TECHNOLOGY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING IN INDIA – A PRAGMATIC PERSPECTIVE

R.VANITHA, DR.V.UNNIKRISHNAN

Abstract: The technology can make learning language more interesting and effective in classroom. In the second language pedagogy, the teachers can use different kinds of advanced technologies like Interactive Whiteboards, Computers, Digital storytelling and most of the social networks available in the Internet. Language teachers in India have to be made aware of themselves to use the advanced technologies in teaching second language in their multi-lingual classrooms. World is searching and accepting alternates in everything and in every field, to prove the effectiveness and result in English language teaching in India, the advanced technologies will help the language teachers to get best result. This paper aims to discuss about the possible and advanced technologies can be used in multi-lingual Indian language classrooms.

Keywords: Multi-lingual Indian classrooms, Practical methods, Technology in ELT.

Introduction: We are in the dynamic e-age and the information is ready with the click of a mouse. Technology in education process increased effectiveness in education, it will keep engage all type of learners in classroom and the technology can make learning language more interesting. It is teachers' duty to give the students an exposure to various advanced techniques in education and make the classroom learning informative, motivating and the same time enjoyable. Most of the web based technologies can be used in language teaching in a positive way and it can assist the language teacher and enrich the knowledge of the student according to the fast growing scientific world. In the second language pedagogy, the teacher can use different kinds of advanced technologies to make their task effective at the same time to reduce the time of learning. We can better understand the technology of teaching by Warschauer (2003) "the introduction of new technology automatically brings certain results which are referred to as "technological determinism".

Interactive Whiteboards: Interactive whiteboards are totally different from a traditional chalk-board and there are lot of benefits compared to the chalk-board. In this board a larger computer screen is used with the mouse as a pen. This is one of the best ways to engage the students in language classes and lot of information can be taught easily in a short period of time. The classroom can be free from the duster and its dust. The teacher can ask the student to work on the interactive whiteboards and every student's file can be saved for future classes. The present activity of the student can be compared with the older one and the improvement of the students' activity can be noted immediately. We can use pictures, videos, audio and organizers in this whiteboard very easily. The teacher can correct the text by editing, moving sentences, deleting or inserting, paragraph alignments, spelling check and all the modes of corrections can be done easily. Vocabulary will be build easily by this method.

Computers In ELT: Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) is getting popularisation among language teachers in India. Language learning is a complex process and there is no uniform strategy for all the learners in the world, because according to the first language and culture, the teaching of second language approach has to be different. According to the learning challenges the methods of teaching will change, this is only considered as an effective teaching strategy and not sticking to the old patterns unnecessarily brings barriers in teaching language. In this age of computers, the language teachers also have to adopt computers for their profession as other professionals did, it will help them to show great results. Nowadays in India, the computers have become basic requirement and essential in ELT classroom. Computers gained its ground in dictionary usage, computers only made the task of referring dictionary as an easy task and everybody knows that searching meaning from the dictionary was tough and time consuming task and nowadays we are getting every possible meaning by a single click of mouse within a fraction of second. Microsoft Word helps in typing text; MS-Power Point helps in model and arranges their writings in an expressive way. We can save and correct the result without delay. The committed language teacher knows that how the computers can be utilised in language classroom and lab in a positive way.

Digital Storytelling: In the teaching of writing and speaking skills, the digital storytelling is very much effective than any other techniques. In digital storytelling, the language teacher is teaching by audio, video, songs, photos and texts in a correct combination. Already everybody knows that the story telling is fun and liked by the students. In this

digital storytelling, the videos and pictures are making the act of storytelling even more enjoyable. But the teacher has to plan the storytelling lesson enjoyable as well as informative; it depends on the effectiveness of the language teacher. In this regard, the teacher has to create a suitable story in advance to present it in the classroom. If it is used in a correct way, the teacher can get good result from the learner in oral and writing skills.

Learning From Social Networking Sites: Technology dominates in the present world in every field, so as our English Language Teaching. And in this technology, the social networks are playing a major role in communication technology. All other communication methods are washed away or modified by these social networking sites. The students of this age have a great interest over these social networking sites and they are spending most of their time in these sites. The sites which have gained the heart of the student community are, Face Book, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Wikis, Google+, and Orkut. If the learner has some hesitation and anxiety in face to face communication, then the teacher can encourage the learner to use these kinds of platforms to improve their communication skills in a stress-free method, and the face book allows online group discussions also. One more important tool in computer technology is Blogs; blogs are helpful in communication and discussion in a particular matter very broadly without any limitation, this will be useful for the learner to learn writing skills. And YouTube needs no introduction because of its familiarity among the people, and it is bringing every special and distant teacher to our home and classroom easily. Student can learn vocabulary, accent, pronunciation and everything related to ELT in YouTube, this will create a better platform for second language teaching and the teacher can introduce so many advanced techniques by this Video site. Twitter is also a communication site where the students can post their views independently at the same time with social responsibility, this can be taught by the language classroom by the language teacher effectively and it will be helpful for the students to improve their communication skills. The teachers and students can discuss their subject in these sites and the teacher can answer the questions of the learner through this sites, it gives new

experience to the learner and makes the learning a pleasant experience. The language teacher can use Podcasts for listening and speaking skills, the learner can get different kinds of videos and audio files according to their interest. On listening to the podcasts, the teacher can make the students to discuss on the topic; it will create a tremendous opportunity for listening skill at the same time for speaking skills.

Conclusion: English Language Teachers in India have to be made aware of the technologies in teaching second language in multi-lingual classrooms. Training in the use of the technology to the teacher and bringing advanced technology to the language classrooms are done by the management and government together. There is no use of learning these advanced technologies without any equipment in the class. The technology in language learning gives confidence to the learner, as it gives effective result to the teacher. Edmodo is one of the free social networking site where the discussion between the teacher and students are limitless and the full command will be given to the teacher, this site provides "an intuitive way for teachers and students to stay connected in a safe and secure learning environment" (Edmodo, 2010). Teaching methodology also changed by time, but the teacher cannot be replaced by any technology. As Reddi (2013) pointed out, the place of a teacher should not be neglected or replaced with the computer or any other modern electronic gadget. They can be used as additional aids to the teacher but not a substitute because nothing in the world can replace the place of a teacher. We cannot refuse our dependence on western teaching methods and Eurocentric ideologies for our English language education in India, at the same time many of our ideologists in teaching and language field are discussing and working hard to overcome this issue. Every language teacher has to realise their duty and importance in building our next generation. World is searching and accepting alternates in everything and in every field, so, it is not that we are in the education field only going for alternatives, to prove the effectiveness and result in English language teaching in India, the advanced technologies will help the language teacher to get best result.

References:

1. Warschauer, M., & Meskill, C. (2000). Technology and second language learning. In J. Rosenthal (Ed), Handbook of undergraduate second language education. Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum.

2. Pennington M. C. (2003), Electronic media in second language writing: An overview of tools and research findings. In Sandra Fotos & Charles M. Browne (Eds.). New perspectives on CALL for second language classrooms. Mahwah, New

Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.

3. Reddy, G. Reddi Sekhar. (2013). An analytical study of the impact of English language laboratories for effective communication skills in select engineering colleges in and around Tirupati. Diss. Sri Venkateswara University.

4. Edmodo (2020). Edmodo: Tour. Retrieved August 23, 2010, from http://www.edmodo.com.

***

R.Vanitha/ Research Scholar/Dept.of English/Karpagam University/
Coimbatore-641021/vanithabuddha76@gmail.com
Dr.V.Unnikrishnan/Head/Dept.of English/Karpagam University/
Coimbatore-641021/unnivarayal@gmail.com