, you either use it or lose it. Technology gives students many opportunities to use their broadening language skills in real-world applications.

Conclusion

Technology assisted instruction helps to facilitate learning. Technology can be used to aide in teaching Language students in core academic subjects, such as reading and writing. Technology can also aide in vocabulary development as well as verbal language development. Technology is a tool it is a supplement to the regular curriculum in teaching Language students as they develop language skills. It is important that students are given additional opportunities to extend their language skills by providing activities. Technology supports and completes the entire process of learning which ultimately turns out to be interesting and pleasant for the learners.