

LEARNING REALITY WITH THE INTERNET: STUDENT'S OPINION ON CHALLENGES IN USING THE INTERNET FOR LEARNING ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Online learning is becoming a necessary feature in all academic institutions, such as schools, colleges and universities around the world as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. Computer technology plays an important role in our day-to-day lives, especially in the education system. It has helped us to change the instructional process from conventional learning to electronic learning. Advancing the computer, the Internet creates a good platform for students to learn English as their second language. In the course of studying English as a second language, this paper aims to examine the existing use and challenges of computer and the Internet by B.A. students of English Literature. A quantitative analysis is used in study. A questionnaire was created and distributed to a sample of 75 undergraduate students of Dr. S.N.S. Rajalakshmi College of Arts and Science for this purpose. The findings of the questionnaire analysis indicated that the use of the internet and multimedia helps to create a dynamic learning environment for the students' however, second language learners promote innovative technology and learning approaches to improve their existing features for their additional learning outcomes.

Keywords: Computer, Technology, Internet, Language Learning, Undergraduate Students.

Introduction

In our age in which technology has been advancing, and information has been rapidly increasing and refreshing, the importance of the education has been growing accordingly. While the developments observed in science and technology in the 21st century has expanded the duties and responsibilities of the education system, they have also brought new opportunities. The fact that our world has been turning into an information-based world, the value of information increases; the acquisition of information in the right place and at the right time is of vital importance for individuals and society. Rapid and easy access to the wide dissemination of information has resulted in information access technology developments that will provide the circulation of this information. (Kartal, 2000; Sahan, 2005). Education technology holds a very important place for the implementation of the theories produced by educational sciences and the improvement of these implementation (Lim & Morris, 2009; Simsek & et al., 2009; Pesman & Ozdemir, 2012).

One of the innovations of technology is the Internet. The 'Internet' is formed by conjoining two words that imply an international network: Inter (**I**nternational) and Net (**N**etwork) (Isman, 2003). The educational system has also benefitted from the advantages brought by the Internet. The Internet, which offers learners access to the information and the opportunity of written, audio and video communication, has entered into a very rapid development process all over the world. This has caused Internet-based education to expand rapidly (Symonds, 2003; Odabasi & et al., 2005).

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Sahan (2005) states that Web-based education is a new education model which can be used to support the acquisition of new information skills and for the enrichment of students learning habits and experiences. Many education techniques such as presentations, discussions, demonstrations, question-answer, brainstorming, case studies, information hunt, cooperative learning, problem centred learning, can be conducted in a Web-based environment. This way, it is possible for the learners to gain experiences such as reading, writing, observing, listening, and performing tasks (Simsek, 2002). On the other hand, Laurillard (2002) has stated that technological tools should be used to a certain extent in order for learning and teaching to be more effective.

As we advance further into the 21st century, technology is becoming more and more integrated into our society. Smart phones are now commonplace, tablets are replacing or substituting for computers and laptops, and social media has become second nature. The rapid and widespread adoption of these technologies innovations has completely changed the way we conduct our daily lives, including how knowledge is digested and taught in the classroom.

The Status of English in India and the Rationale for Learning English

The purpose of education has always been the development of fully functioning individuals, which includes the development of linguistics abilities. The aspect that needs utmost attention is the English language, which has a global status.

The English language has acquired unprecedented sociological and ideological dimensions. There are many languages spoken in different countries of the world but English has acquired a prominent place in meeting the communicational needs of the people. It has been found that nearly a quarter of the world's population is already fluent and competent in English. F.G.French (1963) states, "No language 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". Since the 1960's English has become the normal medium of instruction in higher education in many countries. English is now considered to be the chief lingua franca of the Internet.

Online learning has become an important component in education, and it is believed to provide unique advantages in the learning process (Appana, 2008; Dolence & Norris, 1995; Katz, 1999; shopava,2014). Today the Internet offers a wide variety of resources related to various areas of education. Students use it accordingly to their needs and interest. Online learning can take place in or out of the classroom. It can be self-paced, with the assistance of an instructor, synchronous or asynchronous. Online learning is versatile in multiple learning conditions. The internet education is greatly expanding and is seeking to take the place of conventional ways of teaching and learning. Based on a research report launched in 2015 by the U.S. Department of Education, the use of online learning and it has grown to 66%. Online education provides excessive information, knowledge, wide range of educational resources and learning opportunities for learners in and outside the classroom. Educators use online materials to prepare their lessons that strengthen their teaching concepts. Learners were experienced the virtual learning through online. The students except that online learning environment can facilitate their success because they can use their study materials when they want and will feel more comfortable to ask teachers just for help.

Objectives of the Research

- To explore and understand the concept of learning English language through online in detail.
- To analyse the Internet browsing habits of college students.
- To examine the Internet browsing priority of college students.
- To evaluate the students' opinion on using the Internet for learning English as their second language.
- To evaluate the possibilities of promoting the personal and academic interests of the college students.

Statement of the Problem

The problem is entitled "Learning reality with Internet: Students opinion on Challenges in using the Internet for learning English as their Second Language" in order to explored the challenges in using Internet for their studies and to find the students interest to use Internet for their studies in their day today practical life.

Variables of the Study

The variables involved in the study are as follows:

Independent Variable

Internet usage and availability

Dependent Variable (Intervening Population Variables)

- Gender : Male/Female
- Locality : Rural/Urban
- Parental Education : School Education/Graduation
- Computer Literacy : Literate/Illiterate
- Internet Usage at home : Available/Not Available

Hypothesis of the Study

- There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Gender.
- There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Locality.
- There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Computer literacy.
- There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Parental Education.
- There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Internet Usage at Home.

Methodology

The target population of this study are a sample of 75 students of tertiary level. The investigator used purposive random sampling technique. A self-constructed validated tool namely Computer and the Internet prepared by the investigator. The tools used for this study is the questionnaire which was designed and distributed to the samples to collect the data. The tool consisted of 10 items in the form of 3 points scale from two to zero. The questionnaire consisted of two parts. The first part of the questionnaire was demographic information about the sample. The second part of the questionnaire was on two dimensions namely Internet and application. Most of the questionnaires were close-ended.

Statistical Treatment

The researcher used the following statistical techniques in interpreting the collected data such as:

- Percentage Analysis
- 't' test (test of significance difference)

Mean

Mean is the average of all values in a distribution mean was calculated by the formula:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$

Where \bar{X} = Mean, X = Score in a distribution, N = Total number of Score

Standard Deviation

The standard deviation is the square root of the variance is most frequently used as a measure of spread or dispersion of scores in a distribution. Standard deviation was calculated by the following formula:

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum |x - \bar{x}|^2}{n}}$$

Where \bar{X} = Mean, X = Individual Scores, N = Number of Score

Test of Significant Difference ('t' value)

't' test was applied through the statistical package by using the following formula:

$$t = \frac{M_1 - M_2}{\sqrt{\frac{SD_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{SD_2^2}{n_2}}}$$

Where M1	=	Mean of group 1
M2	=	Mean of group 2
1	=	Standard deviation of group 1
2	=	Standard deviation of group 2
N1	=	Total number of the frequency of group 1
N2	=	Total number of the frequency of group 2

Validity of the Tool

The difficulty index and the discriminatory index were calculated for each and every items (for all the 30 items). Those items which had a difficulty index of 0.5 and 0.6 and discriminative index of 0.2 and above were accepted. Out of the 30 items finally, 20 items were rejected and the final tool had 10 items on two dimension namely computer and the Internet.

Scoring Procedure

As the tool is a three-point scale with positive items, the scoring are as follows:

Agree	-	2
Undecided	-	1
Disagree	-	0

Analysis using the above mentioned techniques and the interpretation for the gathered data are discussed.

Analysis and Interpretation

Analysis of data means studying the tabulated material in order to determine the inherent factor and meanings. It involves breaking down existing complex factors into simpler parts and putting the parts together in new arrangement for the purpose of interpretations. The analysed data are given below in the table form and the interpretations follow.

Research Hypothesis-1

There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Gender

Table 1

Gender	N	Mean	SD	't' Value	Level of significance	Result
Boys	37	14.54	1.64	3.72	0.05	Significant
Girls	38	15.47	1.48			

The above table shows that the calculated 't' value 3.72 is higher than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance and hence the hypothesis "There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Gender" is accepted.

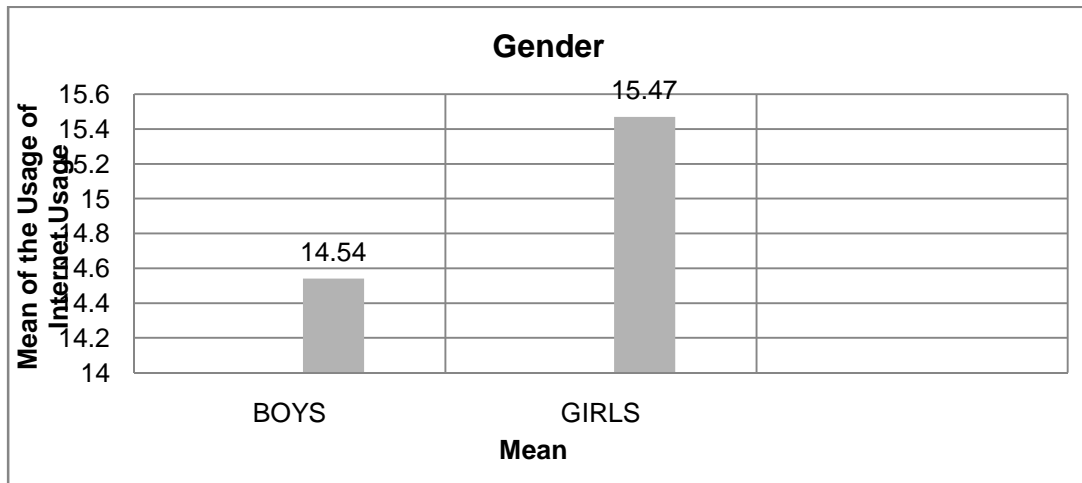
Interpretation

From the table it is inferred that there is difference in the usage of Internet of boys and girls. The mean value of the girls is 15.47 which is comparatively higher than the boys whose mean is 14.54.

The interest level and positive attitude of the girls towards learning English may be high when compared to boys. If motivation is high and the student has a positive attitude, it is more likely that a successful learning outcome will be achieved. The responsible nature in the girls might be the reason for their achievement.

But all the students have achieved more than 60% in Computer and the Internet tool. Hence it is proved that the usage of computer and the Internet for language learning is suitable for both boys and girls.

Graph 1



Research Hypothesis-2

There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for learning English as Second Language based on the Locality.

Table 2

Locality	N	Mean	SD	't' Value	Level of significance	Result
Rural	15	15.01	1.62	0.58	0.05	Not Significant
Urban	60	14.83	2.21			

The above table shows that the calculated 't' value 0.58 is lower than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance and hence the research hypothesis "There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for learning English as Second Language based on the Locality" is rejected.

Interpretation

The calculated 't' value as shown in table 2 reveals that there is no significant difference between the rural and the urban learners in their Internet usage. It could be because of the equal educational opportunities given to the students of both the rural and the urban areas in our state which enables the rural learners to competent with the urban learners and produce equal performance to that of urban learners.

Graph 2



Hypothesis-3

There is a significance difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Computer literacy.

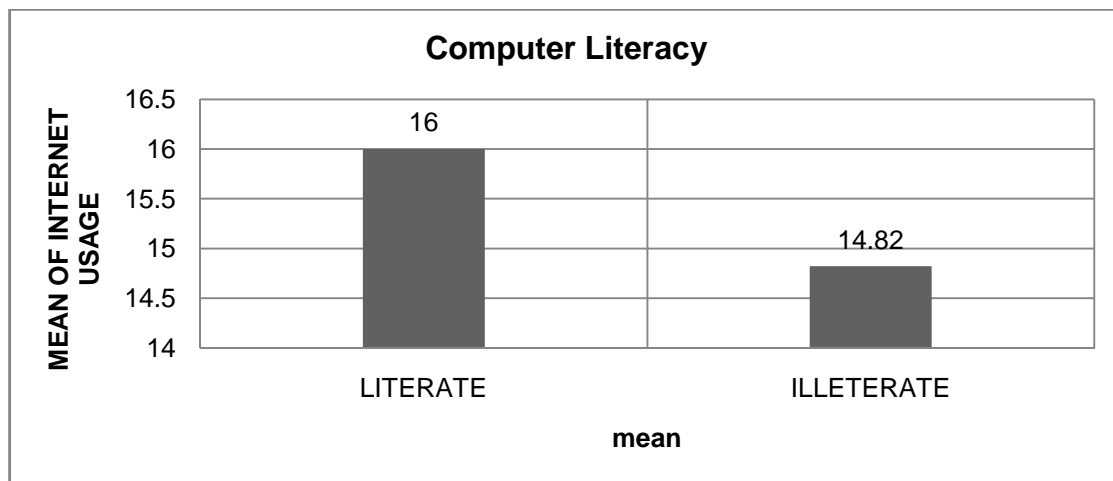
Table 3

Computer Literacy	N	Mean	SD	't' Value	Level of significance	Result
Literate	62	16.00	1.63	3.80	0.05	Significant
Illiterate	13	14.82	2.22			

The above table shows that the calculated 't' value 3.80 is higher than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance and hence the research hypothesis "There is a significance difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Computer literacy" is accepted.

Interpretation

The knowledge of the operations of the cursor movement keys on the keyboard or the mouse operation which could be learnt within a few minutes quite enough to work on the computer. Hence it is proved that it is suitable and beneficial for all kinds of learners.

Graph 3**Research Hypothesis-4**

There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Parental Education.

Table:4

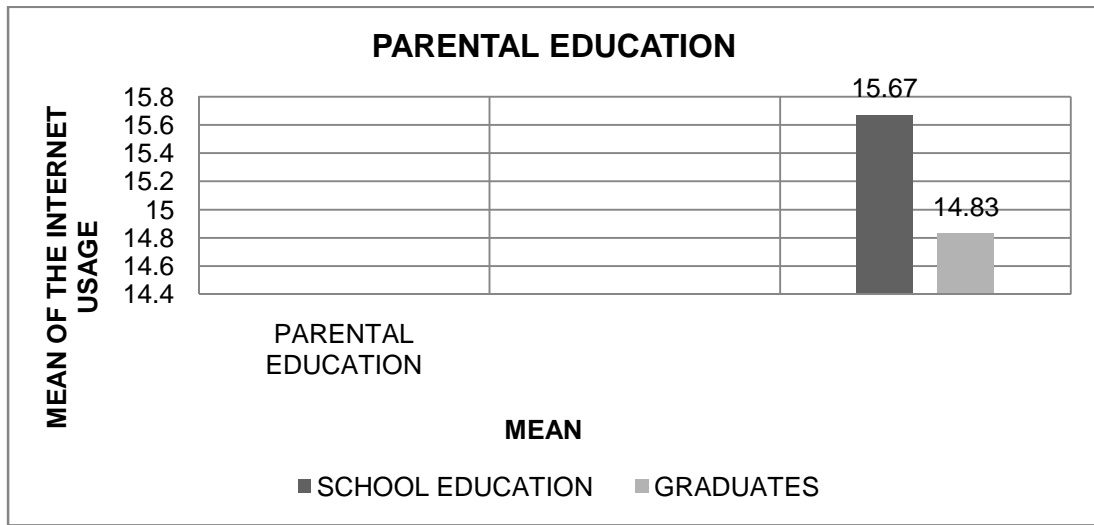
Parents' Education	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Level of Significance	Result
School education	34	15.67	1.52	2.80	0.05	Significant
Graduates	41	14.83	2.21			

The above table shows that the calculated 't' value 2.80 is higher than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance and hence the research hypothesis "There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on parental education" is accepted.

Interpretation

This could be because of the fact that all parents of the present age, whether graduated or not, give importance to their ward's education and they try to take all the measures to improve the standard of their child's education by providing them with all facilities including the technical equipment to equip their learning.

Graph:4



Research Hypothesis-5

There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Internet Usage at Home.

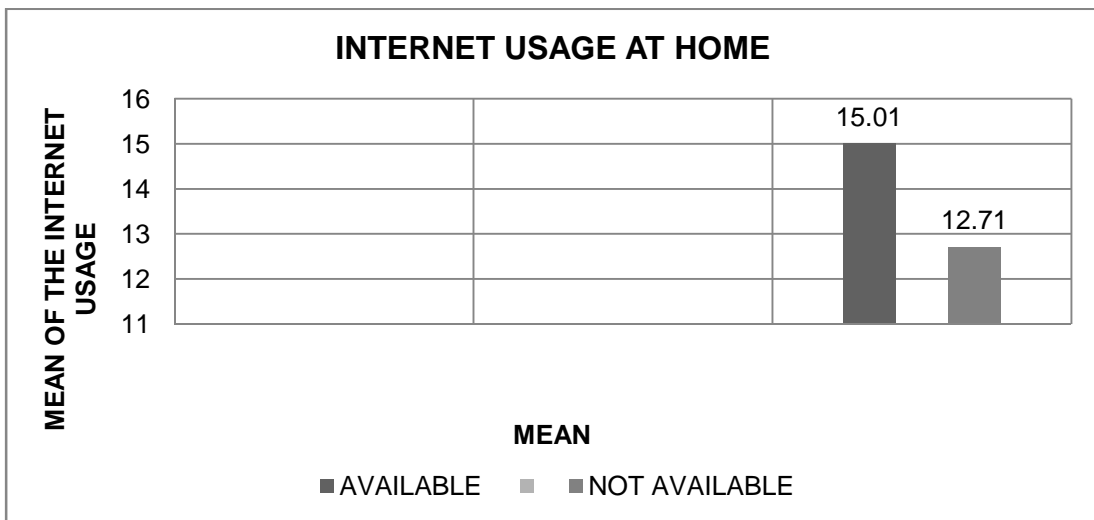
Table 5

Internet Usage at Home	N	Mean	SD	't'Value	Level of Significance	Result
Available	55	15.01	1.62	3.42	0.05	Significant
Not Available	20	12.71	2.96			

Interpretation

The above table shows that the calculated 't' value 3.42 is higher than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance and hence it is research hypothesis "There is a significant difference in the usage of the Internet for Learning English as Second Language based on Internet Usage at Home" is accepted. The simplification of concepts and the online activity could have contributed for the effectiveness. The online material could have encouraged them to learn with interest.

Graph 5



Conclusion

Adaptation and innovation of teaching methods can be effective among the learners. Teacher's effort to plan and deliver the lessons can be more effective in the teaching learning process. Exposure to the latest technologies brings development in literary skill like listening, speaking, reading and writing. English language which is a second and foreign language to the students can be made linked by them with the introduction of learning material with online and visual aids. The infusion of technological development such as the Internet, multimedia, voicing with the text is appealing to the senses of the students. Students on the other hand have multidimensional personalities having different styles. The common implication of both these facts in the teacher should use different strategies of teaching which would match the objectives of teaching on one hand and students learning styles and personality dimension on the other. Therefore this needs to be encouraged in the educational system.

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