



The Role Of Fusion Of Technologies In Teaching English As A Foreign Language

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Abstract: The aim and objective of this article is to throw light on the function of technologies and their integration in teaching English is a foreign language or a second language. In the 21st century it is evident that technology, especially information technology, has encompassed almost all the domains of life through computers, mobile phones, social media, television and other electronic gadgets. The advancement in technology integration has brought sea changes in social, cultural and economic spheres. Besides, there is continuous up-gradation in technology and it can be said that ‘changing’ can be the only reality in the present century and the pace of it is so fast that it can’t be caught up at times by the layman. Technology integration in teaching English has been adopted in all the countries where English is either a foreign language or a second language. This has changed the teaching and learning process and brought in classroom dynamics.

Terminology: classroom dynamics, integration, lingua franca, gadgets, dynamic, fusion

Once, the means of livelihood was at the first place and education was at the second place. Now education and the means of livelihood are moving hand in hand. In the past, the aim of education was considered as the transmission of knowledge by the teachers to the students; later, the goal of education was viewed as facilitating students’ autonomous learning and self expression, but now the goal of education is to earn a living in addition to the previous two. As a result, education has acquired more and more prominence and the medium of instruction is English. Even a manual laborer in a village has become very particular about his children’s education. He becomes panic stricken if his children are not able to speak English. It should be agreed that there has been enormous influence of technology integration on education of late and it is influencing teaching and learning process rapidly. It is wondered whether the days of ‘chalk and talk’ have slipped into the past. There are digital classrooms and students are digital natives and they have become the speakers of the technological language. Doubtlessly English has become the binding cable and the voice of various technologies.

Students have grown up with technology. In the meantime, the usage of technological tools or gadgets in teaching and learning process, is indeed, has become a necessity, but seldom a choice. This is indeed a sea change, which has slowly crept into the classrooms whether they are of a school, college or university. The other noticeable thing to be reckoned is the phonation of these technologies is English no matter if English is a native language or a second language or a foreign language. With the integration or fusion of technology, problem is faced by the countries where English is a second language or a foreign language. Once there used to be only one or two English using teachers in a school or college and the remaining teachers used to confine to their vernacular language, but due to the sea changes, every teacher or lecturer has to be the user of English on the grounds that the very medium of teaching being English.

Students used to learn English only from the English teachers in the days gone by, but now they learn it from every teacher in English medium school, college and university. There is no professional course like engineering or medicine which is taught in any vernacular language by reason of lack of vocabulary. The only richest language in the world is English for it has borrowed words from almost all the world languages. Besides, the whole world has become a global village, with globalization, where the lingua franca is English. In addition to it, the integration of technology has changed the face of the job market too. Owing to the development in information, communication and infotainment technologies, English has wiped out the barriers among the countries in the world. Sharing of information across the countries is happening only in English in majority of cases. It can be said that English is the kingpin in international communication.

As a result, the second language or the foreign language, English has become prominent for the individuals in the global village. At most all the countries agreed that English as a common language willy-nilly, especially the countries like China, Japan, Russia, Korea, etc which were adamant, once, to allow English into their educational institutions. When it comes to present, the need of the hour is English teachers have to adopt technology integration: the resources like, computers, smart-phones, digital cameras, projectors, social media platforms, internet and other software applications in daily classroom teaching as well as in the management of an educational institute. It is already stated above that the days of 'chalk and talk' are on the verge of disappearance. Thus integration or amalgamation of technologies in teaching English is looming large.

Owing to the Covid 19 pandemic, online classes came into existence and projects in professional colleges were uploaded through smart-phones or tablets or laptops or desktops and they are still being used whenever the need arises. Teaching English can't be done effectively by following the conventional methods in which the teachers were the active participants and the students were the passive recipients. Such traditional methods in digital classes are a misfit. Once, students used to learn English just to pass it in the examination or to show their performance in it. They didn't open their mouths in English classes for it was one way communication. English was treated as a subject, but not a language. The traditional teaching deprived students of being active and communicative in the classrooms for they were not involved in the teaching. Now, in the changed scenario, the purpose of English is for communication, not just to pass it, and so the classrooms have become dynamic and the classes are interactive. Teachers apply communicative approach and there are overhead projectors in every class and teachers use various softwares to make the students communicate with one another in English.

The integration or fusion or amalgamation of technology has brought classroom dynamics which decimated the formula of one was a giver and other was a receiver. There is functional English with which students within a class have an opportunity to interact with one other. They talk about something, they make questions, others give answers, they learn and practice how to express their feelings and opinions and they learn what kind of language should be used in a group. It is like taking society into the classroom. The other benefit for the students is all the subject teachers also teach in English and follow interactive method. This necessitates the students learn and practice English as long as they are in the educational institutes. In that way students can learn English through their personal and practical experience and this dispels their fear of speaking English. Modern teachers must inevitably be able to incorporate different modes of communication to serve a range of students. They have to determine the individual needs of students and students will also make teachers more aware of their teaching methods, and help them integrate different elements into lessons as suitable.

Once students active and get rid of the irrational dread of speaking English, they can watch English news, videos or English movies with subtitles and understand them. There are manifold videos on English language and literature in Internet. Learning English through technology is a fun for students. Students can get access to the sites, can make use of them and improve their English. Confidence plays a key role here, once they have acquired confidence in English, that can widen their horizons and nothing can stop their growth. Good command of English is otherwise good command of subjects. Teachers have to understand the simple thing that the voice of science, technology, medicine, commerce and industry is English. It is true that grammar is important when English as a foreign language, but it should be taught in an applied way rather than grammar as such. To adopt that applied way, technology has to be employed in the classrooms.

Conclusion: In this paper, light is thrown on the trend of the integration or fusion of technologies to teach English has escalated globally, especially, where English is foreign language or a second language. More in particular, classroom dynamics and smart-phone assisted English language teaching and learning are getting more interested. When one likes something, one doesn't get bored of it. When the students learn liking English, they will find other ways and means related to it. With the advent of overhead projectors, teachers are able to make the students participate in activities like, situational conversation, picture description, vocabulary improvement, expansion of clues, storytelling, listening, reading and writing skills. Thus technology integration brings more effectiveness and activeness into the classrooms and it increases good motivation to learn English. These positive effects on teaching English can empower the student community and ultimately they are successful in job market. It can be accepted that the integration of technology in teaching and learning English will continue more effectively in the days to come. As the medium of instruction is English, students can learn English in every class and this has widened the scope of learning the second language or the foreign language, English. Technology has become the super highway for the instant accessibility to information. It can be said that if one has information and knows how to make sentences, there will be fluency in speaking. So modern teaching of English necessitates the usage of technology integration or a fusion of different technologies. 'Happy teaching and learning!'