

Use of E-Learning Tools in Teaching and Learning English

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Abstract - Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a pivotal role in every walk of life in the present world. The teaching methodology has undergone a profound transformation due to very prevalent of technology and its tools. Technology and e-learning has become a buzz word during the Covid-19 pandemic time. The world has shut down for the first time and all the educational institutions are closed with uncertainty of its reopen. There is no chance of conducting classroom-based teaching and learning. At this juncture, the compelled option is online teaching and learning. This paper introduces some of the useful tools and technics to overcome the problem classroom teaching learning English language. It also helps to learn language skills independently. These tools provide opportunities for motivating students learning and collaborative nuance. Majority of the tools which are discussed in the paper can be used for the enhancement of four skills (LSRW) of language.

Keywords: ICT, Pedagogy, Teaching and Learning, Covid19

I INTRODUCTION

Technology has changed the way of humans' communication and all aspects of their life. Now a days, technology is prevailing in the process of teaching and learning. Certain tools are facilitating the English Language Teaching and learning, and they have modified the methods and classroom instructions. In one-way technology has changed the whole process of teaching and learning, irrespective of their class size and ambiance. The traditional teaching methodology like talk and chalk is replaced with blended teaching methodology using technological tools. Teaching and learning practice is seen a necessity facing the adaptation of new techniques and tools to run through. New technological tools like YouTube, Skype, Blog, Vocaro, Zoom, etc., are not only stimulus but also learners' engagement. "ICTs such as, television, Radio, video and multimedia computer software are indispensable tools that teachers of English Language can use to teach language skills and other aspects of English Language. Multimedia computer software for instance provides real life situations in learning and teaching of English Language". (Sharndama, 2013).

II ICT AND LANGUAGE LEARNING/TEACHING

Use of ICT tools give students genuine contact with, and presentation to, the way of life of the people groups and nations where the new language is spoken and empowers learners to access and explore data around the world. The opportunity to build up an enthusiasm for the way of life of different countries through comparison with their own is an indispensable piece of essential language qualification. Using ICT tools facilitates learner's interaction and communication with native speakers and other communities by enabling them to use language for real purpose and in rear contexts. ICT provides a potential way of enabling learner to be fully engaged in their language learning process. Tasks done at home, at school or a trip a new place can be uploaded to a learning platform, enabling teachers, parents and children to make comments. The National Centre for Education Statistics states that "more than 70% of American educational establishments use distance-learning technologies" (Hernandez 2017).

III ICT AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

ICT tools help English language learners by enabling them to communicate, edit, annotate and arrange text quickly and Flexibly. Tools help to integrate speaking, listening, reading and writing. It also enhances interactive teaching. The technology does not involve an adaption of the tools but as a paradigm shift of learning. In this context all the educational institutes must move towards establishing digital platform for the teaching learning activities. Moreover, “the approach of E-learning has been changing up do proposal from learning really motivators and even thrilling” (Bach & Fores, 2007).

In fact, use of ICTs also have shortcomings. “Teachers play an important role in the introduction of ICT in the learning process, as they are responsible for its organisation and implementation.” (Alemu 2015). Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has a great impact in global world. It became indispensable to the teachers and students to master this in order to enhance the knowledge. Teachers should undergo proper training to master the technology and its usage so that they can use this source in proper way to engage the students. This paper tries to bring forth some of the useful tools for practical utilization.

IV COMPUTER ASSISTED LANGUAGE LEARNING

It enables the teachers to access to content related to curriculum with the help of computer. Teachers need to install related software or applications to use this feature in a broad way. Students can use this CALL by simply sitting in Computer lab and can access their related content by Reading Notes, Watching Videos or by taking assignments related to their desired content. As it has audio and video facility students can watch and listen to the lectures. While teaching phonetics this CALL lab will surely help the students for better understanding of sounds. “Call programmers were designed as an aid to classroom teaching and were substantiated by other means like textbooks, oral drills etc. However, the scope of these programmers was constrained because of the limited language” (Barr, 2004).

A. YouTube

It is very easily accessible tool for both teachers and students to enhance their skill by simply searching the desired content in search dialog box (www.youtube.com). It will display many videos related to the content. We can download the videos using you tube downloader for future use. Language Teachers should create their own you tube channel and can upload their own videos according to their curriculum and can share link with their students to watch. After watching the video teachers can have a discussion on it. It helps the students to enhance their knowledge a lot. Especially they can improve pronunciation and listening skills. Faculty can earn money from you tube if they get more subscribers. This will become one of the incomes generating sources for everyone who has sound knowledge.

B. Blog

According to Hsu (2007), the common advantages of the use of blogs are “reflection and critical thinking are encouraged, authenticity through publication, social presence, development of a learning community, active learning encouraged and ability to receive and respond to feedback” (p. 78). Moreover, the researcher offered that blogs can be used as online learning journal, problem solving/manipulation space, online gallery space (writings, portfolio, other work), peer review exercises in writing, foreign language courses and research seminars. (www.blogger.com)

C. Smart Phone

It enables the students to enhance their knowledge in target subject by downloading the apps or by browsing the internet. They can improve communication skills by participating in social media sites. They can improve vocabulary by downloading online dictionary. They can take online quiz, attend webinars or online classes, watch you tube videos, etc.

D. Phonto

This app enables the users to write text on Image. English Teacher can use this app by showing the image and ask them to write something related to the picture. It helps the students to think innovatively and develops writing skill. It can be downloaded from google play store.

E. Quizlet This application has become one of the best teaching tools for the teachers to empower student’s learning. Teachers can easily generate a quiz, flashcards and can conduct quiz to check the proficiency of their students. We can generate curiosity in the students to take active part in the activities available in quizlet. It can be downloaded from google play store.

F. Kahoot

This app is used to engage the students in classroom through game learning mode. Here teachers can conduct quiz from video or picture. Based on their requirements, they can add questions in quiz. In order to play this game players, need one unique PIN. Game host will generate one pin and share with the players to answer the questions later players can view their result.

G. Google Forms

We can access the students learning level with the help of Google forms by simply creating a quiz on our curriculum topics. We can give multiple choice questions or short answer questions by allotting some marks for each question thereafter we need to send the link to the students then they can answer the questions using Computer or Mobile Phone. If we add E- Certificate by fixing some percentage then students who secured that percentage would get E- Certificate to their registered mail automatically after completion of their exam. Teacher can see the performance of all the students in response sheet. This tool helps us to evaluate their standards of learning and creates a competitive spirit in the mindsets of students.

H. Zoom

This app enables the users to conduct meetings or can teach through online platform. We need good internet and one Zoom id to take sessions through this app. This app enables the users to speak and view others with audio and video options. We can schedule the meeting by sharing meeting id and password with the participants. They can join with that id and password for the session. It enables us to share PPT, Video, PDF or Word Documents with the help of Screen Sharing option. Teachers can directly interact with the students through this online platform. We can access to this app from anywhere. This enables the students to interact with faculty by simply raising the hand emoji or can ask question in chat box. This is alternate way of teaching tool where we do not require any room, board or chalk. Especially in pandemic situation this app helps a lot to the teachers to teach from home and helps the students to listen to their lectures from their home itself. We can conduct webinars also with this zoom app.

I. Facebook

It is one of the popular sites in Social Media. It can be used a teaching tool by simply creating a page related to your curriculum in Facebook and post the videos, text or photo related to the target content. Even Teachers and students can enhance their knowledge by simply liking the page related to their target content. Students can ask their queries. Teacher can deliver a lecture or can interact with students through Facebook live option. Students can ask their doubts in the form of comments so that teacher can see and gives answer to their doubts. Students can enhance their language by communicating with others in target language.

J. Lingro

This is an online dictionary with translation feature that combines dictionaries on the internet with contributions from user under a Creative Common License. We need to visit <https://lingro.com/dictionary/> to get access to the dictionary to enhance vocabulary. Lingro is a multilingual dictionary which helps the users to learn target language vocabulary in an easy manner. If we ask to assign a task to the students to learn at least one word per day from lingro means they will be able to get command on vocabulary which helps in communication and writing.

K. Loom

Loom.com helps us to record the screen using your own voice. We need to add extension file "launch Loom for Chrome Browser" to Google Chrome. Later it will ask you to record the screen. You can record your screen with camera option i.e. your image will be visible while recording or you can simply record the screen without your image. Loom creates the curiosity in student to listen to their own faculty's voice along with visual presentation. One can record PPT or Blog or any content through screen recorder option in addition to that one can give voice over to it. Learner can edit after completion of recording.

L. Vocaroo

It helps the teachers to pass the record their audio and can share in social media sites like Gmail, WhatsApp, etc. With this feature teachers can pass the instructions or circulars to the selected students orally. It helps the students to learn pronunciation and they can practice speaking skill also. Teachers need to visit Vocaroo official site (www.vocaroo.com) and needs to click on microphone to record their audio to share with students very quickly.

M. YouGlish

Teachers can use this tool to engage their students in learning pronunciation. Teacher must select particular word to pronounce in YouGlish, it will display number of YouTube videos related to that word usage by Native speakers. When students come to know how native speakers are pronouncing the words, Students will automatically try to pronounce like native speakers. It helps the students to enhance their pronunciation and listening ability.

N. FluentU

It is platform that uses real-world videos and Interactive subtitles which creates an immersive learning experience. It enables the users to enhance their skill with the help of videos take on a variety of forms, including interviews, commercials, and more. It also accompanies quizzes which creates the enthusiasm in the students to practice language used in videos. It provides videos in nine different languages.

O. Kindle E- reader

We can improve vocabulary using kindle vocabulary Builder. It can be used when we find difficult words while reading content in Kindle. We can look up those new words with the built-in dictionary. All the words that you check will go into the database of the Kindle's Vocabulary Builder. Word Wise is a feature on many popular Kindle devices. It will automatically give you a simple definition of any challenging words in a text.

P. Forvo

The sample pronunciations of a word come from **native speakers with different accents**. Both male and female voices are available as some learners might find it easier to imitate the sound of a person of the same sex. The app allows you to keep track of the pronunciations that you listened to recently. This feature is a great help for your review sessions. A bonus feature is the ability to message other Forvo users, creating a chance to socialize in English.

V CONCLUSION

Integration of Information and Communication Technology in English language teaching will surely create interest and curiosity in students. It can engage, motivate and stimulate language learning in our students. Technology influence is there on many fields. If we use this technology in right way means you can surely enhance language skills. However, Technology alone will not make the classes better unless it is used with best teaching practices. Students are fascinated to ICT based teaching rather than traditional way of teaching with talk and Chalk. Teachers should possess sound knowledge on technical skills and should update themselves basing on current trends. It required good, configured computer, Internet and good sound system to engage the class with the help of technology. But It is not at all a replacement to physical teacher. Some of the above-mentioned teaching and learning tools can enhance knowledge in language learning. Teacher with good technical skills can engage the students in good way. However, "a large number of teachers have little idea of how information and communication technology is applied in the learning process. Therefore, teacher training is one of those challenges associated with the innovative education" (Pelgrum and Law 2003; Nabokina et al. 2016).

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