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The Importance of Modern Technologies in Teaching Speaking to Language Learners

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ANNOTATION

Speaking is considered one of the most important skills in learning a language. Speaking is a necessary tool for communication. In the classroom, enhancing the speaking skills of students has been an issue. In the fast developing 21st century various innovative technologies are being implemented to teach verbal skill in the classrooms. Technology is the way to get access with this our contemporary world.

More than the process of communication, trade and transactions, today technology is widely used in educational sectors. Technological tools have been regarded as ways of helping students enhance language skills such as speaking skill. Internet, podcasts, video conferencing, videos and speech recognition software are considered the best tools for teaching speaking skill. This article is dedicated to the investigation of effective and innovative methods of speaking activities, usage of technologies in developing speaking skills.

KEYWORDS: approach, method, communication lab, podcasts, quick link pen, tools.

Introduction

The English language is increasingly popular and a widely used international language over the globe and it is prevalently accepted as a language for communication. Furthermore, the English language is also the language of science, diplomacy, mass media, and, world information sources. In other words, English is a language that opens the window of opportunities for successful life and career.

In Uzbekistan, a significant consideration in teaching English to learners has been dramatically increasing in recent years. Undoubtedly, in response to the exponential growth in the demand for it to be taught at even younger ages by parents who want to provide their children with worthwhile knowledge. Ministries of education have begun to respond, with the great expansion of provision for foreign language teaching at primary levels in Uzbekistan. After the Presidential Decree –On measures to further improve foreign language learning system–various important and considerable implementations have been accomplished.

Speaking can be seen in people daily activities and business activities. Speaking is an interactive task and it happens under real time processing constraints. It means that they will be able to use words and phrases fluently without very much conscious thought. As skill that enables people to produce utterances, when genuinely communicative, speaking is desire and purpose driven, in other words they genuinely want to communicate something to achieve particular end.

The truth is that every child learns to speak naturally and unaware of the fact that it is actually learning something. People talk to them, sing the songs or read fairy-tales, in other words, they expose children to as much mother tongue as possible. Regarding teaching speaking foreign languages as the second language, Harmer sees exposure to the „new language“ among four basic things that pupils need to be present and clear before they are able to master the language. The other three are to understand its meaning, understand its form and practice the language.

The most important aspect of learning foreign languages is obviously speaking skills.

Methods

Technology can activate the playfulness of learners and engross them in a range of cases. Technology gives learners a chance to engage in self-directed actions, chances for self-controlled interactions, privacy, and a friendly environment in which errors are corrected and required feedback is given. Feedback by a machine offers additional value by its ability to track mistakes and link the student instantaneously to exercises that focus on specific errors.[1] Studies are emerging that show the significance of qualitative feedback in software. When connections are provided to find explanations, extra help, and reference, the importance of technology is further improved.

Currently, there can be used various following technologies. Modern technologies available in education today are:

- Communication lab
- Speech recognition software
- Internet
- TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning)
- Pod casting
- Quick Link Pen
- Quicktionary
- Recording voice

Nowadays, all educational institutions are provided with all cutting-edge devices and education tools to enhance education standards. Especially, it is implausible to envision English classes without using monitors or computers. Therefore, language learners have an astonishing opportunity to utilize computers to hone their speaking skills. By linking suitable software through computer, the students can play it over and over with their own interest and attempt to enhance their speaking skills, which are most significant in this modern IT world.[2] The usage of headphones in the lab makes the students interested in the subject and motivates them to repeat again and again avoiding boring lesson.

Speech recognition software is also worthwhile in improvement of the students' speaking, this can convert spoken words to machine-readable input. The device finds out the accurate grasp of what was read and then gives a positive feedback like “You speak greatly!” or gives the user a chance to try again, in this way the learner can know if he is reading well or not. As the user's skill enhances, the technology does not read

material much in order that the learner reads more. This software also assesses and gives scores of grammar, pronunciation, understanding, vocabulary and gives the accurate forms, for examples if a student mispronounces a word, the learning tool can immediately find it and help rectify it.[3] This device can be very handy for distance learners because they cannot rely on a teacher who corrects their speech and this device can help enhance their speaking skills.

Internet is a commonly accepted term and broadly utilized by people over the world. Students have widely been utilizing Internet in the class to learn English. First of all, Internet is unlimited source of English materials that are really efficacious in learning and teaching speaking.[7] Online teaching inside the classroom also seems to be interesting and urges the students to find out the appropriate materials for them. Students are instructed to do the grammar and speaking exercises which are available online.

Language learners can also rely on Telegram, Facebook, Zoom and Google talk and other applications where students can connect with friends, other students, teacher and even native speakers, these ways of learning have been observed to enhance verbal proficiency in students and assists for the lack of native speakers in the areas where students live and moreover, online lessons and video materials are of utmost importance.

Research

Podcasts are also very helpful for the improvement of the speaking. There is an acknowledged view that listening is an essential and effective way of improving speaking. Podcasts can be uploaded or downloaded on the Internet and these audio podcasts get the learner to familiarize with the foreign language and instructors can use them as important and useful audio material that can be used in class for activities like discussions, besides, in the web, there are even particular podcasts that are for ESL learners and these can include accurate pronunciation of various words. Podcast undoubtedly assists learners in speaking. Pod casting is the combination of audio files with which we can increase our own materials and use it inside and outside of the classroom. Podcasting allows students to use their technology-based learning and it gives entertainment to language learners in educational process.

The function of multimedia assistance in teaching cannot be superseded by various other technological instruments, which does not prove that multimedia can be replacement any other form of instrument.

Some teachers feel to be entirely dependent on multimedia teaching. While, it should be noticed that although multimedia has its unique merits in teaching, the features of other forms of teaching instruments are still irreplaceable. For example, the recorder still plays a role in broadcasting listening material. Therefore, teachers are thought to choose appropriate media and instrument based on the requirements of teaching and link multimedia instrument with traditional one and fully performs their merits, rather than merely pursue contemporary methods.

Some teachers may have the inappropriate concept that they would entirely apply multimedia technology in their teaching. It is also deemed that the more use of multimedia technology makes the better class atmosphere, it also makes students get involved in class participation more actively. Apparently, the students are more interested in learning, but in fact, they feel that they are looked down on.

Quick Link Pen is also one of the most recent and modern technological assistant tool for language learners that enables them to copy and store printed text, Internet links. It allows transferring the data to computers and enables the learner to get the meaning of the word from a ready-made in dictionary. Using this type of

machine seems to be a more comfortable method. Recent improvements in machine translations presents translation engines like GO Translator and Google translator.

Conclusion

In conclusion, using technology in learning a second language has become a real necessity nowadays. This paper has studied briefly how technology can be used in improving the speaking skill of the language learners. Different approaches for using technology in developing speaking skill were elucidated deeply. As technology has developed the integrity of this technology into the language learning process become necessary. The computer is being viewed more as an integral part of the learning activity, and as a means by which skills are delivered to learners.

Contemporary technological tools are much more intriguing, and bring fun and enjoyable learning to the classes, it also motivates the students, and help them to improve their language learning in an effective way, furthermore, these tools help students learn at their own pace and promote learners' independence.

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