

## INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES IN ENGLISH LEARNING AND TEACHING

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### ABSTRACT

*English is one of the most important languages which have played role in the process of globalization and knowledge explosion. It is the most common means of communication throughout the globe. ICTs in the language classroom has a lot to offer to both learners and teachers, with learners enhancing their vocabulary, improving their reading and speaking skills, and with teachers having to hold a double role; the role of the educator and that of the facilitator. Use of internet communication technology (ICT) in the English Language pedagogy is a novel tradition in India as a whole. The Computer Based Language Training (CBLT) can be employed in teaching a wide or vast range of subjects, including language based topics. CBLT is a software which was developed to train a wide range of students on the acquisition of skills in a target language without the tutor being present. We cannot think of better educational environment without a better teacher. In earlier times the teacher was the focal point of education, but now the role of teachers has changed a lot. He is considered as a guide and friend of students who helps in learning, does not provides knowledge. To teach better a teacher need to be update with the changes. For this ICT helps a lot*

**Keywords:** English Language pedagogy, ICT, Social media, Lingua Franca, MOOCs, ELT etc.

### Introduction

#### Introduction

Change is the law of nature. "There is nothing permanent except change" says Heraclites, the pre Aristotelian Greek philosopher. A trend is the general tendency or direction towards change. With a number of educational options available before the present generation learners, the newer trends seem to have emerged in the field of education that have entirely changed the facet of traditional system of education. Recent trends, methodologies and developments portray the vital role of education sector in general with its internalization of the education process, stress on quality above quantity, increase in the adoption of technologies, necessity for professional talent etc. The theories and methods are constantly evolving in the field of ELT also. The utilization of ICT in education has recently started to appeal the potential and significant progress in language learning. It has become a major issue in education world and has been used from preschool through to university that could facilitate students and teacher in teaching and learning process. ICT has been publicized as potentially powerful enabling tools for educational change and reform. The computers play significant role in the learning process especially in learning language.

Recent literature has shown that the use of ICTs in the language classroom has a lot to offer to both learners and teachers, with learners enhancing their vocabulary, improving their reading and speaking skills, and with teachers having to hold a double role; the role of the educator and that of the facilitator. English is one of the most important languages which have played role in the process of globalization and knowledge explosion. It is the most common means of communication throughout the globe. This is why it is termed as Link language, Global language as well as Lingua Franca. In Indian context it is treated as ESL (English as a Second Language). Use of English language has become vital for better learning and earning.

Therefore, it is necessary to teach English and develop English language skills among the students from school level. Some of the important ICT tools and applications used in the field of English Language Teaching are following:-

### **Computers**

This is the most important tool of information and communication technology and backbone of modern human life. All the modern communication process are impossible without the use of computers. It is helpful in storing, preparing, collecting and preparing of data for communication. It is helpful in the development of listening and speaking skills. It is helpful in English language speaking and listening skills.

### **Internet communication technology (ICT)**

In the English Language pedagogy is a novel tradition in India as a whole. In the view of Taiwo (2007), one of the most remarkable events in the last fifty years in Asian is the continent's connection to the global world through the internet and mobile telecommunications. The employment of computer mediated communication (CMC) in the teaching and learning of English as a second language has been introduced to India socio-cultural setting as a result of the global networking of the new culture called 'digital literacy'.

### **The Computer Based Language Training (CBLT)**

It can be employed in teaching a wide or vast range of subjects, including language based topics. CBLT is a software which was developed to train a wide range of students on the acquisition of skills in a target language without the tutor being present. CBLT is a digital package and an interactive multimedia which can combine text, audio, graphic video, and animation with having a meaningful interaction with students.

### **E-mail**

The students can correspond with native speakers of the target language using e mail by creating a personal email account (g-mail, yahoo, hotmail, etc) which is free. The students can mail their home work to the teachers concerned and get it corrected in turn. The teacher can also provide revisions, feedback, suggestions for the betterment of every work and send them back.

### **Blogs**

A blog is a personal or professional journal frequently updated for public consumption. The blogs enable uploading and linking the files which is very much suited to serve as on line personal journals for students. Pinkman (2005) indicates blogging becomes communicative and interactive when participants assume multiple roles in the writing process, as readers/reviewers who respond to other writers' posts, and as writers-readers who, returning to their own posts, react to criticism of their own posts. The readers in turn can comment on what they read, although blogs can be placed in secured environments as well.

### **Skype**

Every internet service has audio functions, and technological instruments like laptops with cameras. The students could communicate with their teachers and friends who are far away. Likewise, they could very

well communicate with the speakers of native language and get their pronunciation checked so as to improve their speaking.

### **Mobile Phone**

Learners can search for new words using dictionary option in the mobile phones and enrich their vocabulary. They may verify the spelling, pronunciation and usage of the specific word they searched for. Moreover, they can use Short Message Service (SMS) to send queries to their instructors and get their doubts cleared.

### **Ipods**

Ipods, one of the multimedia devices, enhance the users to generate, deliver, exchange texts, image, audio and video scripts as per the requirement. The teachers send text messages and the students can read and answer to them. In addition to this, the students can record and listen to their speeches, poems, news, short stories etc. Thus, ipods give a chance to the learners of English to improve their listening, pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and also writing.

### **Audio devices**

Audio devices can be used with other media to form an interactive multimedia. However, it can also be utilized separately as independent tool. Audio devices include speaker, earphone, CD, and etc.

### **Radio**

It is very useful in education and training of the students of rural areas. Many distance and open education programmes are being conducted with the help of radio. It is also useful in audio conferencing. Programmes relayed on radio are helpful in the development of language skills, especially dialogues and dramas.

### **Television**

It is useful in education as well as entertainment of the people. It is found that It is helpful in developing listening skills, useful in learning situational language as well as It is highly motivating also. It is very helpful in understanding the language of mass media. A large number of students may be benefitted with the programmes of television simultaneously. Many distance and open universities are running their educational programmes on television, such as Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University etc. It is an important tool of audio video conferencing. Live telecast of training and discussions are done through this.

### **Internet**

It is the most important facility of communication. All the modern communication takes place through this. It has made the communication facility very fast, convenient, economic, and attractive. There are lots of facilities available for communication on internet. Some of them are following:-

### **Social media**

Social media has become an important tool of communication. It provides a platform for sharing thoughts and ideas. Blogs are made on it. Students can add themselves with the English language learning groups and take advantage of sharing information. Lots of social sites are available on it like, Face book, Twitter, Instagram etc. It is very helpful in learning situational language.

### **Uses of ICT for an ELT teacher: .**

To teach better a teacher need to be update with the changes. For this ICT helps a lot. ICT can be useful for a teacher in the following ways.

- It is helpful in the professional development of the teachers. A teacher can learn various language skills with the help of information and communication technologies. He can do various certification programmes in English language teaching run by the famous educational institutions like Cambridge University, British Council etc. These programmes help in enhancing his capacity to teach English language and to make his subject content easy, economic and more understandable.
- A teacher can increase his domain of Knowledge English language with the help of e-journals, e-magazines and e-library that can be achieved only through the use of ICT. He can also participate in discussions and conferences with the experts of his English language teaching to improve his knowledge and skills ELT through audio and video conferencing.
- ICT helps a teacher to learn innovative methods of teaching. He can work with the students on various project and assignments. It also helps him in providing teaching contents, home works etc.
- He may participate in various in-service training programmes and workshops which are essential for his professional development with the help of information and communication technologies.
- ICT helps a teacher to guide his students about the English language learning materials available on internet, e-books, e-journals, e-magazines and social sites like linked-in which are helpful in better learning of English language skills.
- ICT also helps him framing curriculum of English language learning. He can study curriculums ELT of different countries to study their pros and cons, challenges as well as sociological and psychological issues related to English language learners. All these things helps him in framing a curriculum that leads to achieve the aims and objectives of English language teaching.
- The information required will be more quickly and easily accessible for educational purposes.
- Innovation in learning is growing in the presence of e-learning innovations that further facilitate the educational process.
- Progress of ICT will also allow the development of virtual classroom or classroom-based teleconference that does not require the educator and learners are in one room.
- System administration in an institution will be more easily and smoothly because of the application of ICT systems.

### **Limitations of ICT tools:**

Though ICT tools are very helpful in the teaching and learning of English language, still these tools have some limitations. Some of the limitations are discussed below:-

- Often student fail to learn the targeted objectives of the English language teaching.
- Due to freedom of time and space often students become careless about their targets and indulge themselves in meaningless works.
- Repeated use of recorded programmes creates boredom in the students that leads to the problem of indiscipline in the classroom.
- Most of the times students remain passive and inactive in the teaching learning process because they get less opportunities to participate actively in the teaching learning process.
- The use of ICT tools needs technically trained teachers that lacks and create problems in the TLP.
- Progress of ICT will also occur of violation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for the easy access to the data that is causing people plagiatis will commit fraud.
- Although the system of the administration of an educational institution like a system without a gap, but if there is a recklessness in running the system would be dangerous.
- One of the negative impact of television is to train children to think short and survive concentrated in a short time (short span of attention).

### **Conclusion**

Ultimately, it is incumbent upon the English Language teacher to integrate the Information Communication Technology (ICT) tools into the secondary schools curriculum in a pedagogically sound and meaningful way. Clearly, target language communication and cultures are easily accessible through current and emerging technologies and information about using these resources is readily available online. The trendy, intrepid and creative teacher would venture into this virtual realm, find authentic resources, and use them to make school language classroom a marvelous place to learn. From the above discussions it is clear that ICT tools have changed the paradigm of English language teaching learning process. So it is essential for a teacher to be familiar with modern ICT tools and use it properly to achieve the aims of English language teaching.

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