The Use of technological Aids and Tools in Teaching/ Learning English

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Abstract

English is inevitable for all the people to learn. Authentic materials, aids or tools should be used to motivate or increase learners' interest. Audio-visual aids are sensitive tools and instructional devices. They are helpful in teaching and learning of accent, pronunciation, articulation, grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure. Mobile apps are used for teaching or learning English language skills.

Keywords: Authentic Materials, Mobile Apps, Technological Aids and Tools

Introduction

In the present globalised scenario English is the unique language for communication in all aspects. Everyone has to use English for communication in their day-to-day life. It is inevitable for all the people to learn English. As it is a foreign language, learners cannot understand English as they understand their mother-tongue. They feel that teaching and learning of English is not an easy process.

> Guariento & Morely (2001) says, "Authentic materials help to motivate learners learn the language by making them feel they are learning the 'real' language".

> Hyland (2003, p. 94) states that one of the most important advantages of using authentic materials is   that it increases learners' motivation and reflects positively on their learning process.

The above cited statements reveal that learners need authentic materials or tools which help and motivate them in teaching-learning process. In this process, student's interest is important for which authentic materials or tools should be used to motivate or increase learners' interest. For centuries, books and other printed materials have been used as main source of tools in teaching/learning. An old Chinese proverb says, "If I hear I forget, if I see I remember, if I do I know." It highlights the importance of sensory perception of teaching - learning process.

> "Audio visual aids are any device which can be used to make the learning more effective, more concrete, more realistic and more dynamic."Kinder

"Audio-visual aids are those aids which help in completing the triangular process of learning.ie, Motivation, classification, stimulation". Carter.v.Good

Audio-visual aids are sensitive tools and instructional devices in which message can be heard as well as seen. They are very much useful and helpful in teaching and learning of accent, pronunciation, articulation, grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure, etc.

Type of Aids and Tools in Teaching/ Learning

In the present days many different varieties of aids and tools are available. They may be classified three groups as:

Visual Aids (visible objects):

Text Book	Black Board	Models
Pictures	Charts	Maps
Flash Cards	Flannel Board	Bulletin Board
Magazines	Newspaper	Journals
Overhead Projector	PPT/Slides	Handouts

Audio Aids (audible devices):

Radio	Tape Recorder	Gramophone
CD, DVD	Walkman	Headphones

Audio - Visual Aids (both audible and visible)

Television	LCD/Film Projector	Film Strips
Tablet	Computer	Mobile (Smart) Phone

The Use of Technological Aids and Tools

Mr. Asokan Pichai, Senior Vice-President, Learning & Development in employee training company, TalentSprint, Hyderabad says, "Today technological aids are being

used widely for teaching learners of all ages. For adult learning focused on employability and experiential learning programs, technical aids are indispensable!"

Apart from traditional teaching aids and tools, a wide range of audio/visual/technological aids and tools are being used in the teaching-learning process. The use of technological devices or gadgets (Television, LCD/Film Projector, Film Strips, Tablet, or Computer) in the classrooms, seminars or conferences is a successful and comfortable environment to the learners as well as teachers.

The Use of Mobile Phones and Apps

In the present hectic day to day life, most of the learners use mobile (smart) phones for learning English communication skills, for which internet connected mobile apps are used for teaching or learning English language skills like LSRW as well as vocabulary and grammar. The following are some of mobile apps available in the internet connected world.

Culips ESL Podcast (http://www.podcastchart.com/podcasts/culips-esl-podcast)

Duolingo (https://www.duolingo.com)

English LaunchPad (http://appsforinstructors.weebly.com/english-launchpad.html)

English Listening and Speaking (https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/english-listening- speaking /id1016970655?mt=8)

English with Lingualeo (https://itunes.apple.com/in/developer/lingualeo/id480952154?mt=8)

Fun Easy Learn English (http://www.funeasylearn.com/app/learn-english/)

Grammar Up (https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/grammar-up/id313112265?mt=8)

Hello English (https://helloenglish.com/)

Johnny Grammar's Word Challenge (https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/apps/johnny-grammars-word-challenge)

LearnEnglish Grammar (https://www.hongkiat.com/blog/mobile-apps-learn-english)

Lingua.ly (http://lingua.ly)

Memrise (https://www.memrise.com)

MyWordBook (http://www.ipadenglish.net/2012/04/mywordbook-2.html#.WmWPBK6WbX5)

Sentence Builder (https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sentencebuilder-for-ipad/id364197515?mt=8)

SpeakingPal English Tutor (http://www.speakingpal.com/hi)

Some Useful Websites for Teaching/Learning English

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Now-a-days there are so many websites available for learning English. Here are some of the websites suggested for learning English.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/

http://www.englishaccentcoach.com/

http://www.glovico.org/en/english/

https://www.oxfordseminars.com/

http://www.english-portal.com

https://writing.colostate.edu/

https://www.myenglishteacher.eu/

https://www.usingenglish.com/

https://www.learnenglish.de/

http://busyteacher.org/

https://www.pearsonelt.com/

https://scottthornbury.wordpress.com/

http://www.cambridge.org/gb/cambridgeenglish/teacher-development

http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/

http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/

http://www.everythingesl.net/

http://www.colorincolorado.org/teaching-english-language-learners

http://www.eslbasics.com/

http://eslgold.com/

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https://www.real-english.com/

Conclusion

In teaching-learning process the role of technological aids and tools is very significant and indispensable. The mobile apps and websites are very much useful and helpful in teaching and learning of accent, pronunciation, articulation, grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure, etc. Learners can be benefited by using these technological aids and tools.

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