ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Integration of Technology in ELT: Superhighway for Learning

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Abstract

New generation is tech-savvy, sophisticated and quick to move on. Meanwhile advancement in technologies is also supplement in teaching-learning process of English language to acquire proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing (LSRW). Accordingly contemporary teachers integrate technology into their classroom to create the energetic, dynamic and vibrant environment for motivating the learners to learn in more conducive way. This pedagogical integration of technology focuses on developing learners' communicative competency. Learning English through the web and technology makes the learners willing to learn the language. Methods with integration of technology insist on the learner-centered education while the teacher's role is that of a facilitator rather than being the source of knowledge. Web based technologies and powerful internet connections endow with a variety of new possibilities and most up-to-date trends for teachers and learners. Conventional notions in ELT are giving way to newer, more ground-breaking ways of opinion about how to learn, teach and acquire knowledge in more conducive environment.

Key words: Facilitator, Pedagogical integration, Web based technologies etc.

INTRODUCTION

Our embryonic online world is on the rise in each sphere of life. At the same time undoubtedly English has become an essential part of this current era. English with the reputation of an International language is a common language understood by everyone all around the world. The scope of language education is changing rapidly. New generation is tech-savvy, sophisticated and quick to move on.

Language teaching in the twentieth century underwent various changes and advancement. Numerous important factors have affected current point of view on the teaching of English since last years. New trends in English Language Teaching (ELT) have recently been gaining importance in education systems all over the world. ELT has extremely changed over the last one decade of 21st century. The ELT trends that were very well-accepted in the past are struggling today or have been replaced with by others. A number of aspects have contributed to support new technological trends in ELT.

DISCUSSION

Firstly, as we perceive computers every nook and corner of the world in each sphere of work, Teaching is also not untouched with it. Computers and language teaching have been walking hand to hand for a long time and working as teaching tools in the classroom (Madhavaiah G. et al., 2013.). Computers and technology are medium to bring variety in teaching methodology used by teachers everywhere in the world along with the latest advancement such as websites, blogs, wikis, language teaching methodology, journals, and so. Computer and communication technology have extended the scope and variety of knowledge in sharing mode.

In the meantime laptops, computers, interactive whiteboards and broadband internet have become cheaper and more accessible around the world and have been started to use them into classrooms, often without appropriate training. Many years ago we learned about digital immigrants and digital natives, which created an extra gap between teachers and students who were often well-considered in separate groups.

English is continuously developing, changing persistently, sometimes even more rapidly than lexicographers can keep pace with its advancement. English grows through the acquisition of new words due to advancement in using technologies (words like nettizen, netiquettes etc). Often, this development of the English language is done when words that once were used in specific areas, for specific activities, now become part of daily life.

Meanwhile advancement in technologies is also supplement in teaching-learning process of English language to acquire proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing (LSRW). Technology is also going to modernize classrooms managements. Accordingly contemporary teachers integrate technology into their classroom to create the energetic, dynamic and vibrant environment for motivating the learners to learn in better and in more interesting manner. This

pedagogical integration of technology focuses on developing learners' communicative competency.

Learning English through the web and technology makes the learners willing to learn the language. Our modern education system also supports learner-centered teaching learning process in which more responsibility are placed in the hands of the students to manage their own learning, and teachers taking roles as facilitators of knowledge to guide learners make them learn how to learn rather than being the source of knowledge. The learner shows a high degree of motivation, feels self-confident, demonstrates an awareness of learning needs, remains strategic and enthusiastic in learning, shows curiosity and creativity in thinking, holds democratic, open-mindedness and critical attitudes as essential attributes. The modern teachers integrate technology into their classroom and build the confidence to learn how to use technology in meaningful ways for practicum experiences.

Web based technologies and powerful internet connections endow with a variety of new possibilities and most up-to-date trends for teachers and learners. Conventional notions in ELT are giving way to newer, more ground-breaking ways of opinion about how to learn, teach and acquire knowledge in more conducive environment. There are ways to make learning languages fun or more enjoyable, but that does not moderate the need for continuous and dedicated practice (Rossner, R. 2010.) Those who achieve true fluency do so because they put their dedication, consistent effort over a long period of time. Through Web-based English language learning tools the teachers or instructors are making educational environment more enjoyable and favorable.

In order to achieve this paradigm shift, teachers should also believe in reflective practice (Thosar, P. Ajit. 2016). Teachers should introspect and improve wherever necessary keeping in mind the limitations of the institution, students, society and other factors (Thosar, P. Ajit. 2016). If the teacher has the urge to improve, only then he can think of new methods, trends and applications to be implemented in the teaching and learning of English language.

Now the new methods focus on the learner at the centre while the teacher is in the role of a guide or a navigator or a facilitator behind the curtain. The teacher should show curiosity for creative thinking, he must also be self-confident and enthusiastic about going ahead of the conventional ways of learning (Thosar, P. Ajit. 2016.).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it seems that integration of technology in ELT has made a superhighway of learning where the learner learns with interest, gets motivation, feels confident, remains aware of updated knowledge and side by side he implements it to bring into practice. It occurs in so obvious way that it makes the learning enjoyable. Hence in the world of digitalization English language teaching needs to be updated time to time by integrating the technology as much as possible.

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