



ISSN 2278 – 0211 (Online)

Role of ICT in English Language Teaching

Saritha Samuel

Department of English, St. Ann's College for Women, Mehdiapatnam, Hyderabad, India

Rashmi Pulizala

Department of English, St. Ann's College for Women, Mehdiapatnam, Hyderabad, India

Abstract:

"What we learn with pleasure, we never forget" – Alfred Mercier.

In today's world of emerging trends in technology, everything is flexible, especially the teaching of English language. Methods of teaching English language have developed rapidly over the past forty years. So it is important that language learners as well as teachers adopt and understand the various techniques of language teaching and upgrade themselves of the same. Teachers teaching English at various grades must also be able to adapt themselves to the needs of the young minds and how in turn will help to bring about drastic changes in the society. According to academic research, linguists have demonstrated that there is not one single best method to teach English language and that no one teaching method is inherently superior to the others.

This paper outlines the main methodologies used in language teaching such as direct methods, the conventional chalk and talk method, audio-lingual method, grammar translation, communicative approach etc. to create a learner friendly environment. It also focuses on the incorporation of technology in teaching English. The four basic language skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. However, other socially based language skills have been identified more recently such as summarizing, describing, narrating, dramatizing etc., to be applied to language class rooms. The thrust areas of language teaching include grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, listening and speaking which helps learners acquire efficiency in the language.

1. Introduction

In this modern era of information and technology, due to rise in Globalization and Commercialization, English language teaching (ELT) has become an integral part of our educational scenario and occupies a pivotal position. ICT has become an essential part in our daily life because technology has brought in several changes. In the recent years English language teaching has undergone drastic changes with the advent of latest methodologies and techniques. As language teachers it is important to understand and adopt the various methods and techniques and also apply them in classrooms. Language teachers should keep themselves abreast of the current trends to create inquisitiveness among the student community and prepare them for the challenges of the future.

In this paper we focus on choosing the modern techniques and activities that are appropriate for each particular task, context and learner with a focus on motivation and helping learners become independent and inspired to learn more. It also throws light on how technology can be used in English classes to make learning more interesting and fun for students.

Use of technology in English language teaching

In this age of Information and Technology, the use of Internet has brought many changes in teaching English. It is a highly useful tool which benefits both the learner and the teacher using it for many activities related to teaching and learning. Modern technology is developing at a faster pace, the learners and teachers have to upgrade themselves from time to time of these latest developments.

ICT has the potential to cater to the needs of students by providing opportunities to learn creatively. Integration of Technology projects a paradigm shift in language teaching.

2. ICT as an Effective Tool in English Classroom

The Conventional classroom teaching can be replaced by various Electronic gadgets and technology. ICT is of immense use in teaching and learning of English language that caters to students of all walks of life. It provides teachers and students lots of creative and practical ideas to create a learner-friendly environment.

Use of ICT in a Class room

- Provides highly motivational activities for students
- Computer based activities can provide stimulus to creative learning
- More opportunities for student teacher interaction

- Provides an easy access to information

The Teacher as a Facilitator:

Modern Technology allows the teacher to don the role of a facilitator and a guide, while the students take responsibility of learning on their own. A teacher can use technological sources such as videos, PPT's and Interactive virtual Labs etc in a classroom. The teacher should also learn to make best use of the modern tools.

3. ICT and English Language Teaching

Power Point Presentation:

This is a useful and powerful tool that is now being used in English classrooms extensively and effectively. PPT can be used to teach new ideas and concepts to students. It also helps students in enhancing their speaking and listening skills. Assignments and projects can be given in the form of PPTs to stimulate the interest of the students.

4. LCD Projectors

Use of LCD Projector in a classroom is beneficial for both teachers and students. Chalk boards have become a thing of the past with the advent of Projectors in the classroom. It enables teachers to create bulleted PPT's notes for the class. It is also helpful in teaching language through images.

5. The World Wide Web

World Wide Web has become inevitable in the modern era of technology. There are a number of websites on English language teaching and learning which may be used in a class room. They help in improving one's speaking and listening skills at the click of a mouse. Articles, Journals and newsletters are available on these websites.

6. Reading skills:

A very conventional method but at the same time reading is the most important skill in English language. A good reading session should be very comprehensive, full of clarity, voice modulation, balanced tone, pausing at the appropriate punctuation etc. All these factors stimulate the student to think creatively. Technology can help students enhance their reading skills.

7. Listening Skills

Listening is the ability to accurately receive and interpret messages in the Communication process. It is a key to effective communication. Listening is a natural way to learn a language. With the advent of technology, it is necessary to use audio-visual resources to the maximum to acquire efficiency in English language.

8. Speaking Skills

Students should be encouraged to speak in the classroom. They can make use of the multimedia software which has dialogues, Role plays, Interview skills and group discussions, debates, etc, which enable students to participate actively. This helps students acquire confidence in speaking.

9. Language Lab and Its Role in Enhancing Communication Skills

The best way to learn English is through listening, though considered a conventional method. A language lab helps students develop proficiency in learning by using audio visual aids. They are also exposed to different accents of spoken language. They can also answer questions based on Grammar and Vocabulary. Language labs also help students worthy of employment.

Clarity English Language Lab is a network based teaching software designed to improve teaching environment in the computer labs. Clarity English Language Lab enables a teacher to remotely control, monitor, broadcast, and assist students in teacher PC directly. With powerful functions and friendly user interface, Clarity English Language Lab not only facilitates the teaching process but also brings fun and efficiency to learning. It has been greatly used in Schools, Colleges and Universities.

10. Conclusion

In today's highly informational and technological world, it is extremely important to have good communication skills or presentation skills which are the need of the hour and the basic requirement of any organization.

Communication may be defined as, 'The process by which we exchange information between individuals or groups of people'. Good language skills are key to success in life, work and relationships.

English language teaching has a very prominent role to play in the development and competency of a learner; it can broaden their horizons and make them familiar with the various aspects of learning language skills. A student, efficient and fluent in English can excel anywhere in this competitive world.

"What we learn with pleasure, we never forget" – Alfred Mercie

11. References

1. [www.iallt.org/iallt_journal/the changing role of the teacher](http://www.iallt.org/iallt_journal/the_changing_role_of_the_teacher)
2. www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/communicative_language_teaching.
3. English Teaching Professional, Macmillan Publishers.