Research Article

Uses of Technology in Learning of LSRW Skills

Chanchal Hooda[1]*

Abstract:

Teaching is a lifelong learning process as with the time a teacher has to update his/her learning level to meet the requirements of the taught. In this twenty-first era that is also known as the techno savvy, a teacher must have the knowledge of the technology if he/she wants his/her students to get the maximum of the taught syllabi. Many techniques have been emerged related to the field of teaching learning process; now one need not to go far from his home in search of good tutors, with the technology one has become absolutely enabled and even empowered to get quality learning while sitting at home very easily. On the other hand if a teacher or a student lacks behind in various techniques he/she feels himself/herself ignorant when he or she comes in the contact with the updated persons. No one can ignore the importance of the uses of the technology in this fast moving or so called techno savvy era in teaching. In my present paper, I want to focus upon the uses of the technology in learning Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills. Technology has been providing us various techniques to deal with the problems of the students in the classes since its inception. Teachers have been using these techniques to enrich reading, writing, speaking and listening skills which are considered as the four pillars of communication.

Key words: Communication skills, technology, learning process

Introduction:

Man's nature has been always evolutionary. He has been searching, researching discovering and inventing new things to make human's life more easier as well as comfortable. With the advancement of the technology, the man is enjoying and ruling in all spheres. Technology has brought a drastic change in almost all fields, within a minute now- a- days, we are able to send our profile or related field works through emails and others electronic devices. No sphere is untouched with the effects of technology. In the field of Education too technology is playing a great role. Teachers have been striving hard to personalize learning for the taught, technology can help them reach new standards with access to real time student data and teaching related materials. It can provide teachers blended learning environment bringing new methods and approaches for the learning and teaching in the classroom. We can see in our country in many educational institutions the learners are getting education through smart classes. In many institutions language laboratories have been set up so that learners may get good communication skills. In communication skills learning classes technology makes a healthy learning atmosphere where all the learners can learn LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) very easily. In this paper, I am trying to show how technology can be utilized in learning of the above mentioned skills of the communication skills.

In order to have well-rounded communication skills, one has to be good at the four language skills that are also known as the macro skills are Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. These skills create various opportunities for the learners to show their ability in exchanging their ideas at different platforms. These skills instill confidence in the learners; otherwise without these skills learners would not be able to present themselves confidently. They will hesitate if they cannot speak English

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[1]*Assistant Professor of English

frequently and in a proper manner. If they are unable to understand others while uttering English speech, this is also very problematic. If they are not good at drafting, this will create problems at a large scale. Keeping these points in mind one should not be threatened by these barriers as now a days it is very easy to acquire these skills with the help of technology. Every day we are having new tools or applications that may improve one's skills. Technology has been providing various opportunities to excel in every field for ages; in this rapid moving era technology has provided us numerous applications that can enhance a learner's Learning, Speaking, Reading and Writing Skills. Maggie Sokolik says:

Machines are now used as tools for communication rather than simply as ways of delivering automated drills or exercises. A vast amount of reading on any topic in many languages is now available on the web, and the chance to participate in discussions with people from all walks of life is motivating for many learners."

We have apps like enguru: Spoken English app, Learn English Daily, English Speaking Practice, English Listening and Speaking, BBC English Learning, English Conversation Practice, Learn English Language Vocabulary, Saylt, My Talks Tool Mobile, Hear You Now, Predictable ,Proloquo2Go, and many more. With the help of these apps, a learner can learn very efficiently English language.

Listening Skills:

In learning a language the first and foremost requirement is good listening, although listening is a passive skill even then it plays an important role as a person receives the language he/she will respond accordingly. The listener has to be very attentive. Listening skill can be enhanced by paying attention on the sounds of the target language with the proper pronunciation, accent. In learning a second language like English where pronunciation becomes a hindrance in learning, technology can be more helpful in improving it with available apps and devices. These would help them with the right pronunciation and accent of the words. There are some ways through which we can improve our listening skills with the help of technology:

Vocabulary: In learning a second language, one must have a good amount of vocabulary. Technology has been providing us a lot of devices which are very helpful learning vocabulary. There are so many apps like BBC and Step Up that one should adopt if one requires to learn vocabulary. We can listen to various interviews and speech uttered in English language to learn new words.

Pronunciation: If we want to learn a second language, after learning vocabulary, one should be aware of the right pronunciation because if we pronounce a word incorrectly, it will create a problem for the listeners as it may mislead or misguide them. There are very beneficial devices and apps that can improve our pronunciation. The above mentioned apps can be very useful in learning right pronunciation too.

Accent: The next important factor in learning a second language is the accent. We can improve our accent if we listen to accent on various technology based devices. There are many online courses that a learner can use to learn the proper accent of English words.

Stress and Intonation: There are a lot of audios and videos which are very useful in learning stress marking and intonation. Active Listening Skills App for Android covers how a person can show that people are listening to him and provide feedback too.

Speaking: We need to be good speaker as good speaking adds a plus point to communication skills, if we speak a second language properly and accurately. This skill can be improved by having a good understanding of paralinguistic attributes such as voice quality, tone, articulation and pronunciation.

Teachers can enhance this skill by making their student take more and more participation in debate and speech competition. There are some ways which can improve our speaking skills:

Fluency: With the help of technology, today we can make our speaking skills fluent as we listen to the various audios we can improve our speaking skills.

Effective: A second language learner should have an effective command on speaking. Technology helps in learning good pronunciation, accent and stress marking. There are so many apps through which we can listen to various audios or we can see as well as hear to learn effective speaking.

Accuracy: The next feature that we need to acquire in improving our speaking skills is accuracy. Technology based classes help us improve this.

Phonetics: In order to be speaker one must have the knowledge of phonetics. In our country, due to lack of the proficient English teachers we remain unaware of the knowledge of phonetics but with the help of BBC and Step Up apps we can learn the phonology of English language.Ummo is an iOS app that trains the learners by monitoring their speech and picking up on the things as clarity, pacing and pronunciation.

Reading: The next feature that we need in an effective communication skill is Reading. If we know the right pronunciation and meaning of a particular word, our reading will be very influential. It helps to cultivate language intuition in the right form, after that the brain imitates them by producing similar sentences to convey the desired meaning. It helps the students grasp the content and make conclusions. Earlier it was considered that it could be achieved by focusing upon the reading of newspaper, magazines, articles and journals. We note many people who start their day with the reading of the newspapers even today. We can enhance our reading skills with the help of available online books. Today e-Libraries are available which provide us a lot of books of our related field. We can opt an online course that we need to learn. So if we want to improve our reading skills we can take due advantage of technology.

Writing: Last important skill of our communication skill is writing skill. To be a good communicator it is also equally important to have good writing skill. In order to have good command at writing skill in English Language, a learner must have a good command at tense, participles, parts of speech etc. It helps to consolidate students' grasp of vocabulary and grammatical forms. It helps the students understand the content and the intention of the written text. A good writer is always appreciated everywhere. There are some important factors which play an important role in improving our writing skills:

Spelling: A second language learner should have a good command on spelling, he must be familiar with homophones, homographs that sound similar but give different meaning as if we write a word with incorrect spelling that might create confusion for example if we write " I will sport you" instead of " I will support you."

Vocabulary: In order to enhance a learner's writing skill, he /she need to learn vocabulary. A learner cannot learn whole dictionary he/ she can learn or enhance his/ her vocabulary step by step as it take time to retain words. If a writer uses a good vocabulary in his/her writing, the impact of his skill will be appreciated. With the advancement of various Apps like BBC and Step Up Learner can enhance vocabulary in a very effective way.

Punctuation Marks: One should have a good knowledge of punctuation marks as a single comma can change the meaning of the entire sentence.

Preposition: One should never neglect the importance of preposition. We should have good command on preposition. There are so many audios and videos that may be very helpful in learning of the preposition. Learners can improve their level with these apps.

Sentence structure: After having a good knowledge of parts of speech and other grammatical forms learners should be able to frame different types of sentence structures. For the learning of the second language sentence structure may create problems to some learners as there is difference between the sentence structure of mother tongue and English language, for example in Hindi we frame sentence according to the rule of **S+O+V** whereas in English we construct sentence in frame of **S+V+O**. With the help of various apps we can learn how to make sentences in English. Ginger is a browser extension app that automatically checks out the written work for errors committed in spelling, punctuation, words and even sentences.

Conclusion:

Thus we can conclude that technology has been providing us many applications that may be used to improve learners' learning, speaking, reading and writing skills in order to have good communication skills. They can join an online course on the related field. Many students have been using BUSUU APP to learn various languages. They may learn how to utter and write a word of English language with proper pronunciation, stress and intonation. These above mentioned Apps are being used not only by students but teachers also use them to make their teaching more effective and affordable. Teachers encourage their learners to create their personal blogs like BLOGGER and WORDPRESS. These apps are used to express ideas and this helps learners how to write blog posts.

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