



The use of ICT tools in the teaching and learning of the english language

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Abstract

Language acquisition and instruction is viewed as a complicated process. As the necessity of the hour, advanced teaching aids should be offered to simplify such complexity. The recent and considerable development of the Internet has resulted in a technological revolution in every part of our life, including education and training, which are becoming increasingly dependent on technology. As more educators adopt it, ICT is gaining immense popularity in foreign language teaching and study nowadays. There is no denying the influence that information and communication technology has had, both positively and negatively, on the teaching and learning process. ICT can increase teaching and learning through its dynamic, interactive, and entertaining material; it can also provide actual opportunity for personalized education ^[1]. As a result of technological advancements, the present classroom setting differs significantly from that of the past. The present paper highlights the usage of various ICT tools that can help in the learning and teaching of English language in secondary EFL classroom.

Keywords: ICT, internet, modern english

Introduction

To comprehend the significance of ICT in education, it is essential to know what ICT means. ICT is the short form for information and communication technology. It is defined as a variety of technology instruments and resources used for communication, creation, dissemination, and management of information.

According to Daniels (2002), ICT is one of the fundamental pillars of contemporary civilization. Understanding ICT and mastering its fundamental skills and concepts is now a fundamental component of education in many nations ^[2]. However, globalisation has significantly altered every element of human life, including education. In a world that technology has shrunk to the size of a village, the incorporation of ICT into education can aid in the development of a new approach to learning and instruction. In the past two decades, the usage of ICT has altered the practises and procedures of practically all commercial and government endeavours. The use of ICT in education facilitates a student-centered learning environment. But with changing scenario the world is advancing towards digital media, therefore, ICT is becoming significant in education, and its significance will continue to expand and evolve throughout the 21st century ^[3].

Today, it is essential to incorporate information and communication technology into the teaching and learning process. In the teaching-learning process, the instructor should be both classic and contemporary. The instructor must be capable of using ICT into the instructional process. In the 21st century, language classroom technology is interactive but yet limited ^[4]. Internet has recently achieved and continues to gain great popularity in second/foreign language education, and more professors and students are using it. As a consequence of this, there is no doubt that the use of ICT has a prominent impact on quality as well as quantity of teaching and learning. Therefore, ICT can enhance teaching and learning through its dynamic and interactive content and can offer genuine opportunity for personalised education ^[5].

What is ICT?

ICT represents information and communication technologies. The abbreviation "ICT" refers to the electronic means of transmitting, processing, storing, creating, displaying, and exchanging information. This term is also used interchangeably with "information and communication technologies." This all-encompassing definition of information and communications technology encompasses radio, television, video, DVD, telephones (both fixed line and mobile), satellite systems, computer network, equipment and services required for these technologies, such as video-conferencing, e-mail, and blogs ^[6].

A publication published online by UNESCO defines ICT from a larger viewpoint, emphasising its extent, importance, and nature of application, particularly in the sphere of education: "Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) are a wide collection of technological tools and resources utilised for communication as well as the creation, dissemination, storage, and management of information. Communication and information are important to the educational process; therefore, the use of ICTs in education has a long history. ICT has played an educational role in formal and non-formal contexts, in programmes offered by government agencies, public and private educational institutions, for-profit enterprises and non-profit organisations, as well as secular and religious societies. (unesco.org).

ICT encompasses the application of computer technology, such as hardware, peripheral devices, media, delivery methods, and software. This word is used in the ISTE NETS standards and by UNESCO to describe the incorporation of technology into the classroom (UNESCO, 2002). However, information and communications technology (ICT) is an acknowledged part of our lives and plays a crucial role in education. Since the introduction of the first government strategy on ICT in education in 1997, Irish schools have made major investments in ICT infrastructure and training. In many countries, the debate surrounding ICT in education focuses on the potential impact of ICT on teaching and

learning, as well as the actions that must be taken to ensure that the promise of ICT to enrich the learning experience of students is achieved.

The use of Technology-Based Tools

Currently, ICT is employed as a tool to enhance the quality of life. In recent years, its use has increased in this manner. Different language institutes around the world have recognised the significance of ICT in the teaching-learning process. However, ICT plays the leading role in information communication, establishment, and management.

ICT has proven useful in bringing education to people all over the world, including those who cannot leave their homes, move their limbs, or even speak. ICT makes it feasible for them to improve education.

There are numerous ICT tools that can be utilised in the classroom. These tools are applicable in various educational sectors.

ICT Education and Learning Tools

There are numerous ICT tools, some of which will be described in depth in this paper. However, this paper divides ICT tools into two categories: web-based and non-web-based learning aids.

Non Web Based Learning

Wireless Radio and Television

Radio and television are effective language-learning instruments. Both tools provide inexpensive access to abundant programming. The immediacy of current affairs programming ensures that students' exposure to the language is current and rooted in the real-world experiences of native speakers. Teachers are able to require students to listen to the lectures of prominent and distinguished speakers via radio. As a visual and aural medium, television is another significant technical tool utilised by language instructors. TV gives a complete audiovisual simulation that is lively and more realistic. Television provides speech expression in addition to facial expression.

Films

Films are the most effective instructional tool in the hands of an intelligent and resourceful educator. Films attract students' attention, pique their curiosity, and aid in their recall of material. Films are used effectively to demonstrate the facts, abilities, and background knowledge. Students at the elementary level are curious about the function of the speech organs and their pronunciation. The scholars and higher-level individuals are familiar with ancient and contemporary plays and novels that have been filmed.

Language Lab

Language laboratory is one of the contemporary technology teaching tools. Students can listen to audios and understand the various accents, they can talk and even record their voices in the language lab. Students could improve their pronunciation by listening to the standardised resources. Language lab is solely focused on enhancing the English language learning process, and is purely result-oriented. In recent trends, lab materials include not only audios but also films, flash-based games, and the internet. A language lab fosters a more relaxed environment than a regular classroom.

Overhead Projectors

The projector, a typical teaching tool, is a far superior alternative to chalk and talk. Preparing the contents in advance for the overhead projector requires time, but this type of multimedia provides high-quality education. It is a crucial visual aid for demonstrating the context to a large class. OHPs allow teachers to utilise visuals and diagrams, and reduce the time spent drawing on the blackboard. Complex sources may be brought into any classroom using OHPs, which are user-friendly, adaptable, and make it simple for students to take notes.

Web Based Learning

Web-based learning, also known as technology-based learning, distance education, online education, and e-learning, is one of the most rapidly growing fields. It allows for the creation of a well-designed, learner-centered, inexpensive, interactive, official, and adaptable e-learning environment (khan, 2005). There are thousands of English web-based classes that provide interactive training for a variety of basic language abilities, including Learning, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. The following are examples of common technology accessible for education promotion:

YouTube

YouTube is a platform for discovering and sharing authentic video content that may be used in the classroom. Wikipedia states, "YouTube is a video-sharing website where users can post, distribute, and view MPEG-4-formatted videos." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YouTube>.

E-mail

By registering a free personal email account (Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.), students can connect with native speakers of the target language through email. Students can mail their homework assignments to their respective teachers and receive corrections in return. The instructor can also make modifications, remarks, and suggestions for the improvement of each assignment and return them.

Blogs

A blog is a frequently updated personal or professional journal intended for public consumption. Blogs provide the uploading and linking of files, which makes them ideal for use as online personal journals for students. Pinkman (2005) suggests that blogging becomes communicative and interactive when participants assume several roles in the writing process, as readers/reviewers who comment to other authors' posts and as writers-readers who, upon returning to their own postings, respond to criticism of their own posts. In turn, readers can comment on what they read, however blogs can also be hosted in protected locations.

Skype

Every Internet service has audio capabilities and technological devices such as laptops with cameras. The pupils may communicate with their distant professors and pals. Similarly, individuals might converse with native speakers and have their pronunciation evaluated in order to enhance their speaking.

Mobile Phone

Using the mobile phone's dictionary function, students can search for new terms and expand their vocabulary. They can validate the correct spelling, pronunciation, and usage of the searched-for word. In addition, they can use the Short Message Service (SMS) to send questions to their professors and receive clarifications.

Ipods

Ipods, being one of the multimedia gadgets, allow users to develop, deliver, and exchange text, image, voice, and video scripts as needed. The teachers send and receive text messages

Students can read and respond to the questions. In addition, students can record and listen to their own speeches, poems, news reports, etc. Thus, iPods provide an opportunity for English language learners to improve their hearing, pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and writing.

ICT Scope in The English Language Teaching and Learning

ICT in English language teaching can encompass all four language skills (Grammar – Writing – Reading –speaking). ICT plays a crucial role in English teaching and learning. The modern method of teaching and learning relies on information and communication technologies (ICT). Therefore, it has become urgent to increase the quality of education.

Benefits of Using ICT Tools In ELT

ICT has a positive effect on students' attitudes toward language acquisition. Students have a fantastic opportunity to select the aspects that will allow them to meet their learning strategies, which conventional techniques have failed to do. The availability of sources like as graphics, animations, audio and video clips is highly stimulating since they enable students to express and practise a language in a variety of ways. Not just students, but also teachers increasingly rely on these tools to develop, compile, save, and retrieve instructional materials with ease. ICT gives authenticity, enabling the learner to interact with individuals from around the globe.

Conclusion

This literature study investigated the use of ICT tools in English teaching and learning. Since conventional approaches and methodologies are intertwined with innovative English language teaching tools, it seems impracticable to separate them. The teaching of a second language can be made fruitful with the aid of these publicly accessible ICT tools on the internet. In the hands of imaginative and knowledgeable language teachers, it becomes advantageous to instruct a foreign language. Now that ELT has entered the assessment phase, new inventions are becoming a part of our daily lives. The aforementioned factors have an effect on the learning process, notably in the English language teaching. Thus, it is seen that ELT has evolved significantly due to the proliferation of technologies.

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