Second National Conference on New Perspectives in ELT
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Multimedia, the Pioneer to Innovative Methods of Teaching

D. Persiyal
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Abstract

Education is a light that shows mankind the right direction to surge forward. The purpose of education is not just to make a student literate, but giving him/her rational thinking, knowledge and self-sufficiency. When there is a willingness to change there is a hope for progress in any field.

Creativity can be developed and innovation benefits both students and teachers. Education is an engine for the growth and progress of any society. It not only imparts Knowledge, skills and inculcates values but is also responsible for building human capital which breeds, drives, and sets technological innovation and economic growth. The purpose of this abstract is to evaluate traditional methods of teaching as well as multimedia teaching and to suggest other useful teaching methods that can be attempted in imparting knowledge to the students. The traditional and innovative methods of teaching are critically examined and evaluated while some modification in the delivery of knowledge is suggested. Introducing multimedia through problem-based learning enhances the creative, critical and analytical thinking of today's young generation. The main focus is on introducing such methodology which offers interesting ways of exhibiting one's teaching skills. The methodology should not disturb the main objective of the teaching process. This innovative method helps to strengthen and empower the institution adopting such methodology.

Keywords: Education, analytical thinking, rational thinking, Innovative methods of teaching, Multimedia in education

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Introduction

The four main contents of the 21st century's education brought forward by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) are: the new generation should learn how to know; learn how to do; learn how to live together; learn how to be.

According to the college English teaching requirement constituted by the Ministry of Education of India, the teaching target of college English is to cultivate the students' comprehensive capabilities to use English, especially the listening comprehension and oral expression ability. At the same time, we should enhance their self-study ability and comprehensive cultural qualities to meet the need of our country's economic development and international exchanges.

Multimedia - A Pioneer in Teaching English

Multimedia teaching method has been used in college English teaching has been growing more and more.

It has contributed a lot to higher teaching quality. Chalk and Talk teaching method is not enough to teach English effectively. We should change our teaching ideas and recognize its impersonal attribute as one kind of teaching method. Thus we can utilize modern education technology reasonably to fulfill the targets of college English teaching.

Definition

Multimedia is the exciting combination of computer hardware and software that allows one to integrate video, animation, audio, graphics, and test resources to develop effective presentations on an affordable desktop computer.

Present Status of Multimedia Teaching Method in College Level English Teaching:

The use of multimedia in the classroom cannot be denied in the present day education scenario. In the usual traditional teaching method the teacher uses the chalk and talk method, gives instruction, dictation, explanation and information by standing in front of the classroom. In this present scenario, technology plays an important role in the life of many youngsters, so it is

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hard to deny the use of multimedia inside and outside the classroom. The development of technology is helpful in all possible ways. So by bringing new technologies inside the classroom, the teaching and learning can be fun, interesting and happier. Unlike the traditional classroom setting, the multimedia classroom setting has more space and plenty of room to spread work. All the equipment needed for teaching will be placed inside the classroom. The use of multimedia described here makes use of print texts, film and Internet to develop and enhance linguistics and knowledge. Through their interactions with multimedia texts on topics of interest, students become increasingly familiar with academic vocabulary and language structures. Using print, film and Internet as resources for studying provides students with opportunities to gather information through stimuli that will stimulate their imagination, engage their interest and introduce them to the raw materials for analysis and interpretation of both language and context. Thus they greatly increase their overall knowledge base, as well as their English language and critical literacy skills, facilitating their performance in future college courses. Although various studies support the application of multimedia in the classroom, Liu, Jones and Hem Street (1998) point out that the design of multimedia is useful when technology is to have any effect on learning. One of the main purposes of software in writing is to facilitate the development of academic writing skills for students through the use of objects which matter for the writing of assignments. The program is presented as a simulation game to increase interest and motivation.

Students using the program found themselves in the virtual world of education.

Innovative Tools That Help Learning

A.   Multimedia Learning Process

The teacher uses multimedia to modify the contents of the material. It will help the teacher represent things in a more meaningful way, using different media elements. These media elements can be converted into digital form, modified and customized for the final presentation.

By incorporating digital media elements into the project, the students are able to learn better since they use multiple sensory modalities, which would make them greatly motivated to pay more attention to the information presented and retain the information better.

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B. Various Multimedia Tools

The following are the various tools that aid language teachers to make the class lively and enjoyable. They help us to create a huge variety of items in a very easy and subtle way. Each tool helps to bring in the concepts in a lively way. Some of them are listed below with the usage:

1. Popular multimedia elements like graphs, sound and video are prepared using multimedia tools like Ms PowerPoint, Astound graphics and Flash Slide show software.

2. Macromedia, Flash Author ware, BPP I Learn and I pass is the tools which help in creating presentation using icons to represent different media elements and placed in a flow line.

3. Presentations with moviemaking concepts of casts, sounds, pictures and scores are created with the help of tools like Windows Movie Maker, Winampp, and Macromedia Director.

4. Adobe Acrobat Reader is yet another tools which helps in creating graphs, sounds and charts.

C. Other Innovative Tools Suggested

(i) Mind Map

Mind Maps are also very quick to review, as it is easy to refresh information in your mind just by glancing once. Mind Maps can also be effective mnemonics and remembering their shape and structure can provide the cues necessary to remember the information within it. The key notion behind mind mapping is that we learn and remember more effectively, by using the full range of visual and sensory tools at our disposal.

(ii) Humour as Effective Medium of Teaching

Humor strengthens the relationship between student and teacher, reduces stress, makes a course more interesting and if relevant to the subject, may even enhance recall of the material.

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(iii) *Z TO A* Approach

      This concept helps in strengthening the interest of students towards the concept. It also creates a lasting memory in the minds of the students by correlating the events of the concept. Though the concept takes a longer time to explain and the initial level of difficulty is very high, the concept is reached at its best for the students.

The Advantages of Using Multimedia in ELT

☐ The audio and visual animation effects in teaching English language classroom help to bring in highly spirited and motivated students.

☐ It helps to gain knowledge by offering them abundant information more than what can be found in a text-book.

☐ It stresses the role of the students and enhances the importance of interaction between students and teachers.

☐ Since it is a student centered process, it is more flexible and helps to solve the problems they face then and there while learning.

Conclusion

      Through the interaction with multimedia, the students become increasingly familiar with academic vocabulary and language structure. Connecting with the Internet will add the benefit of increased student motivation.

      Learning process is the only life long process in one's life. But the only problem is that everyone desires the learning to be an easy one. The teachers should make the students adapt to changes. Multimedia has become an indispensable tool in English teaching classrooms.

      The new technology paves the way for more innovative methods in teaching English.

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