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USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

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Abstract

This paper aims to highlight the role of using modern technology in teaching English as a second language. The rapid development of science and technology offered so many tools to improve one's language, some of the tools like online English language learning web sites, computer assisted language learning programs, presentation software, electronic dictionaries, chatting and email messaging programs, listening CD-players, Language Lab, Social Media Sites and learning video-clips are very useful in developing their second language. Not only to the learners but for the teachers ICT offered a better tool to explore the new teaching methods. The Present scenario technology has contributed a lot to the society. Moreover it has changed the methodology of teacher-centered to learner- centered through ICT s. These abled tools are now used together to form a networked environment on English Language Teaching. It enhances the interest of the students and commits themselves to work effectively. The usage of ICT tools in English Language Teaching is the need of an hour and the teacher is expected to follow both traditional and innovative pedagogies in teaching and learning modes. This paper also discusses about different approaches and techniques which can support English language students to enhance their language skills with the help of technology.

Keywords: technology , English, language, teaching , learning etc

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Introduction

English is learnt or taught as a second or third language in the non-native speaking countries. In today's modern world, technology has an ever-changing achievement on many things – and this includes English language learning and teaching. Technology has achieved an important place in English classrooms in recent times and is of particular use to blended teachers. Blended teaching – or learning – is a formal education method whereby content is partly delivered through digital and online media. As Prajesh SJB Rana said, "Technology has turned into one essential aspect of society that helps students to understand the bigger picture of the world and not just stay confined to what schools and teachers teach them within their classrooms" (12). Of course, the technology has proved to be successful in replacing the traditional language teaching. Technology provides so many options as it makes teaching attention-grabbing and useful because it has the capability to attract the second language learners. Technology helps the learners to get involved and learn according to their interests. Second language learners need support for their language learning. They need to practice language skills like listening, reading, speaking, and writing (LSRW) and this will be satisfied with the help of various ICT tools and it helps the learners to learn the language skills easily and effectively.

Technology and its Definition

To use these techniques and technology successfully, the English as Second language learners should be known and capable of using computers and internet, and capable of interaction. The effect of technology has achieved a lot in teaching and learning the English language in addition to the teacher's role. In other words, the role of the instructor together with the role of the technology can lead to advanced learning results (Sharma, 2009).

In the Present scenario technology has contributed a lot to the society and students. Moreover it has changed the methodology of teacher-centered to learner-centered through ICT s. These abled tools are now used together to form a networked environment on English Language Teaching. It enhances the interest of the students and commits themselves to work effectively. David Graddol states that "technology lies at the heart of the globalization process; affecting education work and culture" (16). Technology tools successfully replaced the traditional language teaching models. As Rana argues, "Technology isn't something that students need to be separated from; rather it's something that students need to embrace" (12).

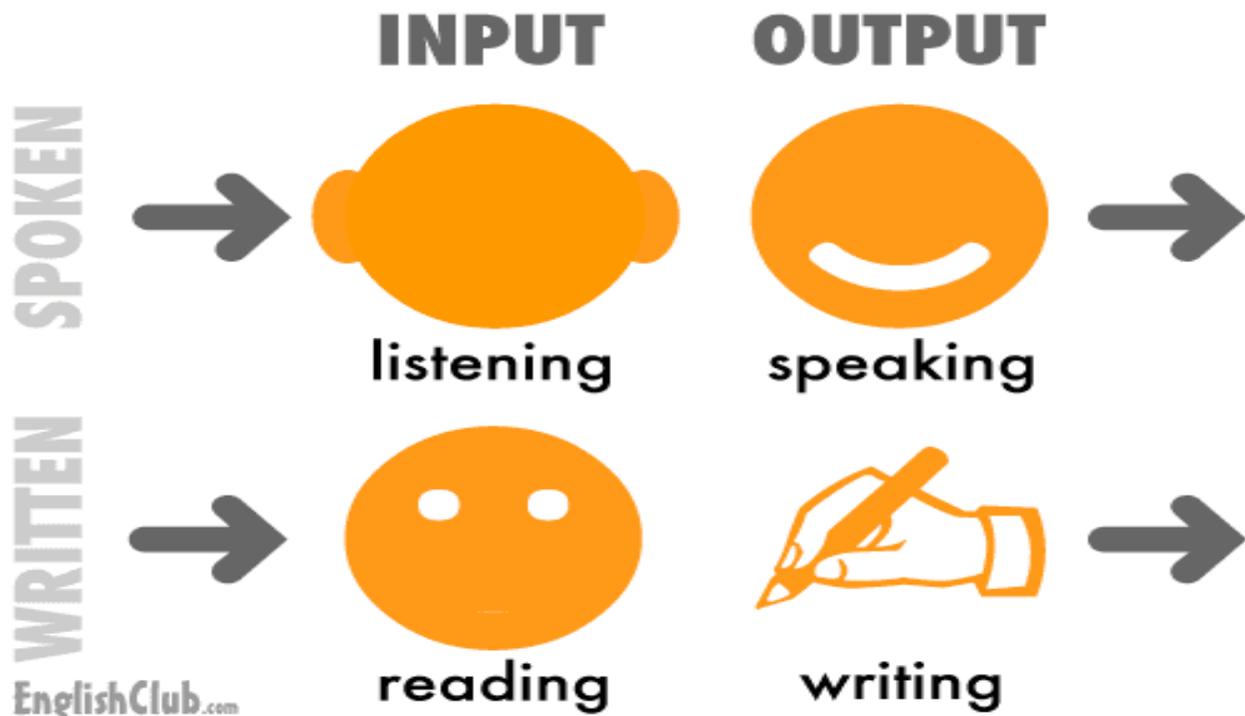
Four Basic Languages Skills

These are the cornerstones of learning a language.

- Reading
- Writing
- Listening
- Speaking

The skills work in pairs. When someone is reading or listening, he/she is consuming a language. When someone is writing or speaking he/she is producing a language.

Speaking, listening, reading, and writing are the four foundational elements and it is also considered as the language skills. The key feature of the four basic language skills is that they complement each other. As Newton's third law states that *every action has an equal and opposite reaction*, if one wants to be a well-rounded language learner, he needs to ensure that he is giving attention to each skill.



The four language skills (LSRW) are related to each other in two ways:

- the direction of communication (in or out)
- the method of communication (spoken or written)

Input is called "reception" and output is called "production. These four language skills are sometimes categorized as "macro-skills" and "micro-skills".

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This paper will focus on the effect of using technology and how the English language skills can be taught to the learners. There are many technical tools that may help the students to learn the language skills easily.

Listening

Listening is considered as the input skill and it is defined as the process of identifying and understanding the words of the speaker. It involves understanding the speaker's accent or pronunciation, speaker's grammar and vocabulary, and comprehension of meaning (Saricoban, 1999). Listening is considered as a principal language skill. As an input skill, listening plays a vital role in student's language development (Saricoban, 1999).

When we hear or listen the first language, we all have the listening skill and background knowledge to understand what we hear, so it is unaware that listening is a complex process. Listening, one of the means of language communication is used most widely in people's day-to-day lives. To add, teaching the learners a lot of listening activities is a good way to enlarge their vocabulary and also it helps the learners to improve their listening comprehension. There are various ICT tools are available to improve one's listening skill.

In Language laboratory Computer-based listening tests plays a very important role in strengthen the understanding skills of the listener. CD-ROM based learning films can also give significant advantages over the traditional methods. Internet voice chatting using the second language may give supporting hand to improve listening skill. Listening to TV and radio educational language programs is another technical way for developing the understanding ability. News satellite TV channels, like the BBC, CNN will also be useful for practicing listening with audio and video media.

Reading

Reading is the process of understanding a written text by the learner. Reading is the receptive skill and it can develop listening and speaking skills. Reading can help build vocabulary that helps and improves listening comprehension at the later days.

Vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension of the students can be improved with the help of Reading-based computer programs. Another way for improving the reading skill is the usage of Multimedia. Multimedia are computer programs that can motivate the learners to develop their vocabulary and reading skills. There are number of e- resources available in the form of e- newspapers, e- magazines, e- journals, electronic

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libraries, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and newsletters (Kenworthy, 2004). Browsing these resources and sites will obviously enhance the learner's vocabulary and reading ability. Electronic dictionaries can improve the vocabulary and it is designed specifically for English language learners. These dictionaries have several built-in functions and tools that are not provided in book dictionaries (Constantinescu, 2007). Electronic dictionaries are also easy to use and represent quick tools for vocabulary acquisition. All these e- sources can be downloaded and can be used with the help of any android phone.

Speaking

Speaking is the productive skill and it is more complicated skill to acquire. Speaking is connected with listening. Human communication can be taken place between the speaker and the listener the conversation will be successful only if they understand each other. Both of them have a positive role to perform in simple terms. The speaker has to convert his message into chunks, while the listener has to understand the words of the speaker. Nowadays English language teachers uses lot of tools in improving the speaking skills of the learners like translation earpiece that can deliver highly accurate results immediately. Real-time translation is being addressed by all the major tech companies, including Google, Microsoft and Apple, but the first to launch a translation earpiece is Waverly Labs. Digital technologies are ideally placed to help teachers working with learners, and learners working independently, to do the necessary 'languaging' (M. Swain)

Writing

Writing is the productive skill and the hardest skill to acquire because it involves with the development and presentation of thoughts in an organized way to read. It is the skill where the learner fuses their knowledge of vocabulary along with structure. Sentence is the base of an article. Use of Computers especially with the help of word documents one can develop the writing skills. Writing statements and paragraphs in a foreign language can be a very challenging one for the students. As like writing E-mails, creating blogs, using social medias like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., can be used to improve the writing skills of second language learners. In this digital era the students are more interested to use these technological tools than using pen and paper to write something. As Ybarra & Green mentions "the use of the computer as a tool in studying grammar is much more motivating for the student than the process of traditional writing with a paper and a pencil" (2003).

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Conclusion

Thus technology in learning a second language has become necessary nowadays. Students can develop their communication skills through any one of the ICT tools. It requires constant efforts. The importance is given to good communication skills, it has become necessary on the part of students to master them. The teachers of English and they are helping the students to discover the astonishing power of the English language. The teacher plays the key role in developing the four skills of English language among the students of Engineering and Technology. It will be more effective if education on ICT tools is introduced in the school curriculum.

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