

TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGES WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the use of modern technologies in teaching English as a second language.

Keywords: modern technologies in teaching, a second language, learning programs, presentation software, electronic dictionaries, chatting and email messaging programs, listening CD-players, learning video-clips.

INTRODUCTION

The last years increasingly raised the issue of using modern technologies in the educational process. It is not only new technical means, but also a new forms and methods of teaching, new approach to learning. The main goal that we set for ourselves, using modern technologies in learning a foreign language it's to show how technology can be effectively used to improve the quality of teaching foreign language students, the formation and development of their communicative culture, learning the practical mastery of a foreign language.

This paper aims to highlight the role of using modern technology in teaching English as a second language. It discusses different approaches and techniques which can assist English language students to improve their learning skills by using technology. Among these techniques are online English language learning web sites, computer assisted language learning programs, presentation software, electronic dictionaries, chatting and email messaging programs, listening CD-players, and learning video-clips.

A case study has been done to appreciate the response of typical English language classroom students for using technology in the learning process. Upon this practical study, the paper diagnoses the drawbacks and limitations of the current conventional English language learning tools, and concludes with certain suggestions and recommendations.

The introduction of information and communication technology (ICT) to education creates new learning paradigms. We are dwelling in a world which technology has reduced to a global village and the breakthrough in technology is underpinning pedagogical submissions. It may become imperative therefore to have a rethinking on how to ameliorate the constraints of second language users through the applications of modern technologies. The interactions between new technology and pedagogical submissions have been found to an extent to be addressing the heterogeneous needs of second language learners and any global discovery

which aims at minimizing learners' constraints is a welcome development in a rapidly changing world of technology.

This paper therefore is an overview presentation of how modern technologies can be of assistance to both teachers and students of a second language setting. The rapid growth in ICT experienced by the technologically advanced nations of the world has helped them to overcome some of the barriers in teaching and learning.

Applications of modern day's technologies in the field of teaching and learning can make it possible for teachers, students and others to join communities of people well beyond their immediate environment to critically review, analyze, contribute, criticize and organize issues logically and contextually having professionalism and the transformations of the entire society in view. Now, new technologies such as the reported computer enhancements with new software and networking make it much easier for educators to conquer space and time, with the motive of ameliorating constraints and academic conflicting issues. We can now bring learning to virtually any place on earth anytime for the purpose of achieving the desirable learning outcomes.

In the past, learning and education simply meant face-to-face lectures, reading books or printed handouts, taking notes and completing assignments generally in the form of answering questions or writing essays. In short; education, learning and teaching were considered impossible without a teacher, books and chalkboards.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Today, education and training have taken on a whole new meaning. Computers are an essential part of every classroom and teachers are using DVDs, CD-ROMs and videos to show pupils how things work and operate. Pupils can interact with the subject matters through the use of such web based tools and CD-ROMs. Moreover, each pupil can progress at his/her own pace. Technology allows distance learning: Perhaps the greatest impact of technology in the field of learning is its ability to help several people learn simultaneously from different locations. Learners are not required to gather at a predetermined time or place in order to learn and receive instructions and information. All one needs is a computer connected to a modem (or with a CD drive); these tools can literally deliver a „classroom“ in the homes and offices of people.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Technology allows group learning: There are naysayers who argue that distance learning of this sort cannot help pupils receive the support of traditional group-based learning. For proving this theory wrong, technology has helped provide distance learners with online communities, live chat rooms and bulletin boards. All these allow pupils to collaborate and communicate even though they are isolated in their own space.

Technology allows individual pacing: Multimedia tools, on-line and CD-ROM based training have helped eliminate the need for an instructor-based lesson plans. Pupils who grasp concepts faster proceed and move along, without being held back by ones who need more time and help for learning. Such individual pacing is beneficial to all.

Technology helps lower training costs and increases productivity: Another benefit of using technology to reach many pupils in shorter time is lowering training costs. Corporate and academic Institutions can reduce their costs of delivering lessons to pupils on a per-pupil basis. Moreover, technology produces quantifiable results and allows pupils to put into practice this information quickly and with better results. Through the use of technology, pupils can considerably save time and increase their productivity. Both these points justify the higher costs of advanced technological tools.

CONCLUSION

Multimedia is a recent and popular term in the field of computer usage. Generally speaking, multimedia is the combination of text, sound, pictures, animation, and video. Typical set-ups include CD-ROM, CD-ROM player, sound equipment, and special hardware, which allow the display of sophisticated graphics. With the rapid development of the internet, which has become a powerful medium for it provides a number of services including “e-mail, the World Wide Web (WWW), newsgroups, voice and video conferencing, file transfer and exchange and numerous corporate services delivered through specialized programs”. In the context of teaching, multimedia can be called an integrated media, which consists of various media forms such as text, graphic, animation, audio, etc. to browse, query, select, link and use information to meet pupils’ requirement. Smith and Woody defined multimedia as “the use of both visual aids and verbal descriptions to illustrate concepts”

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