Technology as a Collaborative Learning Partner in English Language Teaching and Learning

Dr.R.Subasaranya

Assistant Professor,

Department of English,

Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research

Subasaranya.english@bharathuniv.ac.in

Ms.K.Jancy

Assistant Professor,

Department of English,

BIHER

Abstract :

      The 21st century is synonymous with a range of technologies available and used in teaching and language learning has become divergent. Teachers of English have adopted an eclectic approach in teaching English as a second language. We are deeply rooted in a time when digital technologies are normalized in daily life in many parts of the world. India has joined the western countries in extensive application of internet and technology. Accepting the position of English in all fields of life, business and education, the debatable question is what methods and techniques need to be adopted to teach English. Thus, apart from the conventional teaching, online teaching and learning is inevitable since learning is a continuous process and should not be restricted to a time frame. In this context online teaching resources play a major role in improving students' learning abilities.

Keywords: teaching, learning, context, technology, application

Introduction:

      Information technology is multi-dimensional as its uses vary according to the various purposes it is meant to serve. For the past few decades, technology has been treading through an adventurous path with the development of desktop computer and with easy access to the internet resources. The integration of technology in education has transformed the learning experience. Web-based learning has become an effective way to engage students and provide individual attention. Traditional teaching methods are being supplemented with technology-oriented approaches, such as multi-media laboratories and online resources, to enhance language proficiency. However, some challenges persist, including the need for teacher training and the potential for unequal access to technology.

      Technology has revolutionized the way students and teachers interact, making learning more interactive and accessible. Innovative methods, such as problem-based learning and multimedia applications, are being used to develop skills that meet industry needs. The role of the learner is becoming more important, and technology is providing opportunities for personalized learning. While technology offers many benefits, it is important to recognize its limitations. Teachers must be aware of the potential drawbacks, such as overreliance on technology and unequal access, and strive to strike a balance between traditional and technology-oriented approaches. Ultimately, the effective integration of technology in education can enhance student achievement and prepare learners for success in the digital age .Learning language by means of technology is not confined to desktop computer and the internet but it extends to other devices such as laptops, iPods, and tablets. These tools help the learners to practice language skills at their own pace and convenience. English teachers too can utilize methods such as browsing relevant websites to identify suitable e-materials that would motivate and help the learners to improve their skills.

In the modern era with the computers, the internet and multimedia being considered simple household gadgets, accessibility has increased manifold for learners to access online resource in educational institutions as well as in the social contexts. The teachers and the learners are using internet in India almost on par with western countries.

An English Language Teaching (ELT) journal or a casual conversation with an ELT expert informs the teachers/learners how the technological resources are causing a revolution in the language teaching/learning arena confirming that internet, email, chatting, multimedia technology and much of the educational software are widely used across the world to enhance language proficiency among the young technocrats. The use of e-mail on an internet system promotes discussion between the teacher and students. The teacher becomes a participant in the talk, while writing dialogues, students have contact with other resources for work sharing and receiving criticism, they become more involved, as the writing assignments take on a more social nature.

The use of technology depends on the ability and willingness of the teacher to explore the ways to adopt their English Language Teaching methodology. However, successful use of the resources depends on the cooperation of the learners, teachers, administrators and parents in providing the necessary resources according to the learners. The internet and multimedia are in reality 'a multiple-media' because they stimulate many senses and skills of the learners at the same time.

On observing the advantages of multi-media technology in language teaching the researcher has taken this study to explore the ways and means of technology-oriented teaching to the engineering students. So, their knowledge and understanding levels of the English language and new technologies are suitable to study and pursue the proposed online course and materials. This article would like to emphasize the significance of language teaching through multi-media technology and the need for orientation programs and for organizing workshops regularly to help the teachers perform better and to update their technical skills. The research article further proposes to throw light on the ways and means of technology-enhanced teaching/learning that could improve the language proficiency of the learners in an effective manner. It persuades the learners and the teachers to gradually adapt to technology-enhanced learning and teaching methods in professional institutions. The focus is on the relevance and the practicality of integrating computer with internet teaching and learning of English in professional educational institutions. It is aims at eliciting responses from the teachers of English towards the use of technology and internet as a medium of English Language Teaching. One of the major concerns of many countries today is that there is a mismatch between the skills acquired from higher education institutions and the skills required by industry. Many of the current graduates are found to be lacking in creativity, communication skills, analytical and critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Teachers of English should be given sufficient training to be acquainted with the latest technical skills. This will reduce their dependence on computer programmer. It instills confidence in the learners and motivates them to learn language. Teachers of English, particularly those teaching in engineering colleges, should be up to date in terms of technological knowledge. They should be ready to use the technical skills wherever possible or necessary.

Internet technology is now permeating the educational system as a tool for effective teaching and learning. Information is shared in an effective manner using multimedia for delivering course content. A multi-sensory experience can be created for the audience, which, in turn, elicits positive attitudes toward the application. Multimedia also facilitates the highest rate of information retention and results in shorter learning time. It leaves visual impact on the learners. On the part of the designer, multimedia application that is an interactive and multi-sensory can be both a challenge and a thrill. It offers new insights into learning process of the designer and forces him or her to represent information and knowledge in an innovative way.

Multimedia is described as a mixture of various digital files. It integrates multi-sensory interactive application to convey information to the learners. It means multimedia an individual or a small group using a computer to interact

with information that is represented in several media, by repeatedly selecting what to see and hear next. Multimedia is changing the communication process among the users depending on the usage of the various devices. Communication and learning takes place irrespective of the learner's place and position. It is an easy method for disseminating content and messages among the learners. The addition of media files reinforces the message and the delivery that result in better learning ratio. It has introduced major changes in our education system and impacted the way we communicate information to the learners.

With the application of multimedia it is possible for the learners to get involved in work productively. Advancements in information and communication technology throughout the world have drastically changed the way students and faculty interacts with each other. Teaching does not remain a one-way communication; it becomes an interactive method where both the students and the teachers participate in the teaching learning process. The use of innovative training methods is largely applicable especially in the sphere of professional education. Internet, handheld computers, digital cameras and other such multimedia means have revolutionized the world of professional education.

The teacher uses multimedia to improve the course material. These are converted into digital form, modified and customized for the final presentation. By incorporating digital media into the classroom, the students are able to learn better since they use multiple sensory modalities; make the learners motivated to show interest in the information presented and help them retain information for a longer period of time.

Traditional teaching and learning methods have resulted in discrepancy between what is taught to the students and what the industry needs. As such, many institutions are changing over to problem-based learning with a view to producing graduates who are suited to meet the industry needs. Besides theoretical teaching, various other techniques such as case-study methods, discussions, learning labs, role-play method and other team-based projects are fast gaining importance. All such innovative teaching techniques offer the students a rigorous and professionally relevant learning experience. They also allow the freedom of choice to the professors to use the best-suited methods in accordance with the particular needs of different subjects. The present-day teaching methods aim at developing a truly free-thinking institution. Such innovative methods have the potential to empower people, strengthen governance and galvanize the overall human development of the country.

Technology is redefining the classroom experience. The room is wired with cameras for photographing whiteboards, and students receive images as digital files. In addition, tablets allow teachers to write notes directly on the screen with stylus (a special pen). With tablet technology, the teachers prepare material on the screen and share with the students in no time. This method also helps get feedback from each student with the use of technology.

The integration of technology in education has transformed the learning experience. Web-based learning has become an effective way to engage students and provide individual attention. Traditional teaching methods are being supplemented with technology-oriented approaches, such as multi-media laboratories and online resources, to enhance language proficiency. The use of technology in education has increased accessibility and flexibility for students. Online resources and multi-media laboratories provide opportunities for students to learn at their own pace and convenience. However, some challenges persist, including the need for teacher training and the potential for unequal access to technology.

Technology has revolutionized the way students and teachers interact, making learning more interactive and accessible. Innovative methods, such as problem-based learning and multimedia applications, are being used to develop skills that meet industry needs. The role of the learner is becoming more important, and technology is providing opportunities for personalized learning. The benefits of technology in education include increased

efficiency, effectiveness, and engagement. Technology can assist in educational achievement by removing physical barriers to learning and transitioning the focus from knowledge retention to utilization. However, the effective integration of technology in education requires careful consideration of the potential drawbacks, such as overreliance on technology and unequal access. Teachers must be aware of the potential challenges and strive to strike a balance between traditional and technology-oriented approaches. Professional development opportunities are essential to ensure that teachers are equipped to effectively integrate technology into their teaching practices. Additionally, educators must consider the digital divide and ensure that all students have access to the technology and resources they need to succeed.

Conclusion:

Ultimately, the effective integration of technology in education can enhance student achievement and prepare learners for success in the digital age. By leveraging technology to support teaching and learning, educators can create a more inclusive, engaging, and effective learning environment. As technology continues to evolve, it is essential that educators remain committed to exploring innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

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