The Integration of Technology Into Language Teaching

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ABSTRACT

The article provides the integration of technology into language teaching and its role in improving speaking and listening skills in EFL classes. There were introduced the importance of technological tools and some practical implementations in using them for enhancing learners' listening and speaking skill. The ideas were proved by the facts that student's skills can be significantly increased by various technological tools such as blogs, quick pen, questionary as well as podcasting. Practicality of using podcasts is proved by given activities and lesson plans as well. These tools help to form and develop students` communicative competences, linguistic, pragmatic, socio-linguistic and strategic.

KEYWORDS: *enhancing learner, technological tools, EFL classes, lesson plans, communicative competences*

I. Introduction

English language has become an international language. Among nations it serves as a lingua franca. It is spoken, learnt and understood even in those countries where it is not a native's language. English is playing a major role in many sectors including medicine, engineering, education, advanced studies, business, technology, banking, computing, tourism, and so on. All our software development today, the communication facilities available to us through internet, our access to a variety of websites, are all being carried out in English. Most of the research works are conducted and compiled in English. Anything written and recorded in this language is read and listened to, in wider circles. As a result, English is being taught and learned around the world as a second language today. From all four key language skills, speaking is deemed to be the most important in learning a second or foreign language.

II. Theoretical Basis

As stated by Ur[1], speaking included all other skills of knowing that language. Speaking is "the process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols, in a variety of contexts". Speaking is a crucial part of second language learning and teaching, it's an art of communications and one of 4 productive skills, that must mastered in learning foreign language. Speaking a language is especially difficult for foreign language learners because effective oral communication requires the ability to use the language appropriately in social interactions. Good speaking skills are the act of generating words that can be understood by listeners. According to Brown and Yule[2], speaking is the skill that the students will be judged upon most in real-life situations. It is an important part of everyday interaction and most often the first impression of a person is based on his/her ability to speak fluently and comprehensively. So, teachers have a responsibility to prepare the students as much as possible to be able to speak in English in the real world outside the classroom. In the preliminary stage, teachers used tape recorders as a technological device to instruct the students, which later evolved as communication laboratory.

The integration of technology into language teaching which was started in the early 1960s and 1970s, assisted teachers to teach second language learners how to speak in the best way possible. Every day teachers are getting access to some new technologies, which join hand with English teaching. As the conventional teaching method such as the chalk and talk method seems to be outdated, the modern technologies can be used as a supplement to the classroom teaching method to have a lively atmosphere in the classroom. It is the need of the hour to integrate modern technologies to upgrade the level of English teaching. The modern technologies relax the mind of the students to get into the subject with full involvement rather than a difficult task to do. New technologies in language learning by multiple intelligence and mixed abilities replace with old methods of teaching. Technologies allow students to become more independent in the classroom. It ushers as a fundamental structural changes to achieving significant improvements in productivity. It is used to support teaching and learning. It also has the power to transform teaching by ushering in a new model of connected teaching.

III. Analysis

For many years, teaching speaking has been undervalued and English language teachers have continued to teach speaking just as a repetition of drills or memorization of dialogues. Today's world requires that the goal of teaching speaking should improve the students' communicative skills, because only that way the students can express themselves and learn how to follow the social and cultural rules appropriate in each communication circumstance. Teaching speaking is to teach our learners to:

➢ Produce the English speech sounds and sound patterns.

➢ Use word and sentence stress, intonation patterns and the rhythm of the second language.

➢ Select appropriate words and sentences according to the proper social setting audience, situation and subject matter.

➢ Organize their thoughts in a meaningful and logical sequence.

➢ Use language as a means of expressing values and judgments.

➢ Use the language quickly and confidently with few unnatural pauses, which is called as fluency (Nunan, 2003)3.

English become an International language in the world. So, all media, technologies, and all the things will use English. Here some reasons about teaching speaking:

➢ Speaking is a crucial part of second language learning and teaching.

➢ The mastery of speaking skills in English is a priority for many second language or foreign language learners.

➢ Our learners often evaluate their success in language learning as well as the effectiveness of their English course on the basis of how much they feel they have improved in their spoken language proficiency.

➢ Oral skills have hardly been neglected in today's EFL/ESL courses.

There are some categories that can be used as the role of learners in developing speaking skills in the classroom.

➢ Imitative - A very limited portion of classroom speaking time may legitimately be speech generating "human tape recorder speech, where, for example, learner practice an intonation contour or try to pinpoint a certain vowel sound. Imitation of this kind is carried out nit the

purpose of meaningful interaction, but for focusing on some particular element of language form.

➢ Intensive - It goes one step beyond imitative to include any speaking performances that are designed to practice some phonological or grammatical aspects of language.

➢ Responsive - It consists of short replies to teacher-or student-initiated questions or comments.

➢ Transactional (dialogue) - Transactional language, carried out for the purposes of conveying or exchanging specific information, is an extended form of responsive language.

➢ Interpersonal (dialogue) - It carried out more the purpose of maintaining social relationships than for the transmission of a fact and information. These conversations are little trickier for learners because they can involve some or all of the following factors – a casual register, colloquial language, emotionally charged language, slang and sarcasm.

➢ Extensive (monolog) - Here the register is more formal and deliberative. It can be planned or impromptu. Students at intermediate to advanced levels are called on to give extended monologues in the form of oral reports summaries of perhaps short speeches.

In the fast developing 21st century various innovative technologies are being introduced to teach English in the classrooms. Knowledge base is fast doubling and tripling in so short a time. To cope up with this trend, we have to use modern technologies to teach English to the technical students. Technology can stimulate the playfulness of learners and immerse them in a variety of scenarios. Technology gives learners a chance to engage in self-directed actions, opportunities for self-paced interactions, privacy, and a safe environment in which errors get corrected and specific feedback is given.

IV. Conclusion

Studies are emerging that show the importance of qualitative feedback in software. When links are provided to locate explanations, additional help, and reference, the value of technology is further augmented. The modern technologies relax the mind of the students to get into the subject with full involvement rather than a difficult task to do. Modern technologies available for teachers of English today are:

➢ Communication lab

➢ Video conferencing

➢ Video Library

➢ CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning)

➢ TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning)

➢ Pod casting

➢ Quick Link Pen

➢ Quicktionary

➢ Programmes through educational satellites

➢ Speech Recognition Software

➢ Internet

➢ Blogging

Communication Labs Software's are available to develop speaking skills. By incorporating suitable software through computers the students will play it again and again with their own interest and try to improve their speaking skills, which are most essential in this modernized IT world. The usage of headphones in the lab makes the students to have interest over the subject and induces them to repeat again and again instead of feeling boredom.

Video Conferencing Video conferencing is the method in which one person can access to the speeches of other persons in some other parts of the world. It is the live relay of a programme, which is mostly used to view the lecture of a professor who resides in foreign country. In short it is very helpful for the students to understand what is going in this world and to hear the speech of the top most personalities in a lively manner. The most notable point in video conferencing is that the students can post questions immediately and get their answers at once.

TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning) is the use of computer technology including hardware, software and the internet to enhance teaching and learning of languages. It allows the students to get access with all the technologies available for the enhancement of English learning. Students are allowed to use online dictionaries, chat, and to view the various happenings around the world.

Pod Casting. Podcasts can be uploaded or downloaded, this audio help the learner familiarize with the target language and teachers can use them as useful audio material that can be used in class for activities like discussions, besides, in the web, there are even particular podcasts that are for ESL learners and these can include pronunciation for particular needs of students. Podcast undoubtedly help learners in speaking. Pod casting is the integration of audio files where we can feed our own materials and ply it inside and outside of the classroom. Students use i-pods to hear their favorite music files. In the same way they have their education in the form of entertainment. Podcasting allows students to use their tech-based entertainment systems for educational purposes. With it we are able to move away from the traditional face-to-face training without losing the student-to-trainer relationship that is so effective in any learning process. Podcasts enables students and teachers to share information with anyone at anytime. An absent student can download the podcast of recorded lesson and is able to access the missed lectures. They could also access lectures of experts which may not otherwise be available because of geographical distance and other reasons.

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