

**USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN IMPROVING SPEAKING SKILLS**

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ABSTRACT

The advent of technology brought revolutionary changes in language usage. Technology is vehemently used in educational sectors rather than trade and transactions. It is the mode of communication. In order to communicate, speaking skills has to be excelled by the learners in learning English. In the fast developing 21st century various innovative technologies are being introduced to teach speaking skills in the classrooms. The present world is driven by technology, which cannot be denied. It is the means to get access with this modernized world. Though technology cannot play the crucial role of a teacher, it can be used as a additional tool for improving teaching methods in classroom. Internet, podcasts, video conferencing, videos and speech recognition software, TELL, Blogging are considered to be some of the best tools for teaching speaking skills. This paper aims to discuss some modern technologies available for teachers of English today to enhance speaking skill of second or foreign language and the availability of various technologies, their impact, their practical uses and the problems associated with the application of modern technological tools.

Keywords: *Modern technologies, Enhancing Speaking Skill, Applications.*

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INTRODUCTION

Speaking is considered to be one of the most important skills of a language in learning a second or foreign language. In the rapid developing 21st century various innovative technologies are being introduced to teach English in the classrooms. To stay abreast we need to exploit all the resources available and mould the learners to use the technology at their disposal for their benefit.

Students have to update their knowledge by using modern technologies. Otherwise they will be relegated in the real world. Good speaking skills are the act of generating words that can be understood by listeners. According to Brown and Yule (1983), speaking is the skill that the students will be judged upon most in real-life situations. It is an important part of everyday interaction and most often the first impression of a person is based on his/her ability to



speak fluently and comprehensively. So, teachers have a responsibility to prepare the students as much as possible to be able to speak in English in the real world outside the classroom. Maggie Sokolik observes: Machines are now used as tools for communication rather than simply as ways of delivering automated drills or exercises.

MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IN DEVELOPING SPEAKING SKILL

Technology helps and encourages the playfulness of learners and involves them in a different ways of learning. Technology gives learners a chance to engage independently, provide opportunities for self-paced interactions, privacy, and a safe environment where mistakes are corrected and exact feedback is given. Feedback helps the learners to exercise and focus on particular error which adds additional value by its ability. At present, there are number of qualitative feedback software's available on the web. On the other hand, links are provided for explanations, additional help, references, the value of technology is further augmented. The usage of Internet has brought tremendous change in the field of teaching and enhancing English learning. It is believed that people tend to forget everything within three days after they hear.

Modern technologies available in education today are:

- Communication lab
- Video conferencing
- Video Library
- CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning)
- Speech recognition software
- Programmes through educational satellites
- Blogging
- Internet
- TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning)
- Pod casting
- Quick Link Pen
- Quicktionary

It is the need of the hour to incorporate modern technologies to promote the level of English teaching. The current technologies lighten up the mind of the students to get into the subject with full

involvement rather than a complex task to do. "New technologies in language learning by multiple intelligence and mixed abilities replace with old methods of teaching". The practice of Internet has brought fabulous change in the field of teaching and enhancing English learning. Language can be learnt by imitation and learnt as they speak in mother tongue.

HOW TO USE THESE TECHNOLOGIES

COMMUNICATION LAB

Software's are accessible in language lab to improve LSRW skills. The students have a chance to play it again and again without feeling boredom. Listening Skills allow the person to understand what other person speaks. Speaking skills helps to convey the same what he listened in the right manner. Reading skills is essential to interpret what is in the text. Writing skills is used to express their own thoughts. The students feel interest and try to listen, record, write and practice them through the headphones in the labs and create interest to learn and repeat again and again over the subject.

VIDEO CONFERENCING

Video Conferencing is the gateway where one can access the speech of others across the universe. It is the live relay programme where students get the best opportunity to post the questions immediately and get a platform to get the answers for their queries from the experts. In addition, they have a chance to listen to the speech of the great personalities and subject experts and know what is going in the world within their area.

VIDEO LIBRARY

It is most helpful for the absentia students. This is vividly helpful for the students who do not attend an important session or lecture. The teaching faculty records the lessons and made available to the learners and the students have a scope to play and listen to them in their leisure time, as many times as they can and understand the concept excellently.

SPEECH RECOGNITION SOFTWARE

This software helps the student to improve speaking skills, which convert spoken form to machine-readable input. It recognizes the accuracy of the learner and provides feedback and encourages the learner to practice again till they get proficiency. This software evaluates and provides scores of



grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and provided with the correct forms, for examples if a student mispronounces a word, the learning tool can immediately spot it and help to correct it. This device can be a very useful device for distance learners because they don't have a teacher who corrects their speech and this device can help improving their speaking skills.

INTERNET

The use of Internet is widely used by the man across the globe. In the process of learning, students use this aid in the classroom to learn English where they Google the suitable materials for their topics. The teachers also instruct the students to collect the information and participate among the friends for discussions. For these, the students browse the different applications and online teaching aids and materials like Skype, MSM Messenger etc and grow themselves by connecting with friends, other students, teachers, experts and improve their oral proficiency with the native speakers and also improve intercultural awareness, motivation and raise the level of interaction. They find lot of learning materials like audio, video, audio-video recordings and get exposed to a target language and helps in improving their speaking skills.

BLOGGING

Blogging helps the students and instruct the students when the teacher is off campus. The teacher can post his/her article or the instruction to the students, where the students are allowed to post their comments and queries. The teacher can answer the question through his blog. Blogging seems to be widely in use in the present mode of learning.

MESSAGES THROUGH MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones can also be utilized to enrich vocabulary skills by receiving new words daily. There are many apps which can improve their vocabulary and give new words and its origin, thesaurus etc every day. The students needs to link with the websites in their mobile phones and makes the learners to get chance to learn new words regularly.

CALL

The educational role of Computers in learning a second language and the role of CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) is significant.

The teacher can use the latest technologies, which have the potential to transform the students from passive recipients of information into active participants. CALL is defined as the search for and study of applications of the Computer in language teaching and learning.

TELL

TELL is the use of computer technology including hardware, software and the Internet to enhance teaching and learning of languages. It helps the students to get access with all the technologies available for the enhancement of English learning. Students are allowed to use online dictionaries, chat, and to view the diverse happenings around the globe.

EDUCATIONAL SATELLITES

In the campus, we can create our own Educational Satellite lab, whereby satellite programs of educational value like UGC's country wide classrooms, NPTEL, IIT programmes and other worldwide programmes are recorded and students are given access to the recording either through big monitors or small monitor.

VIDEO TAPES

Video Tapes helps the learners to learn drama, one-act play and monologues where scenes from popular English films can be screened first without any running script on the scene. Then the students are asked to find out the words, script etc., Again the scene will be repeated with the scripts on the scene. This kind of telecasting videotape with and without script makes the students to get access with the pronunciation, accent and word usage of English with interest. This method will make the students to repeat it again in their homes voluntarily.

POD CASTING

Podcasts helps to upload or download the audio file with the target language and the teacher can use them as useful audio material for the classroom activities like discussions. Besides, these can include pronunciation for learning different accents. It helps the students to improve speaking skills. The students can make use of these files inside and outside the classrooms in the form of entertainment as the part of their education.

**QUICK LINK PEN**

Quick Link Pen allows learners to copy and store printed text, Internet links. It helps to transfer the data to computers and enables the reader to get the meaning of the word from a built in dictionary. Accessing this type of machine seems to be a more convenient method. Recent developments in machine translations presents translation engines like GO Translator and Bablefish.

QUICKTIONARY

It is a pen-like device. It allows the reader to easily scan the word and get its definition and phonetic translation on its own LCD screen. Technology such as Enounce and Sound-Editor enable learners to adjust the speech rate of listening materials to assist their comprehension, and present spectrum of speech waves and visual depictions of mouth and tongue movement to ease the learning and refine pronunciation.

CONCLUSION

Terminology of "Web 2.0" refers to web application which makes participatory information sharing easy by user-centered design and collaboration in World Wide Web (O'Reilly, 2005). Web 2.0 allows the users to interact each other and collaborate with other

users in social media dialogue. Therefore, Web 2.0 offers possibilities to improve communication skills, self-expression, and comprehension (Hall, 2008). According to Brown (2008), social utilities such as Facebook and Twitter provide many communicative variances for online community development. As a result, the following concluding remarks and recommendations can be recorded:

1. The impact of Technology in the medium of education had become necessary.
2. It can be viewed as an integral part of the learning activity.
3. Theory and practice can be implemented by the use of modernized technology.
4. Modern technical ways to be followed for improving speaking skills.
5. Language Teachers should involve the students and become as facilitator.

6. The management should also provide proper infrastructure to meet the needs of the modern technology.
7. The language teachers should be given awareness and exposure for the modern technology through workshops, conferences.
8. Modern technological tools provide fun and allow for learning by motivating the students and help them to improve their speaking skills in a fruitful way.

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