



ICT and Teaching of English language and Literature

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Abstract:

In my Research Paper 'ICT and Teaching of English language and Literature', I have discussed the uses of ICT in the teaching of Language and Literature. I have talked about how can teachers use technologies like computer and internet in the teaching of global language like English. There are visual aids in ICT which makes language teaching more effective. Online resources like e books, journals and videos are easily accessible. Students can submit assignments and projects online and get it reviewed by teachers. Original recitations of poetry make students more imaginative. Power point presentations also help in teaching and learning of English language and literature. Websites can help in sharing ideas. On line libraries can also provide learning material in abundance. Wikipedia, Google, answer.com avail a great treasure of information and knowledge. Critical articles are also available on websites. ICT helps in learning vocabulary too. Online and Offline dictionaries help in this concern. I have talked about use of ICT even in teaching of grammar. Language laboratories can help in this matter. Thus, I have focussed on how ICT can help in effective English teaching.

Keywords: E- Journals, E-libraries, Google, ICT, Internet, Language laboratory, Online resources, Online/Offline Dictionaries, Power point Presentation, Websites, Wikipedia, Word Processing Software

It is generally believed that teaching of literature and language are not very conducive to teachers remained antagonistic towards ICT as far as teaching of language and literature is concerned. Modern age is the age of ICT. Internet and computer technology have covered all branches of knowledge and information. How can literature remain untouched? Knowledge is never in fragments. It is the whole and un- fragmented. Literature is the epitome of all aspects of life. Language is a means of communication. It is in fact very close to modern technology. English language is a global language today. It is spoken almost all over the world. In many countries across the world, it is used as a second language. It is the language of technology, Science and Economics and many other branches of knowledge. No one affords to remain aloof and untouched by the knowledge of English. The countries like India has realized this and inspite of so called chauvinistic forces, more and more people have started learning English.

As far as technology is concerned, it can be used quite profitably in class rooms. Teachers can make use of ICT quite reasonably in the teaching of language and literature. The major areas where ICT can help the teaching of language and literature are as follows:

1. It is a well known and all accepted fact that the visual is always more effective than spoken words. In ICT, there are visual aids available. There are slides, pictures, images, videos and films on thousands of subjects. Teachers can have easy access to such visual materials.
2. There are online resources available on internet. Both teachers and students can use online resources for better understanding of literature and language. Hundreds of e-books, journals and videos are accessible online. Teachers can use them in the class room or can ask the students to use them for their study.
3. Teachers can ask the students to submit their projects, assignments and writing online. Teachers can review them online with necessary comments. Students can correct and improve their work with the help of these comments and instructions.

4. In modern times, thousands of video clips are available on different subjects. There are original poetry recitations or talks by great poets and writers. Teachers can use these video clips in the class rooms and students can get a lot of benefit from it. They can have a visual experience unparalleled. To listen to the poet or the writer himself is a wonderful experience. Listening and watching these videos would inspire the students beyond imagination.
5. Teachers can prepare power point presentations in which they can use video clips. Power point presentations should not be too lengthy. It should contain relevant topics and slides. The slides should have brief details. The captions should be catchy and meaningful. While discussing the PPT, the teachers should focus on relevant points without dwelling on them unnecessarily.
6. In modern time, students can create their own website using images and music. Websites can help them in sharing ideas with others easily.
7. Online libraries are a new phenomenon. In modern time, there are online libraries that cater to the requirements of all students, teachers and researchers .In printed forms; it is not possible to provide all students the copy of the same book. No library can have hundreds of copies of the same book. For example, all students need 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens. It is simply impossible for all students to read the book from the library. Online libraries can cater to the needs of all students at the same time. On modern online libraries thousands of free online books are available. E-books are also accessible on all subjects. One can access Wikipedia, Google, E-books, Poem Hunter, Gutenberg project etc. to get access to these treasures of online literary works.
8. Streaming media on demand is available on Internet. In day to day instruction, the teachers can use short video clips. Teachers can bookmark or provide links to the clips. Students can access these video clips whenever they want or as often as they want.
9. Google, Wikipedia, Answer.com and hundreds of such sites provide all kinds of information to students require. The students of English Literature can get the information regarding writers and their works. There are also critical articles available on writers. Poetry of well known writers is available on various sites. There are also various applications that can help the students in learning both literature and language.
10. Word Processing Software is useful for writing. It is useful for both students and teachers. Word perfect and Microsoft word are two programs that can help students in mastering writing skills. The students can learn correct punctuations, spellings and formatting.
11. In vocabulary learning, ICT can help a lot. There are online and offline dictionaries of global value and authenticity. Oxford English Dictionary, Webster's dictionary, Chamber's dictionary etc. are available on Internet or they can be downloaded for reference. Standard authentic pronunciation in audio format can be accessed in these libraries. Students should be encouraged to use online dictionaries. Words can best be learnt by using them in sentences. Dictionaries with the usage of words in sentences are easily available on Internet. Idioms and phrases can also be learnt this way.
12. Grammar teaching through ICT is also quite effective. Mere learning of rules is not advisable but grammar can be learnt in practical manner. Language laboratory can be of immense help in this regard. Audio and videos with conversation on various topics give students the feel of native English and also the knowledge of syntax and grammar.
13. As far as teaching of literary works is concerned, ICT can be immensely useful. For example, there are films made on great classics of English and American literature. To watch Shakespeare's plays in film version is an experience in itself. There are plays of Shakespeare filmed in the way where original dialogues by Shakespeare have been used. Sir Olivier's 'Hamlet' would leave permanent impression in the minds of the spectators. Teachers can arrange the film shows of such classical works in the classrooms. Poetry recitation by the poets are also available on you tube. Poetry has auditory beauty that can be experienced through listening only. Students should never be explained direct Para phase of the poem but let the students have

emotional experience and the feel of the poem. In Sanskrit, the great aesthician Bharat Muni said that the purpose of poetry is not to give meaning but to create an emotional experience which he called "Rasa". This applies to all poetry. Teachers should encourage the students to draw their own meanings and allow them to discuss their views. They should be encouraged to debate various aspects of poetical works such as themes, motifs, language, emotions, images, diction etc. ICT can provide ancillary aid in making poetic experience more subtle and effective.

To sum up, it can be said that ICT is a modern tool that facilitates both teachers and students in teaching- learning process. Knowledge is now in explosion. Every moment, millions of topics are posted on internet. Knowledge is just a click away. Sharing is the true focus of learning and it has now become a reality due to ICT.

Conclusion

Uses of ICT in the teaching of Language and Literature make the process easier and more effective. Teachers can use technologies like computer and internet in the teaching of global language like English. Visual aids, online resources like e books, e journals and videos also help a lot makes language teaching more effective. Assignments and projects can be submitted online. It also helps students to become more imaginative. Power point presentations also help in teaching and learning of English language and literature. Websites provides learning material in abundance. Wikipedia, Google, Answer.com provide a lot of information and knowledge. Online and offline dictionaries help in learning vocabulary. We can use ICT even in teaching of grammar. Language laboratories can help in this matter. Thus, ICT is highly helpful in teaching English language.

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