Teaching English through Technology

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Abstract

English is the global lingua franca. Its importance has been increasing more and more with the seasoning of globalization process. Further the present age is of information and communication technology. Everyday new technologies are coming to fore. English Language teaching is not untouched from this.

As is obvious from the foregoing discussion, the problem of learning languages is very important today. Foreign languages are socially demanded, especially at the present time, when the progress in science and technology has led to an explosion of knowledge and has contributed to an overflow of information. Foreign languages are needed as the main and most efficient means of information exchange of the people of our planet. Georgia is integrating into the world community and the problem of learning English for the purpose of communication is especially urgent today.

Keywords: teaching, technology

Introduction

To know English is absolutely necessary for every educated person, for every good specialist. Learning an English language is not an easy thing. It is a long and slow process that takes a lot of time and patience. Reading books in the original, listening to the English channels, communicating with English speaking people will help a lot. When learning a foreign language you learn the culture and history of the native speakers. Towards the end of the late 1800s, a revolution in language teaching philosophy took place that is seen by many as the dawn of modern foreign language teaching.

Different methods appeared. E.g. Grammar Translation Method, The direct method, Audio-Lingual Method and others. Grammar Translation Method in terms of its inability to create communicative competence in students began to experiment with new ways of teaching language. Basically, teachers began attempting to teach foreign languages in a way that was more similar to first language acquisition. It incorporated techniques designed to address all the areas that the grammar Translation did not – namely oral communication, more spontaneous use of the language, and developing the ability to think in the target language.

According to Bell, this variety in use “offers a challenge for anyone wishing to enter into the analysis or deconstruction of methods”.

Further, in 1963., University of Michigan Linguistics Professor Edward Mason Anthony Jr. Formulated a framework to describe various language teaching methods, which consisted three levels: approach, method, and technique. According to Anthony. “The arrangement is hierarchical. The organizational key is that techniques carry out a method which is consistent with an approach.”

The direct method, sometimes also called natural methods, is a method that refrains from using the learner’s native language and just uses the target language. This method places great stress on correct pronunciation and the target language from outset. It advocates teaching of oral skills at the expense of every traditional aim of language teaching. Audio-Lingual Method is also very popular. With the advent and popularity of audio tapes, this approach ushered in the first recordings wherein the language learner could actually hear and mimic native speakers on reel-to-reel audio tapes, often used with earphones in a language lab setting.

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Lessons often began with a sample dialogue to be recited and memorized. Nowadays importance of information technology in educational sector is well known. Information technology helps the students as well as the teachers in studying the course material easily because of fast access. Studying the subjects with the help of online libraries and dictionaries has made grasping and increasing the knowledge easy for the students.

The inclusion of information technology in the syllabus in schools, colleges and universities has helped them in grasping the subject well and getting their basics cleared. Since, many educational centers have the online grading system; it has been a boot for the parents of the children to keep a tab on their performances. Parents can also get the details of the attendance record of their child.

Remarkably, with laptops tablet computers and other mobile device playing an increasingly important role in
education today, developing an understanding of information technology – both as its own topics and as a part of other subjects- is becoming more vital. The information society challenges the education system. In recent years, the speedy, effective and global communication of knowledge has created a new foundation and internationally.

The increasing role played by information technology in the envelopment calls of an active reaction to the challenges of the information society. Advancements in information and communication technology can play an important role in preparing students to apply what the learn in any subject to finding their place in a global workforce. Information technology may assist in the facilitation of learning or save as the actual educational structure allowing learning to occur.

Information technology benefits boot traditional education institutions and online educational models in fundamentals ways. For example, multimedia presentations, knowledge –management software, video conferencing, cloud computing and collaborative document editing are notable information technology services benefiting education.

It must be remembered that advancements in information and communication technology have not only benefited education, but also continue to shape the way the field itself develops. With more powerful software and applications, along with mobile devices such as tablet computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and laptops becoming more prevalent in the class room, information technology offers many benefits to all aspects of education. Nowadays using of information technology at the English lessons is also very important. Our article is about how English language can be learned at classrooms on the bases of information technologies.

Information technology provide teachers an endless choice of multimedia, software, applications and devices with which to create more exciting, interactive lessons. The traditional English lecture-based lesson, while effective to point, does not stimulate every type of learner. By adding a dimension to their lessons, English teachers have the opportunity to engage more students and lead a more involved, energetic class.

Remarkably, digital ink is a major advance in information technology making it easier for faculty and students to complete tasks. Teachers can enter grades and assignment updates on-line, racher than in a paper grade-book. Libraries with a digital database in place of a traditional card catalog make their resources available for students to search any where wit an Internet connection. Staff members can find and send transcript information and other records quickly by accessing a digital filing system, saving time and paper. As modern devices like tablet computers, laptops and projectors develop more of a presence at the English lessons. It becomes more important for educators, students and parents to understand the role of information technology in studying English today.

New technology is not only subject in and of itself, but can also be applied to any subject, enhancing the learning experience and equipping students to join an increasingly global workforce. Information and communication technology opens the doors for better distance learning programs, allowing those in disadvantaged areas to have access to the same education as the privilege. Because this technology makes information accessibly from near any location with a mobile device or laptop, courses can be more flexible, meaning those with full schedules who may not have the time or opportunity to further their education can choose to enroll in courses on-line and complete assignments on their own time.

Interactive audio and video allow real time communication using phones and computer at the English lessons. Voice over Internet Protocol enables a person’s voice to be transmitted through an Internet connection. Voice and multimedia presentations can also be delivered to a dispersed class with questions and answers taking place in real-time. Information technology has widened access to education. By the mid-1990s, many universities had begun using computers to provide classes remotely. Since then, rising numbers of adults have used online education to earn college credits. Information technology make education available to wider range of learners. Teachers who use classroom computers for project-based or differentiated instruction reach students with different learning styles. Teachers also use computers to provide adapted lessons for students with disabilities.

It is apt to mention that online education assists adult learners as well, by allowing people with full-time jobs and family responsibilities to obtain professional certifications or college degrees. Multimedia presentation software empowers both educators and learners to organize, present and consume information in novel ways. For example, at the English lessons different presentations may be made according to the theme with the help of computer and overhead projector.

In additional, advanced multimedia software can empower educators to design audio-visual can empower educators to design audio-visual narrative themes involving the student’s actual participation (learning video games). Adobe Flash offers industry- standard products assisting developments in increasing such applications. With advancements and interactive software, teachers
can increase literacy and understanding in a subject. Lessons with audio and video components that directly engage students reach more types of learners compared with traditional lecture methods of teaching, encouraging more students to participate in class and raising their level of understanding.

New technology also helps disabled or disadvantaged students participate in subjects they were once unable to join, thanks to assistive programs and devices. The ability to collaboratively edit documents from various locations is another benefit of information technology in education. For example, students and educators utilizing cloud computing to store their homework can also modify the document’s access settings to allow multiple editors and contributors to participate in an assignment.

This empowers educators to design work assignments for teams of students working together and, in so doing, cultivate a teamwork ethos preparing them for the workplace. Now information technology has made it easy to study as well as teach groups or in clusters. At the English lessons with online we can be unite together to do the desired task. There different programs, games and they help learn English language. Efficient postal systems, the telephone (fixed and mobile), and various recording and playback systems based on computer technology all have a part to play in educational broadcasting in the new millennium.

The Internet and its Web sites are now familiar to many students in developed countries and among educational elites elsewhere, but it remains of little significance to very many more, who lack the most basic means for subsistence. Providing information to parent’s help them stay involved in their children’s education. Many schools now have online grading systems in which parents can access grades, attendance and discipline data online at their convenience.

If a student is having trouble turning work in on time, parents can follow his progress through an online grade book and encourage him to complete his work in a timely manner. Information technology provides an avenue of information for parents that can result in immediate follow-up. Students can pass exams through computers. Besides they may check their progress (scores) a great benefit for teachers. Now have the ability to work together to create more meaningful, engaging instruction for all students without having to schedule common planning time.

Teachers can use websites to post class schedules, assignment requirements and even samples for student and parent use. Further, when teachers do need to contact an individual parent, the contact information is easily accessible through the school’s technology systems. A parent’s phone number or email is literally a click away, and the days of sorting through files full of paperwork to find one number are over.

To conclude, it may be surmised that information technology is indivisible part of education in the twenty first century. When used correctly in the classroom, technology can allow students to experience situations and circumstances that the students of 20 years ago could only dream about. Through technology, books and figures can suddenly become alive and applicable to the real world. In addition, information technology provides an even greater avenue for interaction between teacher and students.

At the English lessons different videos, exercises, games, listening drills may be done. Information technology makes learning English Available to a wider range of learners as well.

References


