ICT AND MULTIMEDIA: ADVANCED USE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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ABSTRACT

In this era, technology is not only defined by quality, but also by efficiency. The need for technological innovations has brought about a revolution in communication and rapid growth in the application of technology in teaching and learning. The uses of Multimedia and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in education have recently begun to draw attention to the potential and considerable progress in English Language Teaching. It has become a major trend in the educational world and has been used from nursery school to universities to facilitate the teaching process for teachers. This unique multimedia approach makes language teaching more efficient and the use of Multimedia and ICT improves the efficiency and effectiveness of teaching, which can improve the understanding and mastery level of the language. This paper focuses on how the term Multimedia and ICT approach are used in English language teaching and also, the researcher will explain the merits and demerits of using ICT and Multimedia application tools in Teaching English Language.

***Keywords:** Technology, Multimedia, Information and Communication, Effectiveness.*

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Introduction

English has become the world's most important language. Many languages are spoken in different countries of the world, but English has taken a prominent place in people's communication needs. F.G. French states that "No languages ancient or modern can be compared with English in the number of geographical distributions of the homes, factories, and offices in which the language is spoken, written or read". Simultaneously English has become the standard medium of instruction in Education. Soon after English has been introduced as a mandatory subject and thus holds an important role in the curriculum as all other subjects. English language teaching is spread far and the satisfactory level of English competency becomes more challenging. This requires proper planning, adequate teaching material, the right methodology and trained teachers in English.

Education technology is the field that provides a framework for preparing and organizing the resources and also it helps to achieve the goals of teaching and learning. Information communication technology supports high quality of education. Teachers can take students beyond traditional classrooms by creating virtual environments with the help of technology. Technologies in teaching help teachers and learners to achieve higher order thinking and problem-solving tasks.

Methodology

This paper aims to focus on the utilizes of ICT and Multimedia as an approach to analyze the importance and use of mechanical aids in teaching language. Clark and Mayer defined that "The cognitive theory of multimedia learning presents principles to guide designers of multimedia and e-learning in the presentations of textual, graphical, video and audio information for optimal learning. Each principle is backed by research comparing different multimedia learning conditions to determine which results in better student learning". This approach uses a number of medias, devices and techniques in the teaching and learning process. It aims at providing meaningful learning experiences via a mix of media in order to achieve predetermined objectives of teaching English language.

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Research Questions

This is a study that examines how Multimedia and ICT approaches are used in

English language teaching. The challenge of computer- based multimedia instructional design is portrayed in this study in order to achieve active cognitive process in students. The outcomes are accessed into long- term memory whenever active learning actually occurs. The research question brings to understand the following:

- Why would a teacher in the classroom assist multimedia materials?
- Is the use of multimedia and ICT improving the students ' attention to language learning?

Findings and Results

In order of priority to be effective teachers, various educational technology tools must be integrated (Pullock). The development of computer- based multimedia for teaching offers various new ways in teaching methods in digital mode. The teacher could be cognizant of the different available media and their availability in order to express the teaching content to the learners. Also, the teacher should be physically capable of using and demonstrating multimedia in the context. The instructor should be able to mix Multimedia and ICT teaching aids sequentially and also in an orderly manner which provides learning experience such that the students can link practice and integrate them in their day today life. Agullo, Nikolor and Mihaljevic Djigunovic.j express that Motivation and language acquaintance would enable students to learn the language. Instructors should motivate and foster self- confidence among students. Teachers should use technological and computer-based teaching aids to develop motivation and positive attitudes for learners. One of the ultimate objectives of using ICT and Multimedia in language teaching is to support and promote the motivation and interest of students in language learning, which can be a practical way to involve students in learning.

Multimedia

The development of Multimedia technologies offers new ways in which teaching and learning takes place. It simply combines the elements into a powerful new tool. It is the combination of different forms of content. It combines songs, movies, Television series, magazines and newspaper that play a very important role in the language improvement of the learners.

Multimedia offers a multi-sensory experience in exploring the world through text, graphics, images, animation, audio and video presentation.

- **Text:** It has the most impact on the quality of the multimedia interaction which provides important information.
- **Sound:** Tape recorder is a very useful assist in teaching English. Correct pronunciation of new and difficult words with proper stress and intonation can be recorded and played to the learners.
- **Images and Audio:** Television is a very powerful audio-visual aid that offers programmes in different areas of English presented by various experts not only educate the learners but also teach speech patterns.
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- **Video:** videos help in placing a theoretical concept into context. The use of you tube video is appropriate to convey information about lessons, poems and grammar.
- **Animation and Graphics:** Animations are primarily used to demonstrate ideas and graphics provides photograph, drawings, graphs, and pictures from secondary resources.

Information and communications technology (ICT)

ICT has a central role in teaching in this modern era. The revolution begun as a computer-based technology with an interactive instructional approach provides a series of stimuli and feedback to the learners. Bryant states that in this technological era learners require good rapport with other learners through chatting, task performance, and virtual collaborative conversational interaction. With a computer in the classroom, teachers can demonstrate a new concept in English teaching with a wide range of materials and illustrations. Class website can help teachers to post assignments, students works and remarks, famous quotes etc. Class blogs enable students to maintain a running dialogue such as journals, thoughts, ideas and assignments that stimulate students writing and listening skills. Wireless microphones in the classroom help students to hear explanations and pronunciation from their teachers more clearly than conventional lessons.

Lingua phone is a very important tool for teachers and students. Many students can use the lingua phone to exercise speaking and hearing drills. It is often used for the betterment of learner's speaking and listening skills. Interactive white board helps students to draw, write and save the topics taught by the teacher for their further use. Computer-assisted Language learning (CALL) is an approach in teaching and learning English that uses computers and computer-based resources such as the Internet are used to teach language in a different, more interesting and attractive way and present language through online and offline games. Internet also offer many important websites providing resources for English teaching and learning. www.linguisticfunland.com provides games, quizzes, puzzles that makes language learning really fun. www.dictionary.com provides online spelling and grammar guide, www.askeric.com for improving language skills.

Limitations on ICT and Multimedia in Teaching

In addition to the positive aspects of ICT and Multimedia in teaching English, the study also focuses on the limitations that make it difficult for the teaching process by effectively integrating these tools into teaching. Students sometimes fail to learn the target objectives of the English language. Partially due to the freedom of time and space, they quite often irresponsible for their targeted goals and luxuriate in meaningless works. Repetitive use of recorded programs leads to lack of interest and creates problem of class indiscipline among students. The English language learning process is more student-centered but less time consuming. Hence it demands that the quality of the teaching will be improved and that the applied English skills of the students will be effectively cultivated, thus further developing the communication skills of the students. Students often remain passive and inactive in the learning process because they have fewer opportunities to actively participate in the learning process through computer-based multimedia.

The use of ICT and Multimedia tools requires professional teachers but the teacher cannot be a technology substitute and must therefore not compromise his significant role by using the technological aids in the classroom. Teacher's effort to plan and deliver the context can be more effective in the teaching learning process using these technologies. Provision of technological facilities can be improved and standardized to the institutions by the Government and management. In spite of this, practical complication such as power shutdown, operating faults of devices such as audio recorders, video recorders, speakers, microphones, etc. are frequent complications to the instructors while teaching which affect teaching as well as the learner's interest level and understanding level of the concept.

Conclusion

Computer- based multimedia helps teachers to learn innovative teaching methods. When traditional methods are adapted with some innovative ideas, the entire teaching and learning process is enriched and guarantees a successful learning process. Teachers can integrate computer- based multimedia teaching into their classrooms by recognizing the need of each students and their learning styles. Multimedia is effective in learning and teaching, not just by manipulating numerous medias together, but by merging media carefully in ways that lead each individual improvement in their learning. One of the ultimate objectives of computer-based multimedia in language teaching is to promote student's motivation and interest in learning, which can be a practical way to involve them in language learning.

Adaptation and innovation of teaching methods can be effective among the learners. Therefore, it needs to be encouraged in the educational system. Teaching is no longer "chalk and talk" rather than it is supported by various multimedia like audio -visual aids, e-journals, e-books and electronic media like radio, television, computer, camera, projector, smart boards etc. With the gradual advancement of science and technology, the emergence and development of Multimedia and ICT and its function in teaching with audio, visual and animation effects are fully implemented in language teaching. It provides a favourable platform for reforming and exploring the language teaching with the recent trends. Exposure to the latest technologies brings development in literary skills listening, speaking, reading and writing.

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