

ELT and Digital Technology

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Abstract: *Technology has become a defining force in our life, and its relevance is spreading to Virtually every field in one way or another. The importance of keeping technology within grasp as a way to prepare the students for the world that is ahead of them. This requires, now more than ever, knowing the ins and outs of whatever operating system. If you wish to move up, you will need to prove again and again that you know to navigate Technology.*

Keywords: Multimedia, technology, Optimisation, strategies, method, approaches, pedagogy

1. Introduction

The New Era assigns new challenges and duties on the modern English teacher in the present scenario in English studies position as a key subject of medium of instruction and curriculum. English learning students are increasing in number; as a result many different methods have been practiced to test the effectiveness of the teaching process. The tradition of teaching has been drastically changed with the remarkable entry of technology. For, technology provides so many options as making teaching interesting and also teaching more productive in terms of improvement.

As proved and realized, technology is one of the most significant drivers of both social and linguistic change (Graddol, 1997), as it lies in the heart of the globalization process; affecting education, work and culture. The use of English language learning has increased rapidly with this effect. Multimedia in English Language Teaching has had its share to meet the needs of the students, as it uplifts modern styles and that satisfies both visual and auditory senses of students'.

As the use of English has increased in its popularity so has the need for qualified teachers to instruct students in language development. It is true that there are teachers who use cutting edge technology. With Rapid development of science and technology in the emerging of multimedia technology, its application to teaching comes into full play in English class teaching and sets a favourable platform for reform and exploration in English teaching.

It is proved that multimedia Technology plays a positive role in promoting activities and initiatives of the students and teaching effect in English class. Technological innovations have gone hand in hand with the growth of English and are changing the way we communicate. Internet has facilitated the growth of English language and that this has occurred at a time when computers are no longer the exclusive domains of the specialists, by rather accessible to very many. With this there has been a very significant proliferation of literature regarding the use of technology in teaching and learning of English. These unequivocally accepted writing on technology has the most essential part in teaching. In a way to emphasise on the inevitable role of technology in pedagogy; to the extent of obliterating human part of teacher but technology part, has been very dominant. Now, if we neglect or ignore technology development, we will lag

behind. Therefore, it is important for language teachers to be aware of the latest and best equipment and to have a full knowledge of what is available in any given situation.

Teachers can use multimedia to give more colourful and stimulating inputs. Traditional teaching has been replaced to comprehend certain structure, meaning and function of the language that makes students' knowledge oriented. Technology seeks integration of teaching and learning and provides students with greater academic incentives. Multimedia transaction has transformed English learning into capacity cultivation. With class - activities such as group discussion, subject discussion, peer interaction can offer opportunities for communication between teachers and students; technology teaching has inspired students' positive thinking and communication skills in social practice. The utilization of multimedia sound lab materializes the individualized and co-operative teaching. Multimedia Technology has gone beyond time space to create more vivid, visual authentic atmosphere for English learning and increase classroom atmosphere information.

It is clear that language teaching is different from core subjects, for language teaching does not require demonstration by various steps rather than the tense and orderly atmosphere is formed through questions and answers between teachers and students, teachers raise important and real time questions and guide the students to think, cultivate to discover and solve problems.

Educational technology on the other hand has grown tremendously and has permeated all the areas of our lives. It is incomprehensible that anyone today, that banks, hospitals or any industry should use less Technology. Most young people cannot understand arguments that schools and colleges should limit technology use. Internet plays a vital role in their relationships, with friends and families. Internet is becoming an increasingly important component in our information society.

The very concept of the internet would not be possible without technology. This is parallel by the incredibly rapid growth of information that likely would not be possible without technology. Given the vital role technology plays in today's world, this critical issue examines the value of effective technology use in our classroom. Teaching is changing and in many ways becoming a more difficult job because of increasingly numerous contradictory expectations

that we are in an age of information overload with the expectations that students will learn - high level skills such as how to access, evaluate, analyse and synthesis vast quantities of information. At the same time, teachers are evaluated by the ability to have students pass tests that often give no value to these abilities.

- Teachers are expected to teach students to solve complex problems that require knowledge necessary across many subject areas even as they are held accountable for teaching and learning of isolated skills and information.
- Teachers are expected to meet the needs of all students and move them towards fulfillment of their individual potential even as they are pressured to prepare students for maximum performance on high-stakes assessment tests.

Technology actually with some of the above expectations, make teachers and their students - even more successful. However, as the world becomes more complex - virtually year to year instead of the generation to generation pace most of the last century education needs to continue to shift from teaching and learning isolated skills and information within each content area, to teaching skills that enable students to solve complex problems across many areas.

While some uses of technology may add value while some may become a distraction, technology is only one variable among many others that needs to be addressed. As the technology has to be involved as the teacher is a key variable in technology implementation and effectiveness. Technology impact on teachers and their practices should be considered as important as student's effect - because students move on but teachers remain to influence many generations of students. However, Rubin, Futtom, Wasser, et al(1996) believe that a more important outcome than raising test scores is the potential of technology to create communities of learners that do the following:

- Open class to more communication opportunities.
- Encourage discussion.
- Share the authority as more resource is brought into the classroom.
- Create opportunities for task that are complex and authentic and connected to projects which may be multidisciplinary and long-term.
- Give students more opportunities for multiple ways of discovering, creating and communicating information in various formats and videos.

As research clearly indicates that the single most important factor, in the effective use of technology is the quality of the teacher knowledge of effective technology, on students access to information is determined by the pedagogical knowledge and skill of teachers. Technology enables teacher teachers well develop working theories of student learning to extend the reach and power of those theories. Educational technology is now widely valued for its ability to enhance one of the most significant intellectual development for students their emerging ability to think abstractly (Jarret, 1998). As Jarret opines that technology has become a very powerful instructional tool to develop abstract thinking, which should be reflected also in teaching and evaluation – Dr. Valdez. One of the necessary characteristics of the effective use of technology is that, it be used for authentic tasks which foster the students' performance, integrate

varieties of activities, to accomplish Complex tasks, that engage in extended and cooperative when second world multiple disciplines. Technology has been proved to accommodate learning styles and to be effective motivator for students with specific learning needs. Furthermore, students working in collaborative team learning settings appear to function better when learning events are accompanied by technology.

In the 1960's, when Skinner's 'operant conditioning' was at the forefront of psychology "teaching machine" were being used for drilling specific concepts. Through the repetitive experiences, students could learn objective information very easily. As computers were introduced, the drill and practice method, continued because it made easy it made it easy for teachers to keep track of the students with printouts of records being available at the end of the class showing the students' progress. While drilling-style assignments are not as common today, they are still in use in many classes, especially in math, where specific concepts can be used to solve multitude of problems. Another advantage of these programs was that they require very little training for the teacher to understand how they work. This emphasizes technology proficiency and do work effectively with others.

As we strive to adapt out reaching styles to teach students who have grown up in a technology world, the need to find different ways to reach those with short attention spans, fewer academic goals and more social once increase the attentiveness of normally reluctant learners and teach the skills needed for life.

Nancy Traubiz found that students in advanced classes very eager to use technology and what strategies using technology appeal to students in English classes. The major reason for the success of a lesson is that it integrates technology for the extra benefits and interesting learning.

Technology should play an important role in a Standard English curriculum too - can teach writing and critical analysis for example, there are many aspects to the teaching of writing, such as audience awareness, expression of ideas and organisation that can be taught using computers. The basic for good research writing is accurate research analysing. World Wide Web resources to assess their credibility can be just as useful as looking at print sources. Not only does this allow students a chance to decide on the credibility of the information, but it also teaches them how search engines can be of multiple uses.

Teachers should react to the changing scenario and equip themselves to meet the need of the hour, especially the English teachers at this juncture, should play a major role and bridging the gap between what is now available in the form of curriculum and demands of the market world. As Cologne, 2002 states, "We (English) teachers should try to do our best in achieving two results simultaneously that are vital in view of the ever-changing 'face' of English to enhance our students linguistic competence and to prepare them for handling the extra linguistic demand via soft skills".

This transformation can be achieved by moving away from the traditional method of teaching language skills to the communicative method of language teaching. Instead of focusing on grammatical rules, syntactic structure, rote memorization of vocabulary and using literary texts as teaching material, present day English teachers need to concentrate on improving efficiency and soft skills by making use of real life situations and teaching material., for this or more creative,, analytical logic oriented an interactive method of teaching should be adopted through technology. Needs analysis will always guide the teacher to explore and experiment different needs. The teaching methodology should be so devised as to include conceptualize tasks and thus provide integration of skills - related learning experiences. Whatever be the method, the teacher should create the right ambience and make the classroom very informal, interesting and interactive. The methodology should also offer the teachers scope to observe, listen, evaluate and provide feedback. An efficient teacher will manage properly the task-oriented classroom and facilitate higher - order thinking by concentrating on

- Handling mixed ability class.
- Motivating for active participation.
- Task enable session.
- Time management.

Today's English teachers are confronted by mixed ability groups, urging them to free carefully as they need to match instructional approaches to the readiness, interest learning speed /styles/ attitudes, intelligence and communicative ability.

No doubt technology will always have critics, while some believe that technology reduces hands-on experience and student engagement in active participation, the others believe it reduces human contact. Finally, one can identify that different critiques have different values and perspectives on technology in education. What I feel is, that the single most important factor for reducing criticism of technology use in instruction - is to have teachers were competent and knowledgeable about appropriate and effective use of technology to improve student learning. Certainly there are many obstacles to overcome if technology and specifically computers used effectively in the classrooms, while the skills learnt will provide a long-term benefit to the students.

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