Usage of Technology in English Language Teaching

Mr.M.S.Anand, M. Subramaniam, K. Rajkumar, V. Shanti
Department of English
Nehru Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
nitmanimehala@nehrucolleges.com

Abstract
Technology has always been a big game-changer in all areas of human endeavor including education and knowledge. The new generation of ICT which leverages the usage of computers and relative tech, each discovery has brought about a revolution in the dissemination of ideas, knowledge, and language including English. ICT aided methods of teaching have developed and have improved the standards of English training. ICT has made learning interesting, motivating, and more interactive to the students and it expands the knowledge available to them. It has "democratized" the English language by providing the latest techniques to teachers and students across all institutions. It has also provided a flexible way of learning to persons who are unable to have a regular education. ICT has brought in online courses under new concepts such as self-paced learning, virtual lectures, blogs, etc. Each of these concepts provides a unique way of teaching students and has a role to play in the improvement of teachingmethods.

Keywords: Technology, ICT, Online learning, Webinars, Seminars

Introduction

Many of the technologies that have influenced their training ways are based on the internet. TheWorld Wide Web provides knowledge from across the world. This helps learners gain knowledge from a huge source of the material. It also helps gain access to the guidance of native English speakers and helps to develop proper pronunciation and accent. Also, globally benchmarked courses developed to cater to the needs of the students improve the standard of communication and written skills to match the different and specialized requirements of the employment market across the globe.

Timings

Another huge advantage provided by online technologies is the "*timings*" concept in education. Online tools enable the learners to study at their own pace and timings. The learner is not locked into the schedulesand alsohas the flexibility to pace the rate of learning to suit their abilities and needs. On the other hand, fast learners and people with special requirements have even the option of utilizing the skills of professional trainers online for a customized one-on-one training schedule. Depending on one's requirement the student/trainer can choose his own path for learning/teaching. Technology Aided Teaching Tools are listed here,
Wiki, blog, vlogs,and any published materials like any reading material like ppt, pdf files,etc.
Webinars and onlineworkshops, Customizedlessons, Complete online courses and trainingpackages.

Published Materials

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All the content which was published online provides a vast source for those who have the commitment to learn English. Wikis and blogs are sources of free training courses which help improve one's vocabulary and reading skills. Vlogs provide the learner with audio-visual recordings and are highly useful in improving listening and speaking skills. The student listener is trained in proper pronunciations and in getting the rightaccents.

Training in Technology

Electronic courses (E-Courses) made available to the learners in the form of a CD are called computer-based training (CBT), which can be run on the learner's system. E-courses can also be made available through Web-based training (WBT), which utilizes the internet as a platform like a Learning Management System. The courses are self-paced, so there is no interaction with an instructor or learners. These works are good for those adult learners who are motivated to learn, to learn new skills, update their resumes and attain professional excellence.

Online Broadcasts

These are online courses delivered by a live instructor. They have interactive sessions at the end of the training broadcasts. They also provide support for the participants to interact with each other in real-time. Each Webinar session usually lasts for 2-3 hours and is meant to be a fast-track update or a discussion on a specific topic, while Workshops and Seminars are far more extended periods. They usually comprise multiple sessions held over a few days and focus on skills development with emphasis on relevant examples.

Customized One on One Lessons

The student gets more individual time with the trainer and can even customize their learning by focusing on areas he really needs to improve upon. The conversation is the key to effective learning of languages and the one-on-one lesson with a personal trainer helps achieve goals faster. The learners also can schedule their own learning at flexible times. These lessons really work well for people who need to learn specific aspects of the English language like pronunciation and accents.

Online Courses and Training

Online courses provide the power of the classroom with the convenience of online and the flexibility in study timings of a CBT or a blog. Online courses provide a well-rounded development to the learners as they get the chance to interact with fellow learners from around the world. The number of courses available is also huge and the student is not restricted by geographic location in choosing their course of choice. They are also highly useful for working professionals who want to upgrade their profile and cannot afford to quit their jobs to obtain an extra qualification. The learner also has access to cheaper online resources and study materials prescribed in the course.

Conclusion

The tools and technologies discussed above provide new and exciting methodologies to both the trainer and the learner in the dissemination and acquiring of knowledge. Even though highly effective, these technologies are still tools and depend upon the trainer the student may excel. It's the trainer who must provide guidance in most of the cases, either directly in form of taking online classes or from the background in the form of preparing courseware and training

material in CBTs. Trainers can use digital resources in a variety of ways to support teaching and learning. Technology can also increase educational productivity by accelerating the rate of learning; reducing costs associated with instructional materials or program delivery, providing real-time feedback on student performance, and thereby better utilizing teaching time.

Technology has democratized the learning process for students by making the availability of knowledge-building global resources cheap and, in many cases, even free. One of the big changes caused by technology for language learners. In India learning English has long been associated with the elite, but now people from less privileged backgrounds are finding affordable ways to learn. Also, technology has removed the barriers in learning English to many who are restricted by time or location. The widespread growth in the usage of smartphones has made net accessibility easier and cheaper to even students residing in far-flung villages. This has led to decreasing access costs and increased access to the latest training videos and online courses. Overall technology has revolutionized English teaching and provides excellent tools for imparting knowledge to trainers. In today's competitive world, taking online courses and online materials help the students to cope with their work environment as well as the needs of society.

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