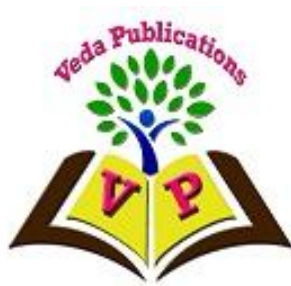# FROM OPTIONS TO ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE: AN EXPERIMENT WITH MOBILE PHONES IN ENGLISH CLASSROOM

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ABSTRACT

English language teaching is evolving every day. In the name of technology much advancement is brought to the pedagogy. It is the duty of the teacher to make sure they deliver the right content with the right objective. Learners are looking forward to learn everything from a new perspective. In this challenging scenario teachers are poised to bring in innovation in each and everything they do in the classroom. While planning for an effective pedagogy, importance should be given to aspects which are congenial to the understanding level of their learners.

This paper aims at briefing three simple class room activities based on the options available in smart phones.The activities are,

- Smiley story
- Be active
- Right post

By using options from smart phones, learners can very well connect them with the target concept in an easy manner.

Keywords*: Social Network, Smiley Story, Be Active, Right Post.*

INTRODUCTION

Dad: Did you pay Cable TV bill?

Son: (with smart phone in hand) Yes Dad

Dad: Where is the EB card?

Son: I just paid the bill Dad, nothing to worry

Dad: Have you applied for your higher education?

Son: Yes Dad, received acknowledgement today

Dad: (smiles) Good job

Son: Thanks Dad, have a nice day

This Airtel network advertisement aired before few years reflects current situation of how important mobile phones are in every one's lives.Mobile phones have become inseparable from our lives nowadays. Many education researches are done every day to make mobile phone as the learning tool in classroom. Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) is the term given to language learning taught with the help of mobile phone. 'Smart' is the often used adjective in many education institutions today; smart board, smart pen, smart card, smart classroom etc are the terms one can see often. This is a complex situation for English teachers. English language, along with many technological advancements happening daily, is changing every day. For English language teachers, at the tertiary level, designing their lesson plans with interesting aspects has become mandatory. Teachers are strongly motivated to blend technology and pedagogy to produce desirable results. Teachers are, therefore, left with the option of creating their own pedagogy to make it 'smart'. For this change to happen teachers must be given enough appreciation and recognition to come out with their creative best. Dr Albert P Rayan, a renowned professor of English language suggests on teacher autonomy, "…autonomy always goes with accountability and responsibilities. Autonomous teachers are proactive, reflective, creative, effective and productive." It's time for teachers who could think out of the box; the ones who can bring in lot of interesting connections to the topic of the day. They should think about the common aspect which is familiar, understandable and congenial to everyone in class.

RIGHT TOOL, RIGHT RESULT

Teaching with technology has become mandatory nowadays. Many feel that learners are well updated and teachers are not so. Teachers often feel this gap between them and learners in classroom. To bridge these lacuna teachers need to step up and learn how a technical assisted tool can work in classroom for effective teaching. Mr .Shaheen Mistri, CEO – Teach for India opines, "A visual platform of disseminating knowledge has always been effective in better assimilation of the subject on hand, by students, as opposed to the conventional chalk and blackboard methods." With this mind a teacher has to look for an apt tool to teach. Smart phones are the ones which suits the category mentioned above. An effective teacher will understand the role mobile phones play in every learner's life nowadays. With mobile phone as learning tool a teacher can effectively teach desired concepts with more interest and more innovative perspectives.

LEARNING LEAVES THE PAGE

To make any activity a successful one it has to leave its theoretical setup and be done practically. After understanding learner needs and common aspect of interest it is time for them to sit and prepare a method to reach students. Positive peer group activity and Colloborative learning are the two successful methods followed by teachers' nowadays. Professor Susikaran comments, "In collaborative learning, the students are enabled to explain, clarify and help others in understanding the concept, which in turn makes them thorough with the subject." The activities must be simple and easy to do inside classroom. Teacher, as a facilitator, should provide the learner with an objective and assessment procedure of each activity before they start doing any activity.

Three simple activities are explained in this paper. They are simple and effective activities which can make the learning fun and useful. The activities are as follows,

1. Smiley story
2. Be active
3. Right post

SMILEY STORY:

- Pair work
- Select fifteen emojis from smart phone
- Create a story with all fifteen smileys
- Logical connection should be justified

BE ACTIVE:

- Pair work
- Select one activity from learner's facebook page
- Write conversation sets for the activity
- Use appropriate language function to frame each conversation set
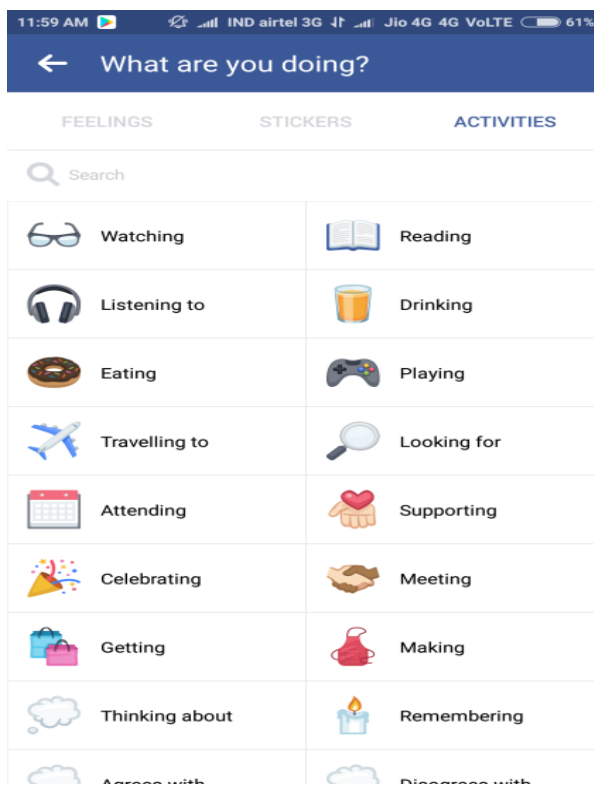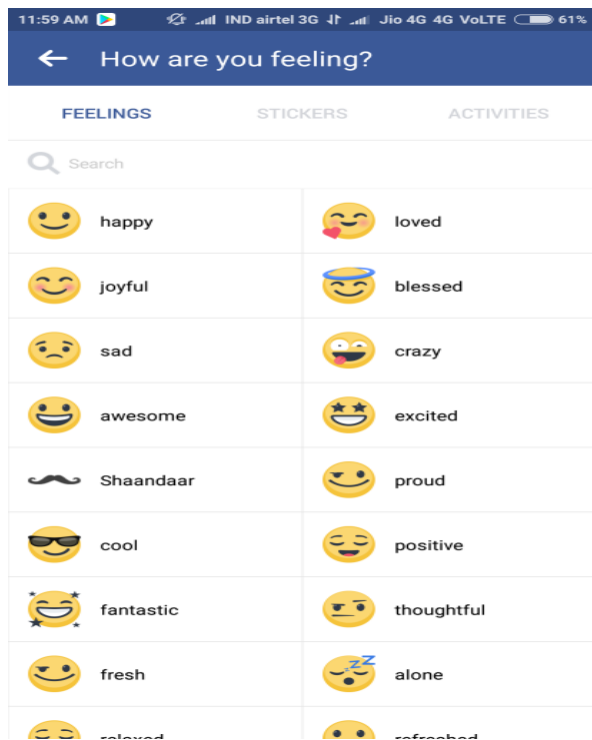- Finally the pair should enact the activity

RIGHT POST:

- Individual work
- Select five best photos posted in social network
- Give a one word explanation of those pictures

It should answer the following,

1. Why is posted?
2. What is the occasion?
3. What is so important or special about the post?
4. Response/comments received for the post

ACTIVITY IN PICTURES

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CONCLUSION

This paper is a simple attempt to explore few of the plenty options available in social network platforms to learn English. In this attempt one can understand how useful options are after simplifying them to the level of activities and classroom teaching. Assessment and feedback mechanism should be encouraged among the learners, this will project the right and wrong in them in a congenial manner. Teacher's role in these activities is to conduct and monitor the activities with a proper record. These three activities can be easily done in any class to get desired output. Learners must be aware about the activities and their objectives before and after doing each activity. At the end of the semester teacher can consolidate learners' scores and appreciate them with self-made certificates. This will make students understand that there are many simple ways to become smart, not with mobile alone.