

15.**Application of Technology in Teaching of English**

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Technology has been rapidly changing with time and we find a lot of improvement and advancement in it all over the years. It creates a lot of opportunities in different domains. Now technology has become an integral and inseparable part of education sector also. Simple conventional and traditional means of teaching & learning are not enough for the current digital era. These old ways & means can't cater to the vast curiosity & needs of this generation students. If we keep on treading the same old traditional path of learning then our students will not maintain the pace of this fast changing world. So it has become mandatory for us as a teacher to use new technologies of teaching and learning in our educational system. It is not a choice today but the need of the hour. It has also been constantly used in language learning. We witness views which range from taking technology as an integral part of language learning programs to those who try to re-examine its relevance, to those who finds in it no practical value at all. Technology has a tremendous impact on our learning. We cannot refrain it from advancing. Technology has also enlivened the process of language learning and is very effective in developing intellectual, humanistic, moral and aesthetic perception of an individual. It not only stimulates a learner but also grabs its attention. It acts as a catalyst in learning different languages.

All our advancement and development has been achieved with communication. We require language to express our thoughts and feelings to one other. Learning different languages helps you to gain knowledge and to explore a subject that fascinates you in other languages. It also assists and encourages you to understand different cultures that inhabit in our world. "Learners cannot respond or engage in conversation, if they do not understand what seems to be said by people or do not know word pronunciation, or the use of language in context" (Redfield, 2003). In our Era, where the whole world has become a global village, there is a necessity to acquire proficiency in different language so that one can open different horizons of one's intellect and personality. English, the language of international communication, the official language helps us to connect in this global world thus giving a broader understanding of it. For learning English what one requires is to be proficient in the four language skills which are listening, reading, speaking and writing. "Different models of English language learning stress the importance of

human interactions in developing language skills. Children raised in very deprived language environment can struggle, particularly with the development of social communication” (Bishop, 2001).

A teacher has to face a number of challenges while teaching English. In our education system, students are too much dependent on the teacher. Students are taught different grammar structure, spellings, meanings and rules that contradict the existing ones. They have a limited vocabulary. Moreover, English is not a phonetic language. We often do not say a word the same way it is spelled. Listening is the initial approach of language that is developed by a learner. Listening assist a learner of that particular language with a better understanding, exact pronunciation of words, their accent. It also have a tendency to perform an essential role in the attainment of language and thus making it conceivable for an oral communication between the students. Technology has become an integral part of language learning throughout the world. It acts as a facilitator in acquiring a new language as it evokes independence and autonomy. It not only motivates a learner but also grabs his attention thus making learning easier and entertaining. Now a day, learning is not restricted to classrooms. To strengthen language skill, modern technology has provide us with a wide range of digital tools & softwares as English Language Labs, Software for Language Recognition, Language learning software, Microsoft Translator, Babble, Duolingo, Pimsleur etc.

Main advantage of the use of technology in teaching is to enable a student to adjust to his own pace of learning. He can understand his weakness in a better way by going over the exercises again and again. He can read blogs, articles on different topics and watch English movies. Technology fascinates and engages a student by transforming a dull lesson into a captivating one. A teacher can give courage to the students to try digital books beyond their current reading level. A teacher should encourage their students to use technology to improve and enhance their language skills. The use of computers has expanded and widens the world economy. Reading and writing habits of a learner have been upgraded and improved by the use of technologies such as MS Word, PPT, Webpage Creativity and so on. Use of all these applications helps a learner to empower in all the four skills of language learning. For the development of language, the use of multimedia tools has become a necessity. Verbal and visual aids stimulate the attention and the participation of a learner more. MP3 Players and audio recordings are advocated for handling learners with poor linguistic ability.

Technology gives a learner an access to various online English language learning websites, electronic dictionaries, listening presentations and a number of computer assisted

language learning programmes. These are a number of language teaching software which a teacher can utilize in her/his classroom ensuring a long term retention in the learners. Digital language tools enable us to get acquainted with the vocabulary that we are not familiar with. We have a number of digital stories/e-books available on internet which present new linguistic forms and vocabulary with in a structured context that is very much effective in language learning. Webcasts, YouTube videos, digital books, different online newspapers etc are the different language tools available for the learners.

Being visual and interactive, it provides a more realistic picture of new language. *“There is also evidence that chat groups and online forums develop dialects (Crystal, 2006)“* They are accessible even to people living in remote areas thus motivating them to work on their language. *“The verbal and visual aids were also found conducive to more positive outcomes in language learning (in a study conducted by Jones 2003). The study showed that students are able to recall information better when aided with verbal and visual aids (Jones, 2003).”* Verbal and visual aids stimulate the involvement and participation of a learner to grasp the language deeply. In video lectures, the use of captions and subtitles result in a better comprehension and perception of that language thus help in enriching and enhancing the proficiency in it. It not only stimulates self-learning but also lessens the use of paper as one can store and retain the documents & records digitally.

With the introduction of English language labs, the role of teachers has shifted from being agents of passing off information to being facilitators of actual language learning. Language learning is an interactive process. Teaching can be productive as long as the students are participating. Accurate pronunciation, a great challenge for students, becomes very easy to learn and understand through the digital English language labs. The usage of the modern technology in the form of English language labs for the sake of teaching and learning of English has displayed an upward growth in the use of English and is changing the way we communicate. Through social media, news site and various online forums, a student gets access to relevant learning material for support. He can continue to learn beyond the classroom, in a real life situation. Writing tools such as grammar checkers can provide a quick and accurate feedback. But technology is not a substitute for teacher but only a teaching aid. Technology has rapidly changed the pedagogical aspects of class room teaching in Educational Institutes. The use of technology catches the attention of the students. This will automatically give them some motivation and interest. A teacher has to design his course after identifying the interest and needs of his students. The goal of an ESL teacher is not only to motivate the learners in comprehending English but make them confident enough to use all the four skills of language

learning effectively and efficiently. It is his responsibility to keep his students awake and interested. The diverse racial, ethnic, religious and linguistic background pose obstacles for them in learning English. A teacher has to empower students and help them feel that they can indeed do it.

Thus there is no doubt that technology has enlivened the process of learning rather it acts as a facilitator. In an era, where the technology has become an integral part of our day to day life, we cannot escape from the ever increasing mediated effect of the technology on language learning. The COVID-19 has given everyone a glimpse of how students are educated around the world and how education sector could change for the better. However, this pandemic has become a promoter for blended learning and created an opportunity for the teachers as well as the learners to study through virtual class rooms worldwide. This temporary solution during this crisis has paved the way to learn new digital skills and aids to cope up with this transient & uncertain world. The pandemic is also an opportunity for teachers to push students to learn new digital skills, a requisite in this unpredictable world. A teacher should encourage their students to use technology to improve and enhance their language skills so that they can open different horizons of their intellect and personality.

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