

Language Learning Tools for Online English Classes during COVID 19 Pandemic

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Abstract: *Language learning tools have crucial roles for second language learners because they are means for learning activities. These tools are useful in the setting of online English classes, particularly during the COVID 19 pandemic. English teachers use these learning tools to facilitate the online learning sessions among their students. The article provides an overview of language learning tools for online English classes which are conducted during the pandemic. In doing so, it outlines some background information about online English classes during the pandemic of COVID 19, discusses the tools used in language learning and summarizes key reflections in second language learning setting.*

Keywords: language learning tools, online English classes

1. Introduction

The 21st century demands education to be embedded with modern technologies. In general, advances of technology affect the field of education tremendously, without any exception to the aspect of language teaching - learning. Warner (2004) also highlighted the popular role of technology in the education setting. The reasons for such popularity are technology motivates students to learn, reduces their anxiety, promotes learner - centered approach and provides useful, authentic materials (Erben, 2013). The technological tools 'make learning more interesting, motivating, stimulating and meaningful to the students' (Chhabra, 2012). This beneficial role of technology provides enriching experience in education setting. As a result, the traditional teaching - learning paradigm has been revolutionized with the existence of technology integrated in the education setting.

The revolutionized effect of technology has great impact in the language teaching - learning aspect. In fact, under social sciences, language teaching - learning uses technology the most (Kartal, 2005) according to the present's demand. The demand of today is to equip people with fluency of English language. In doing so, the teachers are using technology in their English classes to enhance the learning experience for their students. When it comes to language education, there is limitless potential of technology in the classroom setting (Seljan et al, 2006). Thus, English teachers play an innovative role in blending the tools of technology in their teaching.

One of the innovative ways is to use language learning tools for their online classes. Around the world, all citizens are facing a pandemic called COVID 19. All physical classes are put to a halt as schools and other learning institutions are closed due to the pandemic. All teaching - learning activities are conducted online, including language classes. This is where English teachers put on their thinking cap and integrate language learning tools in their online classes. The

outcome is the English online classes become more interactive, interesting for the students, thus motivating them to engage in the lessons. However there are many language learning tools that are available out there in the internet without knowing their promising potential or vice versa. Therefore, it is important to know which learning tools have such positive potential for learning English. It is hoped that by listing some of the promising language learning tools for online English classes, the teachers can use them for enriching learning experience.

Language learning tools

2. Conclusion

Technology develops day by day without failed, revolutionizing the field of education. We are the citizens of the 21st century and we need to embrace the advances of technology, particularly in language learning aspect. English teachers must promote innovative, creative teaching for their students especially in online classes where students engage, interact actively for enhanced, constructive experience. Using language learning tools in online classes will provide such engaging, learner - centered approach for the students. However the teachers need to know which language learning tools are useful and beneficial for their teaching as there are hundreds of them available in the internet. Thus to create such awareness among the English teachers is important. The technology does not promise definite success. It is up to the teachers to choose wisely in using technology to meet the objective of their lesson and the needs of their students. Technology can be useful and beneficial in the hands of competent and innovative teachers. In short, 'the key to successful use of technology in language teaching lies not in hardware or software, but in 'humanware' – our human capacity as teachers to plan, design and implement effective educational activity (Warschauer and Meskill, 2000).

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