

THE USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING ENGLISH

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***Abstract.** The application of modern technology represents a significant advance in contemporary English language teaching methods. Indeed, Mohammad Reza Ahmadi (2018) maintains that electronic teaching programs have become the predominant preference of instructors since they arguably boost positive student engagement with teachers and incentivize overall English language learning.*

***Key words:** technological skills, technical developments, modern technology, educational tool, language knowledge ,computerization, multi-media devices, audio-visual aids, language curriculum.*

Most contemporary English language teachers now actively incorporate a range of technological aids designed to facilitate optimum teaching delivery. The current research therefore addresses various elements of the technology used in English teaching by devising innovative curricula which harnesses recent scientific and technical developments, equip instructors with the technological skills to ensure effective and quality subject delivery, provide technical media such as audio-visual and modern technical programs, and create student-teacher platforms which maximize positive language learning outcomes.

For the purposes of this study, the relevant literature has been reviewed, technology defined linguistically and conventionally, and correlation with modern teaching skills fully evaluated. In light of this, the researcher outlines the fundamental research problem, elucidates the significance of the research objectives and hypotheses, and presents the findings. The paper concludes by offering a number of recommendations which may further contribute to the

improvement of teaching methods by advancing the widespread application of modern technology.

The use of modern technology in teaching English is broadly understood to encompass an innovative application of methods, tools, materials, devices, systems, and strategies which are directly relevant to English language teaching and lead to the achievement of the desired goals. Thus, while technology is now generally accepted as an important educational and auxiliary tool across a range of teaching and learning contexts, it is particularly true of English language teaching since it affords a number of potential opportunities to enhance both the content and delivery of the pedagogies typically associated with traditional English language instruction. This is primarily achieved by enabling the student and/or teacher to revisit problematic content time after time until it is fully understood and assimilated. Familiarity with the concept of using modern technology is not merely limited to the use of modern appliances and devices, but rather obtains to the introduction of innovative systems and methods of teaching which facilitate faster and more comprehensive learning progression. According to prevailing pedagogical theories, in utilizing the learning potential of technology students are better able to acquire and hone their language knowledge and skills. The use of technology in teaching English consolidates the integrated view of the modern means system and association with other components which benefits students by achieving the required results.

The use of modern technology in English language teaching has therefore become indispensable, especially in the wake of unprecedented developments across numerous fields and disciplines. It is essential that the education sector keep apace of the global technological revolution by adopting modern technological means such as computerization, multi-media devices, mobile phones, audio/visual effects applications, and social media, to optimize English language instruction and equip teachers to connect with classroom language learners in a systematic and advanced way. The Internet provides easy, immediate, and virtually unlimited access to software, applications, and a host of ancillary platforms and materials

which can expedite English teaching and learning. While these affordances may be widely available to all, it is noted that teachers often play a key role in operating the different tools and teaching methods. Moreover, many such programs are specifically designed to promote effective English teaching whilst simultaneously increasing learner understanding and attainment of English language skills.

Jacqui Murray (2015) taxonomies the rationale for using technology in English language teaching as follows:

- a) Technology allows students to demonstrate independence.
- b) Technology differentiates the needs of students.
- c) Technology deepens learning by using resources that students are interested in.
- d) Students actively want to use technology.
- e) Technology gives students an equal voice.
- f) Technology enables students to build strong content knowledge wherever they find it.

Merits of Using Technology in English Language Teaching

English-language students are highly implicated in and motivated by the use of the modern technology such as radio, TV, computers, the Internet, electronic dictionary, email, blogs, audio-visual aids, videos, and DVDs or VCDs (Nasser, 2017) as follows:

- a) The use of technology in teaching English is deemed interesting and motivating as the student reacts with the subject.
- b) Technology plays an important role in the process of teaching English by enhancing timely understanding, and thereby enabling students more learn more efficiently.
- c) Teachers perform more effectively when using modern technology since they can communicate with the students through a variety of ways.
- d) The use of modern technology enables both teachers and students to access a wealth of books, publications, and references which are directly relevant to the English language curriculum.

e) Modern technology encourages student self-sufficiency which better equips them for the future.

f) Unlike traditionally passive teaching methods, modern technology teaching and learning aids incentivize both teacher and student.

Drawbacks of Using Technology in English Language Teaching

a) Many teachers and students have limited access to modern technology.

b) The role of the teacher can be relegated in cases where students become over-reliant on modern technology.

c) It can reduce student social activities by consuming most of their free time.

Recommendations

a) Substitute modern technology for obsolete English language teaching methods.

b) Provide appropriate training for all teachers to use modern technology in English language teaching.

c) Adopt complete electronic curriculum projects in line with modern requirements.

d) Urge English teachers to encourage students to use modern technology as a means to develop their language skills.

e) Establish Internet networks within educational institutions to equip teachers to properly avail of modern technology.

f) Provide appropriate student training in all forms of available technology in order that they maintain pace with the requirements of the electronic curriculum.

g) Establish an English language teaching portal school-home connection to enable students to learn in their free time.

h) English teacher development of classroom dialogue and discussion programs which use modern technical means such as screens, projectors, and smart panels in order to promote student mastery of the English language.

In summary, it is clear that despite genuine efforts to modernize traditional methods of teaching English, residual obsolete practices should be phased out and replaced by the use of the available technology on offer via computer, smart devices, display, audio-visual materials, and electronic approaches. This study

underscores the vital educative potential and numerous benefits of technology in the language classroom for positive learning outcomes in the language classroom and the wider world, the financial implications of setting up the infrastructure, and encouraging teachers to overcome their anxieties around of teaching technologies. Of course, the purpose of both traditional and modern technologies is to maximize students' English skills and provide a space where learning can be best facilitated. One of the ultimate goals of using modern technology is to actively engage them students in language learning and motivate them to acquire English language skills in a practical and realistic way. This can be achieved through an open learning context which fosters openness and access to the subjects and information through modern technology means, wherein students are motivated and directed to communicate with each other. In terms of future development, it is clear that multimedia will be integral to the student-centered process of teaching English to modern standards. As such, the quality of teaching and application of students to modern educational foundations would benefit from an extensive survey of English language skills in to improve overall communication proficiency.

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