

USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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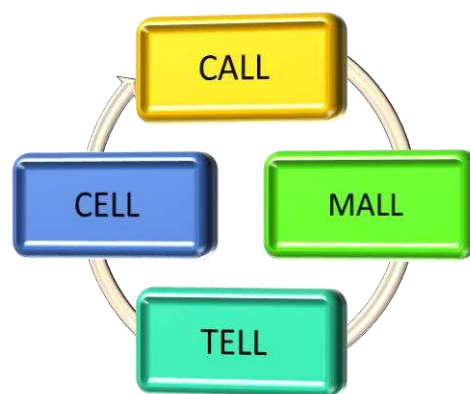
INTRODUCTION:

With the advent of technology, 21st century has become the era of technology. Surely, it has become a significant part of language teaching which provides meaningful and interesting approach for language learning. Majority of EFL teachers are integrating technology into their curriculum while designing material for learning process to support learning process. The use of technology in EFL classrooms inspires students and engages them listening, reading, speaking as well as writing. Learners feel motivated and engaged to learning process when technology tools are part of the lesson. Van der Beemt, Akkerman and Simons (2010) pointed out that today's youths are called net generation and they have a strong thought that technology gives rise to better learning. Moreover, incorporation of technology tools into learning process increase learners' motivation, enthusiasm and interest to language learning. Hennessy (2005) claimed that the use of technology serves as a tool to motivate teachers and learners to work in new ways and expand opportunities. Technology can make teaching fast, easy, organized and innovative.

COMPUTER ASSISTED LANGUAGE LEARNING:

Technology-enhanced learning environment is more effective than lecture-based class. Susikaran (2013) stated that chalk and talk teaching method is not enough for today's young generation to teach English effectively. EFL instructors need to be aware of with EFL technology. Common acronyms for technology-based language learning involve:

- ✓ CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning);
- ✓ CELL (Computer Enhanced Language Learning);
- ✓ MALL (Mobile Assisted Language Learning);
- ✓ TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning).



An implementation of technology tools to learning process gives great potential to change the existing language teaching methods (Pourhosein Gilakjani, 2013). The application of Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) changes learners' learning attitudes to learning process and improves their self-confidence. According to Morgan (2008) technology can be considered as one of the factors that influences on learners' attitude positively in the learning process. Students are actively involved and feel motivated to complete technology-based tasks rather than doing a paper version of the activity. The effective of use technology helps EFL/ESL learners consolidate their linguistic skill and builds self-confidence (Dudeney & Hockly, 2008).

BENEFITS OF APPLYING TECHNOLOGIES IN THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM:

Surely, use of technology offers a number of benefits to the process of second language acquisition that helps to increase the productivity and efficiency of the lesson.

Use of technology in EFL/ ESL classroom needs:

- ✓ To enhance students' interest to learning process. Use of technology in language learning highly cultivates learners' motivation, interest in study and their engagement in class activities. Application of learners' desirable technical devices draws students' attention to learning process and make learning more enjoyable, interesting and interactive;
- ✓ To improve interaction between teacher and student. One of the main positive effect of technology-enhanced learning is that the interaction and communication between teacher inside and outside classroom which help teachers to create friendly, positive, interesting and comprehensible atmosphere out of the classroom.
- ✓ To change the classroom from teacher-centered to learner-centered one. In technology- enhanced classroom, teacher acts as a facilitator and guides learners to learning process.
- ✓ To widen learner's knowledge. Implementation of technology in language learning offers students abundant information and it is more plentiful than textbooks.
- ✓ To promote autonomous learning. Technology facilitates learners to learn independently and to obtain responsibility behaviors. Learners are encouraged to think and act independently.
- ✓ To improve teaching effect. Application of technology enriches teaching content, breaks "teaching-centered" teaching process and enhances class efficiency. In addition, it creates more vivid, authentic environment

that inspires learners' initiatives and minimizes class time.

Warschauer (2000a) mentioned two viewpoints about the use of technology in language learning.

- 1) Cognitive approach- students have a chance to improve their exposure to language meaningfully as well as gain their own knowledge.
- 2) Social approach- students have an opportunity to practice real life skills. Surely, it can be obtained through learners' collaboration in real life activities.

Peregoy and Boyle (2012) carried out a research about the use technology in enhancing learners' reading and writing skills. Based on the results of the study technology tools improved learners' reading and writing skills. Students learnt faster and more efficiently because of favorable learning environment that gave a convenient access to learning process.

The other study was done by Tabrizi and Onvani (2018) about the effect of applying Telegram app in teaching vocabulary for EFL learners. It was revealed that incorporation of technology was found as an effective tool to enhance English vocabulary of Iranian EFL beginner learners. Students can obtain better comprehension of the material by using such an application. In addition, participants of the study showed considerably positive attitude towards using Telegram in second language acquisition

CONCLUSION:

With the use of technology, language skills which are listening, reading, writing and speaking can be grasped easier and faster. It helps to consolidate learners' language skills since it plays a significant role in developing their creativity and provides with exciting, enjoyable as well as interesting alternatives to study language. Furthermore, use of technology in language learning, develops learners'

thinking skills, improves interaction between teacher and student, makes teaching learner-centered, promotes autonomous learning and improves teaching effect.

It can be summarized that true combination of technology tools into language learning process draws learners' attention towards English language learning. It gives high motivation for the successful learning of language skills. So, technology should be added in ELT in order to give best knowledge English to students.

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