Use of ICT in English Language Teaching

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Abstract:
Today science, information and technology (ICT) have left their impact on every aspects of human life. Most of the significant developments that one can observe today can be attributed to the impact of science and technology. Even in education sector we witness that technological advancement and innovations have made a visible impact and have changed a scenario. Traditional methods of imparting higher education have become less motivating. Here, technology plays an important role in creating innovation and motivation for the learners. The word 'ICT' includes any communication device such as computer, mobile phones, radio, television, satellite system etc. Now the role and use of technology as a tool for teaching of English language is increasing as educators have understood its ability to create both independent and collaborative learning environment in which students can learn English with much ease. The use of ICT in teaching- learning process is the need of an hour and teacher is expected to be traditional as well as innovative in his/her teaching learning process. A teacher needs to think of using technology in imparting education.

Keywords: *English language teaching, ICT tools, ICT, Role of ICT, Science & technology, Sandhan*

1. Introduction

We live in age of technology. Science and technology have left their marks on every sphere of human life. Most of the significant developments that one can observe today can be attributed to the impact of science and technology. Technological advancement and innovations in educational transactions make a visible impact on academic development as well as administration. Traditional methods of imparting higher education have become less motivating to the large number of students. HEI_S have to enrich the learning experiences of their students by providing them with state of the Art Educational Technologies.(NAAC) Now the role and use of technology as a resource for teaching of English Language is increasing as educators recognize its ability to create both independent and collaborative learning environment in which students can learn English with much ease.(Jameel, Ahmad) Information and communication technology (ICT) is an important tool during the 21st century in the context of the global exchange/sharing of knowledge.

The use of ICT in teaching-learning process is the need of an hour. The teacher is expected to be traditional as well as modern/innovative in his/her teaching learning process. The teacher must be adequately prepared to make use of information and communication technology (ICT). In the 21st century, technologies are truly communicative and interactive but the implementation is low in the language classroom. When one tries to bring about an innovation in the educational field, one needs to think of the audio-visual aids and their extensive usage in imparting education.

ICT can be defined as scientific, technological and engineering based management techniques used in information storage and communication mechanism with optimal time and space utilization in comparison to other traditional methods adopted for the same. The word 'ICT' includes any communication device or application such as computer, mobile phones, radio, television, satellite system etc (Saxena,Jyotsana& Rai,Geeta). Today teacher can make use of these different tools of technology and can make his/her teaching innovative and interesting.

2. Web 2.0 Applications

After 2005, web 2.0 emerged. It encourages sharing between users. It includes variety of application such as blogs, social networking websites etc. Blogs are regular opinion, columns posted on the internet. The writer posts a diary entry which others can read and comment on. The learners can be encouraged to write their own blog.

Social networking sites like Face book, Friendster, Bebo. There are many sharing sites like Flicker where users can post and view photos and YouTube for videos. These can be useful for language learning. A wiki is web-based environment for collaborative writing. It is useful for language learning is the record of all drafts.

Access to personal computers can cause problems but mobile phone is a different type of computer that is available and convenient. Mobile phones function in many ways like the addition of texting, e-mail, recording functions etc. as computers. The main features of mobile phone-assisted language learning portability, social interactivity, connectivity, individuality and immediacy can become accessible to millions.(Vyas, Manish. A & Patel, Yogesh L).

3. Radio and Television

The radio and television are one of the most useful devices for teaching English Language. Radio and television are two important instruments for distant education. Those who fail to get admission to colleges have to continue their education through open universities. Here radio and television play vital role in the teaching of the language. We live in an age in which distance education has become order of the day.

A number of good English teaching programmes are broad cast by the All India Radio, the material prepared by the CIFEL, Hyderabad and other ELTIS in India. They can be recorded and used for listing sessions in the class. (Krishnaswami, N &.,Krishnaswami Lalitha). The television appeals both to the ears and eyes. In radio only ear is employed with the help of both these technological devices, it is possible to teach the students the pronunciation. They may be taught to speak properly. Radio and T.V. can bring the experience of the real world into the class-room so that teaching is no duller.

The traditional teacher of books changes his/her role to become the teacher of the real living language. Today T.V. plays many roles in advanced countries. It is a companion, entertainer and instructor. Today in our cities, most learning occurs outside the classroom. The quantity of information conveyed by T.V., Radio and Film far exceeds that which is conveyed by educational institutions. The notion that education is a process that goes on within the four walls of the classroom is also shattered (Antony, A.). T.V. programmes can be recorded in advanced and played in the class.

4. Language Laboratory

A language laboratory is modern technological teaching aid. There are different types of language labs. These are:

5. Language Laboratory for listening and understanding

In this type, each student has a tape recorder with a head set. He simply listens and understands the material at his own speed. Here, the students get an opportunity to listen English spoken by native speaker and make them familiar with the correct pronunciation.

6. Audio Active Laboratory

This type of laboratory consists of a teacher's console and individual head sets. A tape is played from the console. Everyone has to go at the speed of the tape. A limitation is that the students cannot proceed at their own pace.

7. Audio-Active- comparative language lab. (A. A. C.)

Wearing ear phones, students sit in booths with separate tape recorder to speak and listen. The teacher is provided with a console which permits him to listen or speak to each student. It is an effective technological device to teach pronunciation and intonation (Antony A.).

Government of Gujarat has also set up DELL (Digital Education and Language Laboratory) in Government and Grant-in aid colleges across the state .The complete infrastructure including furniture, computer system, server, LAN, software, AV facility is provided. SCOPE has adopted computer based and Online Exam.

8. Films

Films present the reading material in the form of stories. With the help of this aid, it is to present and systematic and orderly knowledge of the subject. Knowledge acquired through films has a lasting effect. (Rai B.C) We can show to the students in the class-room plays of Shakespeare while teaching English Literature.

9. Overhead Projector

It is a useful alternative to chalk board. Writings or pictures on transparencies are projected on a screen. It saves time by preparing the materials in advance. Proper infrastructure facilities are required for the use of such equipments. Krishnaswami N.,,Krishnaswami Lalitha).

10. Initiatives of Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat (KCG)

Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat has also taken up initiatives like promotion of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in higher education and SANDHAN: All Gujarat Integrated Class Room.ICT is the new idiom of new change in the way the world operate today. In Education today it is the need of an hour to make use of the ICT and to integrate it in its entire core processes-teaching, learning, evaluation, research administration. KCG conducts training and workshops for creating awareness and for promoting the use of ICT in education.

It has been observed that the technology has been an integral part of education and teachers dealing with the courses in higher education have also started utilizining the computers and ICT. SANDHAN is creating a platform which provides an excellent opportunity for the use of Audio-Visual medium for the telecast of lectures in a very innovative and manner with an aim to provide a very creative base for faculty and students to fulfill the need for having the Audio-visual aids for imparting education in the higher education.

This programme was conceptualized and implemented by Commisionerate of Higher Education with the purpose that the VSAT facility of BISAG, Government of Gujarat could be leveraged better by setting up an All Gujarat Integrated Classroom. Thus, SANDHAN is a unique initiative. Academicians are invited to deliver lectures on several streams-Arts, Commerce, Science, Law, etc. Some of the lectures have also been uploaded on You Tube also. The Phone-in-facility and the Roobroo Two-Way Video communication software is systemized too make the lecture interactive and thus it adds liveliness to the programmes provides satisfaction to the quest of the students (SANDHAN).

Thus, teacher can make teaching process innovative and informative by using different technological devices as mentioned above. If we use these tools wisely teaching of English Language will become interesting and will boost student's motivation, commitment and engagement. In order to prepare students to function in the digital age, we must ensure that language curriculum incorporates the necessary technological literacy skills.

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