
Teaching Language Through Technology: Issues, Challenges and Perspectives

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Abstract

Technology has brought tremendous changes in teaching and learning process. Both teachers and learners are no more dependent on the traditional methods of teaching and learning. Materials are available in the form of textbooks as well as in the online mode. With the help of technology, novel ways of teaching and learning methods are being used by teachers to make pedagogy/teaching more effective and successful. The motivation of learners is also increasing day by day with the advancement in technology. In the light of the above discussion, this paper will try to highlight the importance and relevance of technology in teaching and learning in modern times. It delves into issues like how technology can help teachers and learners to make their teaching and learning more motivating and interesting. The paper explores the tools and techniques which teachers can use in the classroom to hone different skills among the learners. An attempt would be made to highlight the issues and challenges of teachers in handling and using technology for maximum outcome in teaching and learning. As a sample, the researcher provides a lesson plan for teaching 44 sounds of English language through the use of various gadgets. Finally, the paper will also throw light on the status and scope of technology in different contexts of teaching and learning.

Key words: Use of technology, motivation, techniques, outcome.

Introduction

The advancement of technology has transformed every field. From Social, economic, political and educational, technology has brought a tremendous change in these spheres. It has widened the scope and provided the better understanding of things. In this regard, Graddol is of the opinion that “technology lies at the heart of the globalization process; affecting education work and culture.” (16) It means technology has become an important necessity of human life. Our daily life related to education, science and culture has become easy and time saving. In the education sector, the integration of technology has brought a rapid change in the process of teaching/learning of English. As pointed out by Richards:

The landscape of language teaching has been transformed in recent years. While only a few years ago the primary context and resources used in language teaching were the classroom, textbooks and the tape-recorder or video player, today's learners inhabit a different world. Interactive whiteboards, mobile devices, computers and the internet are increasingly viewed as integral and necessary component of the teaching and learning process and teachers are challenged to discover effective ways of integrating technology into their lessons. (18)

Hence, the use of different modern gadgets like android phones, laptops, computers, and projectors for teaching purpose is doing wonders in an educational field. In language teaching-learning, the use of technology has proved very beneficial in promoting the teaching-learning ability of teachers and learners.