



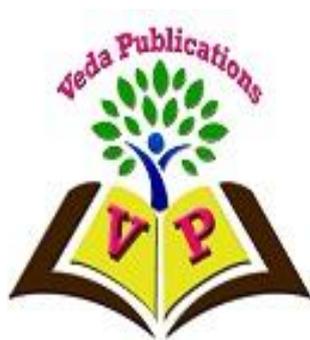
MULTIMEDIA: A TECHNIQUE TO DEAL THE LANGUAGE LABS

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ABSTRACT



Multimedia is a method of communication which combines audio, video, internet, television, newspaper, radio etc. Nowadays multimedia has permeated every part of the education of the students from kindergarten to post graduation. The 21st century progresses further, it will be even more essential that the students understand multimedia and they transform themselves from passive to active thinkers. So the teacher's role in the classrooms and language labs has been dramatically changed in the last twenty years.

Involvement of technology improves the quality teaching in the language labs. Multimedia is one of the techniques to enhance the language skills of the students. It has been greatly used in Schools, Engineering Colleges and Universities across India. K-van Solutions is the software prescribed by JNTUKakinada in the language laboratories. Multimedia is used in the language labs, which provide features like to listen, record, understand Dictionary Tools, Word Pronunciation, Voice and Text Chat, Broadcast, Conference, Resume Preparation, Public Speaking, Interview Skills, Debate, Body Language, Group Discussion, Telephonic Skills, Examination Modules like moodles etc.

Keywords: *Communication, Multimedia, Teaching, Technology.*

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INTRODUCTION

Multimedia is a method of communication which combines audio, video, internet, television, newspaper, radio etc. Multimedia has permeated every part of the education of the students from kindergarten to post graduation. Nowadays all the students are called digital natives as they learn these things very easily rather than the adults who are called digital immigrants. The 21st century progresses further, it will be even more essential that the students understand multimedia and transform themselves from passive to active thinkers. As a teacher, she/he has the opportunity to engage the students through power point presentations, television, radio, internet, audio, video, mobiles apps etc., to help meet the needs of the students. So the teacher's role in the classrooms and language labs has been dramatically changed in the last twenty years.

Involvement of technology improves the quality teaching in the language labs. Multimedia is one of the techniques to enhance the language skills of the students. It has been greatly used in Schools, Engineering Colleges and Universities across India. K-van Solutions is the software prescribed by JNTUKakinada in the language laboratories. Multimedia English Language Lab facilitates a teacher to control, broadcast, monitor, and support students from teacher's PC directly. With friendly user interface and powerful functions, the Digital Multimedia English Language Lab not only facilitates the teaching process but also brings excitement, entertainment and efficiency in learning language.

INTERNET

The internet is the network of networks i.e. a global information system which makes WWW (World Wide Web). It is a boon to the students of the present technological world. It presents the wide range of collection of information in different disciplines. It can be compared with a library. In the Language Labs students are given full access to the internet. They search for the given topics for presentations (chart/power point), debates, group discussions and interviews. Some stipulated time will be given to them and in the meantime, they get

ready for the presentations. Students who search well can do the discussion in a proper way. All the rules will be explained to them before allocating the topic. The students are given the topic and different point of views in collecting the information such as sociological, economical, legal and logical, political and technological. The students can easily check themselves with all the said points and participate in the discussions fruitfully.

PRINT TEXT

Print text is familiarized for all types of students. They can study and they can revise the matter in it. Non-detailed print text is shown to the students through LCD projector in the language laboratory for their oral presentations. They are divided into groups. Each group is given a page for speaking and writing sessions. They do brain storming and drafting for the presentation. One of the persons in the group will be elected a representative to present the essence of the page. The other students along with the representative sit together and they prepare the questionnaire for online examination as it is mandatory in JNTUK to write the exam.

They use internet in downloading the pdf of the novels prescribed for their study. For every class, three novels are suggested such as *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho, *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling, Ruskin Bonds Short Stories etc. They download the pdfs and read whenever they come to the lab and discuss in the lab. Some of the students those who have mobile phones can download and study whenever they are free. Group discussions will be conducted for the students after they have read the novel. Those who have studied in depth can share their ideas and others can understand if they don't have such awareness on the novels. The teacher can consolidate the theme of the novel at the end of the discussion in the language laboratory.

NEWSPAPER

Students are encouraged to bring the newspapers to the language labs. They cut the words and titles from the newspapers. They bring the charts to stick all them to convey a concept and give the presentations on those charts. It is known as a



collage. Very actively they stick the words, pictures and sometimes they draw and write with their free hand. Stationary will be arranged in the language labs and pairs are encouraged to participate in this activity.

Most of the students forget to bring the newspapers to the class. So they are given access to the e-paper. The articles they have to work will be decided prior by the teachers. They work on multiple articles for enhancing their vocabulary and sentence structure. They discuss and share the articles in pairs. They participate in the oral presentation in alternative weeks. One week they read and summarize orally. Next week they will write the summary of the given article.

SOFTWARE

JNTU Kakinada has prescribed a software (K-van Solutions) to the affiliated colleges. It is given on the platform which means one cannot copy that into their personal drives such as pen drives, DVD drives and e-mails. The students can study the material loaded by the company in the lab itself. According to the instructions given by their professors they note down the material in the observation. The students keep in mind the instructions by the teacher and material by the software and internet. Some phrases for discussions and presentations and sample discussions are given to encourage the students. All the systems in the lab are given LAN connection to a server. The teacher can manage very easily all the students in the lab. The teacher can see the miss utilization of the systems by the students and can block that particular system. What is decided by the teacher for the class is viewed by the students through the software.

POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS

Nowadays Engineering classrooms and language laboratories are enriched by the advent of technology. This technology brings innovative changes which can help the teachers and students. For their presentations, students are extensively using a programme named Microsoft Power Point. This program enables both the teachers and students to prepare presentations. Through this programme students make their presentations in a more dynamic

way. This PPT provides the ability to equip the presentation of the students with different types of media such as soundtracks, images, animation etc. This type of presentations are beneficial to a category of learners such as the visual learners.

They present the topics through their PPTs such as Solar Sail, Contour Cultivation, Nanotechnology etc. They search for apt pictures, different types of templates, animations, soundtrack etc. to present their PPTs. They prepare invitations for the presentations. They use for making invitations -old wedding cards, embossed stickers, card boards, charts, colour A4 sheets, bond paper etc. They invite their favourite teachers for their presentations. Their enthusiasm becomes twice by seeing such type of audience. If they plan in their mind to invite others, they do rehearsals well and give the fruitful presentations.

TELEVISION AND DVD PLAYER

The status quo of the classroom is the teacher imparts the knowledge while the students engross the information. This television programmes have changed the phenomenon of the English classes and laboratories. "TV is an excellent medium for illustrating applications, describing context, and generating interest. Since it is not a truly interactive medium, though, it can neither be used to pinpoint what a student fails to understand nor remedy such misunderstandings. Here, the classroom teacher has proven to be irreplaceable" (Skolnik & Smith, 1993). BBC News/ND TV News/CNN is shown to the students in the language labs for four to five minutes. Students can summarise the news in their speaking and writing sessions. When they get the adequate information pair wise they start working on the role play. The role of the teacher is to monitor them and set them on the right track. Old software named Pinnacle is used in the college. That records the TV programmes by simply selecting a programme and its schedule for recording. TV shouldn't be disconnected from power throughout the night. As long as the TV is on when the programme is on and the programmes will be recorded. Students can replay and see the news till they get authenticity on the said programmes.



AUDIO AND VIDEO

For listening and practising phonetic sounds students use audio and video. Some exercises are designed for them based on the soundtracks. They use these audio tracks for listening *Wings of Fire*, an autobiography of Abdul Kalam. Recipient of Jnanapet award, Girish Karnad's narration is an added grace to the audio. Students use TED videos to understand the concepts of body language and presentations. Presentations of Pranav Mistry are the best example for TED videos. Some trailers are shown to them to understand the concept of the movies. They expect the story of the movie through the video clippings. They narrate those themes on the spot, spontaneously.

RADIO

The teachers can carve the niche in educating students through the innovative methods like introducing Community Radio in the campus. Management with their holistic efforts puts forth the radio station in the campus for effective utility. This initiative gives way to a new face to English multimedia language lab. Keeping in view, the need for multi-talent, workmanship in the industry, students' future professional demands and academic or research demands, a special module is designed for English language lab. Special attention is given to LSRW skills through these programmes. The students participate in the radio programmes by booking the prior slots. They get the modulation tests before they enter the arena. Each one will be given their programme CDS if they ask for. They listen to the programme for multiple times and endeavours to get the refinity in their forth coming tasks. They practice in front of their friends in labs and clarify their doubts regarding pronunciation, stress and intonation etc.

MOODLES

It is an open source learning platform for teaching learning process. It is very interesting to the students for practicing grammar and vocabulary. Some of the tests are uploaded in the moodles. If any student gets logged in they can take the test at the stipulated time and after completion of writing the test they can get their results. They can check their

wrong answers with the explanations uploaded in the moodles. If they feel any doubt about the application of the rule then they can contact the teacher. Every week when the students come to multi-media language lab they take the exam. This is the easiest way to assess the ability of the student in handling the topics.

CONCLUSION

At the outset, one can say that the multimedia language lab is sophisticated and stimulating the young learners. They learn very interestingly as they are digital natives. Rather than their regular theory classes they show interest to work in the lab hour though those are three hour long slots. Their first mesmerising things in the lab is the internet, through internet print text matter will be read by them. They use software to develop their skills like pronunciation and intonation. They read newspaper online and participate in pair and group activities. They come with the Power Point Presentations on various topics. They use TV, DVD player and Radio for developing the language and at last they use moodles to write the test with the mass attendance and can get results on the spot.

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