RESEARCH ARTICLE

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HIKE: A PEDAGOGICAL TOOL FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

A. Sherlin Raja

(Research Scholar, Department of English, The American college,Madurai.)

ABSTRACT

"One can't spell TEACH without T-E-C-H"

Kevin Jarrett

Technology plays a dynamic role in education but immense change in technology and the growing presence of the Internet has changed students for the past few decades.In the present scenario, young generation runs behind technology as technology rules in the 21st century.They are familiar with mobile phones, computers and digital cameras even from their childhood. There are some advantages and disadvantages in using social networks. Particularly, by using Hike messenger in the classroom,students' participation will be more interactive, collaborative,and exploratory.They will become better problem solvers and autonomous learners. Connectivity means a lot to them and learning process will be student-centered. Without having an Internet connection the classroom learning can be effective by using hike.In addition to text messaging, image, video and audio, the learners can also send Pdf or any file document. This paper talks about student's expectation and interest over Hike. Everyone has hike in his/her mobile phones or gadgets, which can provide a good access to teaching methods through Hike.

Keywords*: Technology, Mobile Phone, Hike, Collaborative Learning.*

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The use of technology in English language classroom is no longer a luxury. It is not even a matter of choice for the teachers and students. Technology has invaded into their private space of these two stakeholders to the extent that a decent, comfortable life seems to be unimaginable for them without technology. Its presence is ubiquitous. Banking, booking, agriculture, shopping, manufacturing, communicating, leisure time activities, etc. Why should it be avoided in educational institutions for learning, particularly language learning as a basic tool? In the present scenario, teachers use the traditional methods to teach language and basic skills if technology is available in the classroom like smart board or lcd projectors. Without using these tools one will not able to succeed in the classroom environment. Students have their own interest in the social networks like Facebook, WhatsApp and Hike because it reflects their lives. They mail each other, send messages via mobile phones, Chat and spend their time in online resources. Nowadays everyone has mobile phones with 3G Internet facility and chat application. Hike is the most favorite app among students, which they are exploiting for various purposes. Collaborative and cooperative learning should take place in the classroom environment. Classroom should be participatory, exploratory and interactive with the help of teachers through applications. Teachers should take effort and involve the students to use hike for language purposes.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions were framed for investigation

1. What are the features and benefits of Hike messenger?
2. How can students enhance LSRW Skills through Hike app?
3. How hike exploited for language purposes?

DISCUSSION

Social network has been defined to allow people to interact and share ideas with each other. It has new opportunities of interaction and collaboration between teachers and learners. Nowadays social network become popular in everyday communication. Students grow up with developing technology, access to Internet anytime, anywhere available. They are the ones who always connected with technology and increasingly become web-literate. The most recent popular application is Hike messenger. Hike is a cross platform instant messaging application for smart phones. In addition to text messaging the learners as well as teachers can send the file document to receive information. It allows the users to use without Internet connection to send messages to each other. So there is no financial constraint for anyone to use the application. Hike messenger is a mobile messaging application, which allows exchanging messages without any cost for SMS. It is available in smart phones like Android, Windows etc. The same Internet data plan is used for email and web browsing. A messenger such as WhatsApp, Hike, Viber and Line are used in the worldwide but 21st century learners using hike for various purposes for language learning.

Education becomes changing by using applications like Hike that permits students to chat with professors. The present generation has easy access to technology. Hike helps e-learning because it supports knowledge sharing between students and the teachers. Feedback shows that hike gives them opportunity to express themselves freely in a non-restricted environment without any inferior complex and removing low participation in lectures. Students learn technical skills by sharing and searching the information on Hike similar to study related platforms. Hike is not regulated to a particular time because they can share information and send documents, PDF file and educational videos anytime through separate groups. Teachers can also give task and assignment through the app and share among all students in a classroom. Teacher should create a group separately for each class in the name of their class and once teacher creates and adds students on the list, they are into the particular group. Then they can chat or share pictures, audio in the group. In a few minutes of time, the teacher can send the file or anything to the group of the people within a fraction of seconds. If a teacher relies on chalk and talk method of writing notes on black board, classes become monotonous. The teacher cannot expect

their full attention of the class. In traditional classrooms less than 50% of students participate and others are inactive or less interactive. Technology can therefore improve students' attention, and participation. Learning can take place inside and outside of the classroom effectively.

Students can exploit the application for language learning process. This app offers features used for enhancing LSRW Skills. Teachers can send a simple reading text or a short story to the group of the students for group discussion. Short story is very useful to enhance students' vocabulary and reading. Teacher can create a variety of writing activity by giving interesting topic or send some picture of a place to describe that will help the students to develop their writing skills. Students should write essays or comments on the topic for discussion. Even poor level students also make some contribution towards the discussion. Then the teacher can directly give correction if grammatically there are any incorrect sentences. To develop speaking and listening, teacher should list out the topic in the group and students will record the voice and send it as video clips with conversation, which will help them to improve these skills. All the students can download the file, each of them should listen and give them a feedback or discuss the issue after listening based on the audio or video file. Due to video clips there can be a question and answer session. Students are digital natives and their views and thinking are visual. In general, visual aids have more power and attraction rather than oral, chalk and talk. Students can understand something from the visual and it's an easy way to habit in their career. At the same time speaking and listening takes place in the moment. They have become collaborative, autonomous, interactive, exploratory and connected learners. Students can improve their language learning through these activities. Therefore, curriculum and methodologies will always change new approaches and goals will be adopted in a suitable manner due to rapid change of techies. A student-centered approach will be presented in this task. This approach allows more exploration of Hike in English language learning offers opportunities to the student to formulate their own idea or feeling

about the issues as well as to improve basic skills in the language learning process.

Subject experts should chat with the students in the group instead of the class teacher. They can clarify the doubts with experts and most of them will involve in the group to chat. However, if they interact with a particular teacher, the mode of discussion will changed due to the experts. When they interact with new person like a subject expert, they feel free to talk to them without any fear or inferior complex. Students feel that new atmosphere and someone beyond who is unknown to them will help them. Sometimes they may think how to start a discussion with the class teacher whereas the subject expert is a strange person and they will not see for a longer duration of time. If they have any doubt they can chat independently and get information from him. There are some constraints and opposing views over the use of communication technology especially social network. Social network helps the students to reduce the stress, chat with friends without any difficulty and act as a brainstorming tool. Face to face classes are likely enable high levels of emotional understanding, while the convenience and flexibility of online components motivate them to complete educational tasks. For social network like Hike offers various features including audio, video and any PDF or file document enable the users to benefits for learning especially English language. There are many advantages by using Hike in education including English language learning. Teachers and students should collaborate in exploiting technology for English language learning.

CONCLUSIONS

Chat function also offers a way to extend class time and draw out discussion points from students who may not contribute in a whole class setting. Students who are shy to speak out in a conventional class setting can utilize chat rooms for their voice opinions. Sharing content may not be easy but chat rooms keep the noise level down and keep the conversation alongside in the chat box. When the class indulges in aid learning, teachers can occasionally upload the questions for students to answer as a part of monitoring the chat. Use of Hike in language learning should be aimed to encourage

the students in learning the lesson especially English proficiency. By doing, the learning process will be student-centered. It assures cooperative and collaborative learning in the class. Interaction is made possible both inside and outside of the classroom. Learning of English outside the classroom is also made possible through social network like Hike messenger. However, the teacher has a role as a facilitator he/she should choose suitable topics in the discussion and helps the student to collaborate in the classroom environment by using various features on the Hike messenger app.

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