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Technology in Teaching English

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Abstract

The two words such as “Teaching” and “Technology” are like two sides of a coin. Both of them are inevitable in contemporary scenario. We are in a world where we enjoy the benefits of technological advancements in all the spheres of life. The technology enables our lives to become much easier in the process of learning and teaching English. Teaching determines the future of the young minds. The teaching and learning experience have to be a pleasurable activity. Technology affects our life style in all dimensions. The sole objective of teaching is to take mankind intellectually to the finest level. The objective of this paper is the use of technology in teaching English. Several technological ways can be adopted for teaching the subjects in an interesting and effective way. In this paper, three major areas are focused upon in teaching the English Language.

Keywords: Teaching English, Technology and teaching

Introduction: Language Learning Process

Language is inborn. It is acquired by constant listening and speaking. The learning process starts right from childhood. In the process of learning, first, the child tries to imitate the heard words and the errors committed by the child are corrected by the parents. In the following years, it makes an effort to understand the meanings of the words. The child easily remembers it by associating with persons or objects. Thus, learning the first language is a natural process which is called “Language Acquisition”. Learning the second language is a deliberate process where the learner has to make deliberate efforts to learn the language. It is called “Language Learning”. To learn a language, it is suggested we follow the principle of “LSRW”. Listening

plays a vital role in learning the language. After passive listening, the listeners make active efforts in speaking. This order is the right way to learn the English language or any language.

Feature Films and Videos

Visual medium easily catches our attention rather than printed materials. We watch Television for two reasons such as to derive pleasure and to educate. Though the television has been much used for entertainment purposes, it can also be used to teach English in an effective way. If TV is widely used in the class room teaching, it will help learners enhance their English learning skill. A film is full of dialogues. If Indian learners get accustomed to listening to conversations in the English films, the teaching and learning undergo a revolution. Before screening the films, the teacher should identify the right kind of English films where the learner will get maximum scope to improve his/her English language. The dialogue oriented films have to be identified and such sorts of films are available in plenty. Learning new vocabularies, right articulation of words are taught to the learners using films. Thus, using short and feature-length videos is an important way to teach English as it engages the learners effectively to develop their cognitive skill and language learning skill. Videos and films help the learners to acquaint themselves to the use of natural English. The English Cartoons and animated films educate the young children and it even improves the level of English among grown-up. Several English novels are also made into films. Such films can be displayed in the class room with the sole objective to develop interest in learning the English language. The teacher may explain to the students when hard words or phrases are found in the conversations. It will be a highly interactive teaching and learning experience for the student community and also the teaching fraternity.

Plenty of videos can be downloaded from the following website “twominenglish”. It is completely free to download the files and it is all about developing the English language. The website contains more than two hundred two-minute video lessons on a variety of topics, for example, social English, business English, travel English, common mistakes in English, idioms and phrases, daily conversation usages, informal talk, grammatical areas and topics on important areas. They are in good English and those who want really to develop their English language should visit this website and download the files for the same. Though “Chalk and Duster” has its

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own advantages, due to rapid technological development, it is considered as an outmoded tool for teaching English. When a better tool is at the reachable distance, it has to be used to the fullest possible extent. The ultimate aim is to teach English effectively, so that the learners can show interest in learning and mastering the English language.

Mobile Applications

The use of mobile technology is increasing day by day. The teaching can be done through mobile applications which help the learners to study anytime, anywhere, at their own convenience through their mobile devices. Learning English can be very difficult and frustrating at times if we largely depend on printed materials. In such cases, to mitigate our burden, mobile applications can also be used for the enhancement of teaching-learning English. In the present world, it is rare to see persons without mobile phones. It occupies much of the space in our day to day life activities. We may feel insecure and lonely without them, as we are that much dependent on Mobile phones. This technology is in a way a boon to the modern man who finds no time to read books to equip his/her English language or to attend the meetings of great English speakers. The mobile applications can aid us greatly in our desire to teach and develop the English language.

The Applications on i-Pads and tablets are great ways for students to practice English. For practicing grammar rules, apps like Grammar UP allow students to test their knowledge on important grammatical areas like verbs, prepositions, tenses and so on. Likewise, another application “speakingpalenglish” is a very entertaining and highly interactive application. It features a series of mini-lessons of approximately 5 minutes. The time is very limited and so learners “attention will not be diverted”. Students can also interact with the app through speech recognition software. It is available for download on i-phone or Android for free. In this aspect, using mobile applications which are related to English learning are welcome one. It is the role of the teachers who have to create awareness to their students community and make them use such mobile applications for their language development.

Podcasts

The Merriam Webster Tenth International Collegiate defines “Podcasts as a program (as of music or talk) made available in digital format for automatic download over the Internet. In simple words, it is a digital audio file made available on the Internet for downloading to a computer or portable media player, typically available as a series, new installments of which can be received by subscribers automatically. Podcasts are yet another technological gift which enables the learners to learn English quickly. It offers certain advantages. For example, the learner can listen to the audio-video files at any time of his/her convenience. It is a highly effective tool to teach the learners of ESL as they can simultaneously listen to the audio and read the transcripts of the audio. For better understanding, they can go for listening as many times as they want. Hundreds of English teaching Podcasts are available on the internet. To mention a few, “fluentu.com” offers plenty of English related videos to enrich the English language. To create interest in teaching English, the teachers are recommended to download podcasts files from the following address www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/.../theenglishwespeak/ and the same can be utilized in class room teaching.

There is also another important webpage which provides plenty of podcasts to enrich our English language by visiting www.podcastsinenglish.com. This page offers audios which can be played for shorter durations and at the end, vocabulary exercises are also provided to test the understanding level of the learners. ELT podcast provides free listening material for the students to improve their English knowledge. In this page, there are several levels. For example, the first level is “ELT Podcast-Basic Conversations for EFL and ESL. It is full of theme-based dialogues and the language activities are also provided to test their level. The highly notable level is the third one which is “ELT Podcast-The Teachers” Lounge” where language teachers share their ideas about education and language teaching. The audio files will be useful for the teachers to widen their English knowledge.

Conclusion

To enhance the level of teaching, the teachers are bound to adopt innovative teaching methods. The success of teaching is to make the students to meet the technical challenges apart from the studied theoretical knowledge and also to make them comfortable in understanding the

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concepts. The time has come for the teachers to hold the hands of technology for their effective teaching.

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