

COVID -19 Crisis, Online Barriers in Learning English, and Remedial Techniques for an Effective Virtual Teaching

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Abstract

In the current global scenario of the wide spread of the global virus COVID '19, online classrooms emerged into a big platform in teaching-learning process across the world. Besides changing global trends, the spread of Corona virus keeps the demand alive to use the technology daily including the education.

Unfortunately, some students use mobile phones for online classes which prevent the full pledged learning. In olden days, the channels of communication were limited such as sending manual letters or mouth to mouth communication which the oral transmission. Now there is a plethora of apps and e- platforms to voice or to share one's knowledge. The process a shift due to the wide spread of COVID-19. What manner of communication allows the student to learn more, whether it is the virtual way of teaching? inventions, the use of technology for an online classroom communication has its pros and cons. Key Words: Online Teaching- Learning- Methods - Affected- Communication Skills-Interpersonal Skills-Relations- Barriers.

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Introduction

Today the process of teaching and learning has taken a sudden shift due to the wide spread of COVID' 19 across the globe. Online students are often face-to-face with a screen instead of a whiteboard and fellow students.

Unfortunately, the online classes which prevent the full pledged learning of four language skills relistening, speaking, reading, and writing. Generally, language classroom is targeted to grab attention in reaching the stage of proficient learners at the end of the program me which is outcome. Students work on their own schedule, not together with their classmates or instructors. Because of this, there are likely going to be a few communication gaps and barriers which is a common scenario in a virtual classroom. At present the teacher is using e- tools from a social media platform instead. The use of e-platform is expected to increase the ways of communication and allow interactions with students at different universities or countries without any physical boundaries.

Teachers can provide support for students to find, interpret the data. Even if there are students with technical skills, there is a huge amount of data out which needs guidance into thinking more critically by finding the right resources to grade information from all the of his traditional kit. Social media can be defined as “a group of Internet-based applications.’ Instead of just using a PowerPoint presentation for a lecture, interactive materials can derive from online videos, or skype sessions, virtual meetings, and recorded transcripts on social media sites. Students can upload their assignments and projects online which allow the transparency wherein other students can see, review, and learn from the work of others. Online allows the instructor to assess the material easily and enables to give feedback immediately on the performance of the learners. Garbage that is available on the internet sites leads to waste time for many students.

Objectives

- 1.To explore how students ‘and instructors fail to communicate properly.’ 2.To examine how the language skills are neglected by the learners.
- 3.To identify the barriers of online classroom and suggesting some amicable solutions.

1. Online Teaching and Learning-A Challenge

Teaching as well as learning is a big challenge in a virtual classroom. There are many obstacles both must overcome to taste the fruits of teaching and learning. Learning from home can make the learners feel lonely which lead to suicidal tendency among some of the depressed students. Without the thrill of the physical classroom setting and the company of their classmates, it is no surprise that some of them can begin to feel a strong sense of isolation that slowly break down their desire to learn. Many students will find that they miss the buzz of the physical class when the alternative is to be desk-bound at home. Isolation can also undermine many of the instructional strategies that we take for granted in our classrooms. Group work, class discussion and collaborative activity can disappear from the program as well as the student’s engagement and rich learning experiences.

1.1 Teaching and Learning Skills Reduced

In online teaching and learning process skills are reduced as the teacher is unable to feel the student’s real physical presence and vice versa. The instructors cannot present or deliver their content efficiently in an expected manner as he is simply sitting passively on his chair and so the students cannot receive the lesson attentively as they become passive as the real presence of the teacher is absent. As they are not being monitored physically there are deviations. The teachers as well as the learners become passive duo to their lack of face-to- face communication. The students just switch on their e-devices, and they may involve in some other tasks. Poor teaching skills and learning impair all of those around the class. It is difficult to assess the caliber of the students for the teachers which is a big size of challenge.

1.2. Virtual Mode Affect the Communication Skills

It is proved that through virtual class almost all language skills are neglected since the students cannot be identified as they are in a physical classroom. Many of them are deviated from the real intention of developing the L S R W skills as they are not monitored as in a face-to-face interaction.

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Sometimes some of them join the class on mobiles which cannot support some files to share or tasks to do. Some students never respond or follow the instructions of the *teacher* as they are passive to listen, speak, read and write as they do in face-to-face interactions. Some may face technical issues but intentionally many of them escape from learning in the name of false complaints regarding technology which is unpardonable.

1.3 Lack of Tone and Voice Modulation

It is a fact that the text always lacks the same level of tone, pitch, volume, and modulation due to technical problems not only from the instructor's side but also from the learners, attitude and emotions that can be conveyed in a face-to-face discussion. Students who constantly use chat messages with are facing many technical shortened forms of texts have begun to complaints. Many students fail to interact with teachers due to fear of technology and other technical problems as well as the lack of real classroom atmosphere. As they are compelled to share every minute to assert that they are being active, the real intention of teaching -learning process is ignored in a virtual classroom. It is essential for the teacher to understand his students body language, verbal skills, facial expressions, empathy and sympathy, and gestures and all social skills which they could assess promptly through face-to-face interactions.

1.4 Technology Attract Students but....

The smart technology attracts the students towards utilizing smart services, but it takes them into some other world and reduce their communication skills as they miss the real presence of their teachers and peers.

Sometimes the students as well as the teachers also become reluctant to show even their very images which made them passive. Successful communication does not possible unless they take it seriously. It is easy to speak their mind behind a screen, but when it comes to oral presentation, they are struggling. Instead of face-to-face interaction they are forced to use digital platforms which weakens their real intention of communication. They missed the direct face to face communication. They feel awkward on a screen which cannot hold the same power as speaking a language word. Technology has promoted them to a new stage to share their ideas in a virtual classroom and using the technology sources. However, it has also led to the end of face-themselves will the teachers be able to really reach out students. As the teachers are devoted to impress their learners by sharing power point presentations and evaluating the worth of the students, they to-face exchanges.

1.5. Over Dependence on Technology

Over dependence on digital technology is depriving students from classroom interaction. As they are frequently conversing on screen, they forget how to present themselves in real life situations as they speak with the same short forms. This form of talking is often seen as erratic and illiterate as they miss the teacher's valuable points during the live class since they are busy with typing text messages. While texting, it is easy to shift from subject to subject when an idea spark in their brains. But this may cause many undergraduates distorted who often ignored the important lecture. Cassidy said, "In terms of communication, it is harder for teens to communicate face to face with people with maybe teachers, because they're so used to doing it via email.

Sometimes it is good, meaning if you do not like a grade you have; you can email the teacher saying you have concerns about your grade. Where if you don't have an email, you have to talk to your teacher about the grade you don't like, and you might be nervous and uncomfortable because it's you're not give a chance to technology to kill our teacher," (lhlance.org/2013/). "I would tell teens that there is a time and place for texting and there is a time when you need to have a conversation either face to face or over the telephone," said Dempster.

1.6. Modern Student, merely a Parasite on Technology

The modern student who uses the social media platforms is usually seen callous towards natural world as he is swimming against the ocean of technology. The irony is that technology is meant to expand the communications and relations, but it obstructs the expected result than building relations and enhancing communicational skills, as David and Robert reported. The e- plat forms eclipse the physical presence of the distant communicators.

2. Today's world is a world of technology

Now the world is advancing towards adapting new technology and innovations, and there are many tools which effectively make our life easy. Modern technology plays key role in the expansion sharing knowledge, but the excessive use may bring negative effects on their communication. This study does not judge to stop using technology for classroom communication.

2.1. Do not Hesitate to Reach out for Help

Do not be afraid to communicate with your online instructors. Conversing with your classmates is part of your job, but they will inborn abilities. While technology has allowed us multiple means of communications that would have never different areas, most especially in education, gives proof that it can lead to a substantial change in teaching- learning process in the days to come.

How to Overcome the Online Barriers?

However, these barriers are avoidable. Here are a few suggestions to help the online learners to communicating effectively with their fellow classmates and instructors.

there are a few things you can do to maintain the classroom dynamic and keep things personable in a digital environment. Here are a few suggestions: Problems can be solved quickly when students bring the issue directly to an online instructor. At the start of the semester, introduce yourself to your classmates and establish yourself in the learning community. Anonymity can act as a deterrent for communication later down the line. This means connecting with classmates on social media and actively participating in group work.

2.1.1 Use proper Etiquette and Language

If you do reach out to your professor, make sure to represent yourself like an intelligent and capable professional language. This means:

2.2 Make Email subject lines Clear

Since you have something in common with the others who enrolled in your class. Though every

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situation is different, your fellow classmates at least have an idea of what you are thinking. Do not hesitate to contact and interact with them.

2.2.1 Share your technical issues

Share your technical issues and other problems that you are facing in the virtual class openly. They may resolve some of your technical problems with their valuable advice. Here are a few ways to connect with others in a virtual class:

2.2.2 Listen to Your Peers

Be an attentive listener. Begin with a formal greeting with polite language, address the professor by his or her title (Dr. Smith), wrap up with a salutation (Sincerely) and conclude with your name.

2.2.3 Use standard spelling and grammar.

Do your due diligence. If you are unclear about an assignment, explain to your professor that you looked through the syllabus, your notes and check with classmates before contacting him or her.

2.2.4 Do not hesitate to contact and interact

Connect with students in the online classroom. Coordinate virtual group activities using chats, discussion boards or cloud tools for collaboration. Show your face and let your peers hear your voice. Never multitask during a group chat. Give your peers your full attention and respect and then brainstorm solutions to your problems in a group. Do not let communication barriers keep you away from learning. Reach out to your professors. Talk with your classmates. A big part of being a great online student is being a great communicator, so start out practicing

2.2.5 Avoid the Use Mobile Phones or Tabs

Unfortunately, some students use mobile phones or tabs for online classes which eclipse the full pledged teaching-learning process. Smart phones cannot replace the Laptop or Desktop since they are very small in size and features as well as a little monitor without the zooming facility such as a desktop or a laptop. At the same time, the virtual mode of communication with images never replaces or fulfil the real intention of teaching and learning processes specially to develop English language skills due to some unavoidable issues of technology as well as being inactive of some discouraged learners. Hence these small gadgets should not be allowed to use for an online class purpose in any circumstances.

2.2.6 Train the Trainers and Learners

There is a strong need to train the learners as well as the instructors how to use the technology in a virtual classroom to come out of many tech-phobias. Generally, the untrained teachers get into troubles since they are forced into technology which is new to them. They get into tense and nervous situations as they fail to use the advanced technology which is being updated day today.

Conclusion:

In the current scenario of the pandemic, it is unavoidable to use technology even for classroom

teaching and learning process which has occupied a lion's share in today's online classroom functions. School, college, and university teachers as well as students should be encouraged to make use of modern technology for virtual classroom. But the benefits are not obvious as the physical presence of communication due to some unavoidable barriers. If it used in a wrong way, it would destroy relationships between the learners and instructors. Let us make the relationships that last forever, and not rely on technology too much to do because we could miss the real intention of teaching -learning process particularly the physical interaction altogether.

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