

MAGNITUDE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING- A STUDY ON THE ESL THROUGH MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract

The need for English language can be experienced in different ways. In the field of Education, Science, Technology and Communication, one cannot move a step ahead without the use of this language as everything is interlinked or connected to each other. People spend a lot of their money and valuable time in studying English as a language by understanding the need for it globally. The source chosen by the learners is more important as it shapes the life of the people. In the present scenario, the technology has taken giant steps in reaching the audience more effectively and precisely without wasting their valuable time. Therefore, clinging on to these modern methods, one can use the media technology to learn this new language which guides them in a proper path. People can make use of the media tools for effective learning and grasping the information presented anywhere at any part of this world through Internet. The learners need not completely rely only on the books that give them limited information; instead they can use sources that provide them more information to be a platform to showcase their talents. Technology plays a major role in the teaching of English Language. In general, compared to any other language, only the English Language has undergone a drastic change alongside technology. The English Language remains as a vague without the Technology. Media provides the necessary information required which also provides the platform for the enhancement of creativity. From this study, one can learn the effects of using mass media technique in teaching English that can rapidly develop the learning process among the English Language Learners.

Keywords: Media, Technology, Communication, Technique, Mass Media, Enhancement

Introduction

The Word Lingua is a Latin word from which the term Language is derived. The term Lingua means tongue that has different interpretations. Language undergoes a continuous process of growth and therefore it is often referred to as a living phenomenon. The languages we speak these days have a different tone and slang that is different from that of the Language spoken by the ancestors.

“A Language is a device that establishes sound meaning correlations, pairing meanings with signals to enable people to exchange ideas through observable sequences of sound” (Ronald’s W. Langacker)

Language is considered an expression of thoughts which the humans converse for their wellbeing. While going for the origin of the language, one must understand that it is not the language that has been developed over years but rather the human beings who developed over time so that they became capable of using the language. The natural communication system is the human language. It is not only used to express one’s emotions but also to convey the information from generation to generation. The difficulty in studying the evolution of the language is that the evidence of the language is scattered. These spoken languages had not left any fossils behind but only the overall shape. It is obvious that in most of the religions the divine source provides the human with the language. If infants were allowed to grow up in an environment where they could not hear any language, it is said that the infants would spontaneously speak out the God given original language.

The human auditory system is present already and it functions even before birth. This early processing helps to identify the sounds in the environment. Thus, the human beings are able to make a connection between the sound and the things that produced that sound. There are four theories that hold the field.

- The bow-wow theory
- The ding-dong theory
- The pooh-pooh theory
- The gesture theory

The Bow-wow Theory

This theory is highly related to the process of imitation. In this, the man attempts to imitate some characteristic sound of the object to which one refers. The infant adopts a similar

method of expression one is reproducing the behavior of their ancestors many years ago, the thing that distinguishes a dog from other animals is the barking. The dog barks bow-wow and the child imitates it calling a bow-wow. The best example for this can be the snakes. One can identify it with the hissing sound and the water has a liquid sound.

The Ding-dong Theory

This theory is particularly associated with a German philologist Max Muller according to whom, the beginning of the language is found in the sense of rhythm. This rhythm is innate in man even from the beginning state of one's existence and thereby it is related to the rest of the universe which is again rhythmical. It is the imitation of the movement rather than the imitation of the sound. The example for this is the swaying of the tree in the wind, the purling of the stream etc.

The Pooh-pooh Theory

This theory deals with the emotional interjections evoked by pain, pleasure, surprise, wonder etc. This is called pooh-pooh theory as the expression is a scheme in the present day explanation of the principle. The term pooh-pooh is expressing contempt or disgust.

The Gesture Theory

This theory is put forth by Wilhelm Wundt and it was restated by Sir Richard Pagar. According to him, the earliest method of communication started with the gestures stating that language is something natural and spontaneous. Even today when one beckons to a person he/she knew, the other person will come to them. Each and every gesture of hand while speaking is accompanied by a corresponding movement of the tongue or the jaw and thus the hand gesture came to be displaced. Thus, man passed from sign language to spoken language. These are the four major theories concerning the origin of the language.

The Theories behind the Teaching of English Language

In teaching English as foreign or international language there are different methods which include structuralism, Behaviorism, Rationalism, Cognitive psychology, interactive approaches etc. This helps in knowing how the language learners accomplish their language proficiency. Being a professional English educator, they have to be familiar with the Language Proficiency.

Structuralism and Behaviorism

This is mainly based on description which includes observation of the performance, analyze and reinforcement for the students. According to this structuralism, one's language is

learned from observation of human language and recognizing the differences among different structures etc. Behaviorism is based on psychology and education mainly in illustrating how a language is automatically produced by a person.

Rationalism and Cognitive Psychology

According to this cognitive psychology, humans develop their ability through thinking and cognitive skills. It is said that meaning, understanding and knowing are the significant data for psychological study.

Constructivism

The language teaching is possible through interactive discourse and co-operative group leading. The language learners who are taught by this method will be fluent in their communication. In the globalized world, many English language teachers tend to define themselves through creative knowledge and activities by English as international language. From this, it is understood about the importance and the necessity of the language.

The Status of English Language in India

In a country like India with the two sets of people going for and against the teaching of the English language, one cannot make any development. When people come up with new ideas, they easily ignore them and try to exclude them from the society. As a result, the teaching of the English language is highly affected and at the same time the language cannot be developed further. Nowadays, the Government is taking various measures to develop the language by bringing in easier methods of teaching the language to the students. However, the people are still doubtful as to follow the new methods or not.

In India, it is said that English has become the language of the elite. People think that the prosperity lies behind the fact that learning English as a first language can improve them by different means. People opposing the teaching of English Language say that it is unable to afford the English education by private method as they are using English as a medium of instruction in schools to assuage the demand of the poor. Thus the favoritism shows the English language can actually destroy the culture, and the new generation will not know anything about their mother tongue.

In the case of India, it is better to teach multiple languages so that the individuals can operate at the global level. It also aims to bring together local communities that the learners are separated by the economics of language.

The Importance of English Language

The importance of the English language is increasing these days. The Schools and Colleges are trying their best to teach the students the language at a higher level. Even people desire to speak the language, at least, in the basic level for their survival. In the present era, the English language is an international language. While travelling to the English speaking countries, people may not feel hesitant to communicate to another if they are well versed with the language. Even the education system has brought in various methods to teach the language. So the language is learned by an individual at a very young age. As the learners move on in their life, they can tackle the situation with their language. The individual will have a free flow of language as it has been taught to him from the earlier days in his life.

Effective English Language Teaching through Media

Learning a language other than one's own language is a difficult as well as a conscious process. It is conscious as one has to have some knowledge about the language. It is not possible to carry out without the basic foundation. It becomes difficult when one has to work a lot with the cognitive models in an environment where they have limited facilities. The second language is the language that is learned after the first language. The second language is acquired only after the first language. The first language refers to the language one speaks since birth. It can be the language of one's parents or the people who are around the learner. It is also called the language of the caregivers. The caregivers are the people with whom one spends a lot of time in their childhood days. Media Technology is defined as the means or method that supports the human beings in promoting the communication over distances based on the time and space. Media Technology serves as a composer, creator and a producer in managing the information. The need for media is increasing day by day and the role played by media in the life of an individual is irreplaceable. In the Modern days, the children are encouraged to use the media tools inside the classroom. Also, the method of teaching followed these days is entirely different from that of the one that is used in the earlier days. The reason behind this is the large number of students present in the classroom. The best way to gain the attention of the students who range more than sixty in a classroom is to play certain video clips and audios that boost their attention.

The Digital Media and the Technology has brought a change in the way of teaching, presenting the matter in an effective manner and solving the queries of the students. There is a great technology behind this where the message is transmitted. It is Robert Reuter who has

introduced people to the world of Media and he has put certain efforts in making the process of teaching easier for the teachers. There are different online tools that make the process of learning easier. The Blackboard method of teaching and the normal lecturing method of teachers where the teacher stands in the front and teach the students which cannot be called as the standard model of teaching that can transmit the knowledge into the students. Even the teachers feel that they have been forcing something into the brain of the passive listeners. The students do not depend on the teachers these days as everything is present in the Internet sources. This type of event is called the imitation /modeling and it is skill oriented. The learners can initiate the learning process through documentation and exploration. The Digital Media and the tools related to this focus on Directed Teaching. The Media Technology includes some main factors namely the Sender, the Message, the Channel or the Medium, the Receiver and Feedback.

English is a language that is spoken more commonly helping the learners of the language to enhance their communication. The change in interaction is the basic foundation that paved the way for further development. In the olden days, everyone knew the different signs and symbols used then. In the mid-eighties people wrote letters to communicate with their friends and families. In the modern days the interaction between the people became less and they prefer short texts and messages. The technologies enabled the people to interact and connect shortly. They use short text messages to reply. People take this as a time saving factor as they do not have to sit for hours to write or read a text. The same method is implemented in the field of Education. With the change of technology, the teachers do not go for the chalk and board method as they do not want to write large essays and paragraphs. Instead the teachers started to use the smart boards, white boards, projectors and other smart gadgets for teaching.

The media technologies such as animation, pictures, video conferencing, chat rooms etc. have changed the world into a global community. Thus, it provides the students an opportunity to communicate well in the global community. In the second language teaching, the e-learning plays a major role where the students can hear things from the audios and they can write their points in the form of blogs. The environment provided by the media technology in the teaching of second language consists of specialized language learning activities that include video interaction where the students can record their own voices and hear later for correction. This also

provides a platform for the students to rely on custom-made materials that can link them to the world of Technology.

In the twenty first century, the teachers and students tend to have different groups in the social media. The commonly used groups are WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram etc. The interaction between the teacher and the students take place within the group and even they can have casual talks. The interaction between the teacher and students include short texts that have great meaning behind. The texts that are used can improve the language when people try to use those words in their conversation. It is easy for the teacher to send a video in general to the group they have created and the students can watch and write their comments in the box. Even writing the comments needs good English. People know that in a social group their comments can be read by all and keeping this in mind they tend to use more standard words. When students post something they go for Standard English. All these show the importance of second language in the daily life. The students have shifted their method of content learning to learn seamlessly a lot of things. The media technologies such as animation, pictures, video conferencing, chat rooms etc. have changed the world into a global community which provides the students an opportunity to communicate well in the global community. The environment provided by the media technology in the teaching of second language consists of specialized language learning activities that include video interaction where the students can record their own voices and make corrections. This also provides a platform for the students to rely on custom-made materials that can link them to the world of Technology.

Instead of buying different materials and books at high cost, one can download the application in their mobile phones or computer that helps them in improving their second language. The audio clips for the pronunciation play an important role as one can hear the proper pronunciation with the help of mobile phone. With the help of text books one cannot study the pronunciation part effectively.

Online Tools that enhance effective learning

Italki

Italki is an online platform that helps the teachers and students to connect as a group despite their language. The teachers and students can be from any nation and language background but they

are all connected to have discussions regarding the learning of English language. As the people are from different nations, they can clear doubts they have in other languages as someone will be there to explain which is not possible by any other means.

Pal fish

The Pal fish is an online tutoring application that again connects people from every nook and corner of the world. A group of English speakers mostly native speakers is present who communicate with the group of students or the learners of English via Video chatting method. The Video chats sometimes happen as a group where the trainer addresses a group of 25 students together or individually based on the relation that is maintained between the student and the teacher. The teachers can follow certain method in designing the daily programs as a schedule or just move on with the conversations based on the English language that can improve one's pronunciation. By listening to their words, one can receive a clear cut idea of the pronunciation of different native speakers. The pronunciation and the accent of a British man differ from that of an American.

Culips

Culips is another online tool that has a set of Listening based lessons in its assignment or homework. The duty of the student is to go through the lessons based on listening that has been posted for them by the trainer each day. The student must listen to the audio or video clipping carefully and answer the questions that have been attached to it. Different episodes are offered to teach new English terms every day. The students are valued based on the response they give in return to the questions asked. The topics being discussed in this particular application is countless and endless.

Memrise

Memrise is an application or online tool that is known for teaching Phrases and Vocabulary. In this, the teacher can use a flash card or placard and display it to the student by posting it. By seeing it, the students have to take down the phrase or vocabulary and build a sentence with it and submit it the next day. It is practiced in such a way so that the students can memorize it by the time of writing it. When a word or phrase is written several times, it can easily be memorized. By building a sentence for the word or phrase one can easily remember the

meaning of the word. The students can also bring in alternate words while practicing the given words so that a number of words can be used during their communication.

ClassDojo

This application helps in teaching English language to the students by preparing a format beforehand. In this, trainers prepare in advance the task of the day and give instructions to the students to carry out the task. The trainers discuss the portion with the parents by sending them notifications so that the parents can make sure whether their ward has submitted the task of the day. Having a task each day makes the students to search for or gather information so that they would be able to complete the task perfectly.

Cambly

This online application helps in connecting the English language learners from different parts of the world with the trainers who are native speakers of English. They form a group and the trainers can assign certain class hours during which all the students and other trainers take part. The trainers can teach the language in group or individually. If a trainer has any doubt at the moment of teaching, other trainers can help that person immediately as they are present in group as listeners. This application is very simple and convenient to use.

Google Classroom

This is an online tool in which the teachers and students feel connected. It helps a lot in teaching the students by posting the materials needed for the learning process. The teachers can track the students' movement in learning process by posting the assignment and homework. The students are advised to do the assignment and submit it before the due date. Also marks are awarded based on their performance. This Google Classroom application is accessible from all devices at any time and at any place. This application also improves effective communication and shares the message quickly. This application also quickens the assignment process and can be sent to the teachers for evaluation. The teachers can get effective feedback from the students once the process of teaching is finished. This application has the commenting section or the comment box in which one can comment on the post. It is more secure than any other application and keeps a record of the conversation in private. This application needs no paper and therefore there is no risk in printing or handing out written works.

Amazon Kindle

This is for reading by which one can develop both reading and communication skills. People can make use of this application as vocabulary builder through which one can learn a lot of new words. People with good reading habit are always referred to as storehouse of words, who keep a lot of new words in stock. When learners are well versed in vocabulary, they gain the confidence to speak in English. The learners might be motivated to read a lot of books by getting themselves into this application. Nowadays the Amazon Kindle has provided audios to which one can listen to and get the proper pronunciation of those new words. This practice also enhances the social learning among people.

Conclusion

The importance of English is explained in each and every online tool that motivates the student to learn such a language with higher demand. The Online tools also help the students in their career programs by giving them notifications regarding the Job offers and certain YouTube videos are meant for motivating the students to take part in the interviews. The language learning tips are made by the YouTubers in the form of Videos with certain illustrations that is easily stored in the brain of the learners. The teachers also take a lot of efforts in bringing the modern method of teaching. The online classes are more prevalent these days because of the Pandemic Disease and people are trying to get acquainted with the new method. People must understand that in a way or other they have to change themselves one day because of the technology. Even in the normal life, the people try to use the Online Banking method, Google Pay etc. which are more convenient these days. Even the electricity bill is paid through Online. One cannot blame the Government authorities and tell them that the facilities are not provided to make the online payment. People are trying their best to adapt themselves to the current situation. The same is applicable in the field of education and one must use the modern gadgets for easy learning. The Online tools help the students in learning the Language like a native speaker.

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