Emerging Trends in English Language: Teaching & Learning

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Abstract - In today's highly competitive era, where employability in the buzzword, proficiency in English has become vital rather than on option. English being accepted as the global language and lingua-franca at workplaces, the need to possess effective language skills cannot be undermined. The ability to communicate with ease is the most important traits expected of a professional. As such, the role of English teacher in present context has changed owing to various factors namely social, cultural, economic and technological developments around the world. The view of teaching and learning has drastically altered and revolutionized due to Covid-19 pandemic. Suddenly, technology became omnipresent and the indispensable to the education system. E-learning and related on-line teaching methods have substituted the conventional classroom teaching. Until the arrival of Covid-19 pandemic the impact of technological innovation on mainstream higher education was limited. When technology is incorporated in English teaching-learning, it effectively awakens student’s interest and enthusiasm because English language is adoptive and has a capacity to grow, change and adopt influences of circumstances. The present paper focuses the emerging trend that is the role of technology in teaching and learning English language.

Keywords: English language, technology, e-learning, trends

Owing to tremendous progress in information and communicative technology, the scenario of contemporary teaching techniques entirely changed. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic boosted the technology aided teaching learning process not only of English language but of complete education system. The world-wide teachers can access the new emerging trends and can design with students the learning opportunities, which will stimulate the latter to be independent, reflective and collaborative. Teaching English depends on the potential excellence skills and update knowledge of English teachers. Surprisingly, due to emerging trends in education the role of English teacher has completely changed. He/She has to update knowledge of innovative techniques in order to meet the demands of changing era. The ubiquitous availability of portable devices, including mobile phones, laptops, tablets and multimedia -players has changed foreign language instructional methods and learning strategies with present day students.

Shift in Classroom Teaching
There was a time when a learner of English language had to rely more or less exclusively on what has happened within the four walls of the classroom. A super motivated learner might have been able to listen to the BBC World Service, listen to Radio lesson, buy an English newspaper, book etc, but the teacher’s role in the student's language learning was the guiding force and the model for the language. Probably, teaching has always adopted to its circumstances, methodologically and physically moving from lecture to pair work and from translation to communication. With the onset of technology in education, a shift is happening in language learning; and this is a time for teachers to be thrilled to take up their new roles, and to watch and help as learning English into a new era.

Role of Teacher & Interaction with Students
In the digital age of teaching, the new role of teacher is to ensure all students have the opportunity to use their interaction and passion to connect to all areas of knowledge. Communication between teacher and students occur through online networks that allow posting of homework, submission of assignments, discussion of work, student to student sharing of ideas and comments. While online communications support personalized 'anytime, anywhere' learning and an opportunity for students to engage might otherwise feel less comfortable with direct communication, it will be important to maintain balance with the indispensable role of face- to-face engagement between teacher & students.

Web-based learning
Earlier whatever was called as distance learning and online education is now called as web based learning and e-learning. The list of information available through web is endless. A variety of language skills can be developed with the help of web-based learning activities. Technology is developing and changing rapidly; if not used effectively and correctly some problems may occur. Teachers should be equipped with the necessary skills to track and sort out these resources. Technologies which are being used in education are:-

- **Smart Phones**
  Smart-phones (mobiles) give students a wealth of creative options to enhance the classroom experience including:
  - Access to email = For learners of English e-mail is on excellent way to communicate with their teachers because of its usefulness and easiness.
  - To snap a picture of the day's homework assignment scribbled on a white board or record a short video of the lecture.
  - To keep track of schedules and dates.
To use QR codes to find relevant websites with a simple click.
Using apps to listen and learn the standard pronunciation of English

- **Tablets**
  Tablet computers are ideal tools for creating an interactive, collaborative and omnipresent environment for language learning, provided that the technological affordances of device have been fully explored with the students. They can use tablets to collaborate on their own multimedia projects.

- **Web-Quests**
  It is an enquiry oriented activity in which the information used by the learners are drawn out by the internet/web. A Web Quest consist of an introduction, a task, instructional activities, web-based resources, evaluation of learning, reflection about learning and a conclusion. The purpose of web-Quest is to use information on the web to support the instruction taught in the classroom.

- **Virtual Field Trip**
  A Virtual field top is a website that allows the students to experience places, ideas, or objects beyond the constraints of the classroom. It is a guided exploration through the www that organizes a collection of pre-screened, its thematically based web pages into a structure online learning experience.

- **Youtube**
  Youtube is proving to be beneficial for both teachers and students in teaching & learning English language. The videos can be used as a tool for improving listening and speaking skills.

- **Google Meet/Zoom Classes**
  During lockdown and Covid-19 Pandemic, the Google meet and Zoom classes served as the best platforms and is still and creating unlimited possibilities for the teachers and students to communicate their ideas & problems in online class.

**Multimedia Language Lab**

The language laboratory is very useful for assessing student's speech, as it plays great role in the learning of supra-segmental features of English language. It provides students with the technical tools to get the best samples of pronunciation of the language. The electronic devices used in the laboratory will stimulate the eyes and ears of the students to acquire the language quickly and easily. The laboratory’s collection is designed to assist learners in the acquisition and maintenance of comprehension, oral and written proficiency and cultural awareness. The language laboratory offers broadcasting (television and web programmes), web-assisted materials and videotaped off-air recordings in the target language. In short, students can get the experience of having interaction with native speakers through the laboratory. Hence, the language laboratory is the new emerging trend in language learning process.

**Multimedia Presentation**

Multimedia projector and presentation software are two technologies which are frequently used in technologically advanced classroom to teach language. PowerPoint presentations can be used by teachers to represent organized lectures, grasp of attention of students and prepare them for their professional life.

Therefore, the new trend of teaching and learning English language is being widely accepted, both by teachers and students, as it creates excitement in the field. Textbooks are simply not sufficient enough to teach English language as the main purpose of learning the language it to use it in real life context. And for this the learners need to get a varied exposure to improve their proficiency level. The use of multimedia and internet helps to obtain different types of authentic language material. However, to achieve the effective teaching from educators, the education exports should introduce and spread the teachers' training program in order to achieve the best outcome from technologically advanced classroom. They should be aware of the problems of different software. The technical problem in the management of the multimedia Lab is another issue. Hence, for most of the teachers the emerging trends demonstrates a major challenge.

In a nutshell, it can be said that the emerging trend of use of technologies have an enormous impact in English language teaching and learning when used with proper knowledge and training. Use of authentic materials adds a lot of exposure to the students.

**References:-**

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