Innovative Teaching   Methods in English Language Laboratory for B. Tech Students

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Abstract

ICT is a boon to enhance the teaching learning process and it is proved as one of the blooms of the educational activity in improving effective and meaningful learning. The use of Internet (Social media) for the classroom activities under the supervision of the faculty can make the learning interesting and meaningful. As the language on Whatsapp is mostly English, it has become easier to improve this skill. The present generation of students is found active in communication with the society or social groups through various Social media groups. Innovation and Language go hand in hand. Both technology and English language are found to be equally important and necessary skills.

Keywords: ICT, Language Learning, Motivating, Techno- savvy, Whatsapp

Introduction

Teachers who are Techno- savvy may utilize the Web 2.0 tools to enhance language building even after school hours. These tools can be of great help for the parents too, as there is a facility for the parent account, along with the teacher and student to monitor the work of their child. The role of Information and Communication Technology, hereafter called as ICT, in particular, the use of internet in education sector plays a vital role in bringing the facts closer to the understanding of the learners**.   I**CT is a boon to enhance the teaching learning process and it is proved as one of the blooms of the educational activity in improving effective and meaningful learning.

The use and the impact of ICT on the society is pervasive and has become part of our live. It can be termed as a necessary evil.   It is also not surprising to see its significant role being played in education all over the world. Salehi and Salehi (2012) opined that as a learning tool in education, ICT is being integrated in different fields and instructions. It is used extensively not only as part of national curriculum requirements but also as management assessment diagnostic and statistic tool. The use of Internet (Social media) for the classroom activities under the supervision of the faculty can make the learning interesting and meaningful. Using (Internet) Social media network

in two ways. 1. Mobile   2.Web 2.0 tools. On smart phone mobiles Whatsapp is the most accessible, free and highly interactive with audio & video facility.

Objectives

- Using Whatsapp in enhancing English Language Learning
- Introducing Web2.0 tools and modules

The above objectives were set to meet the following needs:

- To make the best use of ICT
- ICT enables Language teaching and Learning more interesting & motivating
- ICT as a tool to connect language learning globally
- Learning through technology enhances independent learning

This paper proves with evidences that the given objectives are met and enhanced Language learning.

Methodology

Social media is the collection of online communication channels dedicated to community based collaboration. Sharing and interactive sessions are the most happening through these online channels, especially Whatsapp. On smart phone mobiles Whatsapp is the most accessible, free and highly interactive with audio & video facility.

Whatsapp is a cross-platform instant messaging and Voice over service. This application allows the sending of Voice messages, text messages, video calls images and other media, documents etc. This app is available with all smart phones and the service is similar to text messaging services. Most widely used with all categories of people and significantly less than texting messages. Ever since whatsapp has become a popular tool for communication, to all categories of people and it is easy to divert the attention of people using Whatsapp for improving their communication skills in an organized manner. Innovative learning through a popular tool or platform produces instant results. As the language on Whatsapp is mostly English, it has become easier to improve this skill. ICT is used in its best possible way through the given activity based exposure. Surprisingly it has become an easier way to enhance English Language Learning through (15) Different Activities.

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The English Lab for 1year B.Tech is scheduled with 6 modules, focusing on LSRW skills. Each module is provided with discussion questions and activities. The schedule is framed with the prime purpose of enhancing language learning and acquisition of the required skills.   It is also good to make use of technology in enhancing the skills of the students as most of the students are techno savvy. The present generation of students is found active in communication with the society or social groups through various Social media groups. One such commonly used by every literate is Whatsapp group.   However, to use technology for classroom learning, the following challenges need to be met. 1. Availability of internet connection and flair to use technology in the classroom, 2. Prime requirement is the Teacher Techno Savvy not techno-phobia, 3. The biggest issue is that the teacher knowing how to use for enhancing the language learning process.   An experiment was made and by conducting the following activities in enhancing the language learning skills through Whatsapp.

A Sample of Five Activities

Activity 1: acquainting with the text book lessons to score high in the exams

One student from a group of ten selects one important sentence or a phrase from the lesson and leaves a gap in the sentence to fill by the other student and texts the same to all in a group. All the other students in the group read the text and fill the gap and texts back in a given time.

   Outcomes:
   - Improves textual reading skills
   - Improves Familiarity with text for better results
   - Creates more active group

The below table-1 shows the Activity 1- Acquainting with the text book lessons to score high in the exams conducted 48 students:

Skill enhancement Activity	Reading skills	Clarity with the text	Creates an active group	Improves performance	Remarks
Familiarity with Text book	15	12	11	10	48 Class capacity

Table 1

Activity 2: Learning Correction of Sentences

One selects sentences under grammar, spelling or vocabulary, sends the sentence with a mistake to the group for correction.   The students in the group send the answer, correcting the error. This has been going on in various ELT Scholars groups and collecting, sharing and updating information.

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Outcomes:

- Improves grammar skills
- Improves ability to identify the error
- Strengthens friendship

Table-2 indicating the Activity 2- Learning correction of Sentences conducted on 48 students:

Skill enhancement Activity	Grammar skills	Clarity in Error identity	Creates an active group	Improves interaction	Remarks
Correction of Sentences	22	12	07	07	48 Class capacity

Table 2

Activity 3: Distance Interviews

The teacher records certain important HR interviewing questions and sends to the students to record the answers and send back. This activity improves speaking skills, pronunciation and confidence of the student.

Outcomes:

- Improves confidence levels
- Improves speaking skills

Table-3 indicating Activity 3- Distance Interviews –conducted on 48 students:

Skill enhancement Activity	Speaking skills	Clarity in pronunciation	Creates an active group	Builds Confidence	Remarks
Interviewing skill	11	18	07	12	48 Class capacity

Table 3

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Activity 4: Finding the Emoji

One student finds one Emoji and sends to the group to name it. The other students should identify and send back the name of the Emoji.

Outcomes:

- Improves general knowledge and awareness
- Creates lot of fun while learning

Table-4 indicating Activity 4- Finding the Emoji- conducted on 48 students:

Skill enhancement Activity	Comprehension skills	Clarity in identification	Creating an active group	Building general awareness	Remarks
Technological awareness	24	24	48	48	48 Class capacity

Table 4

Activity 5: Face Reading/Book

One student will take a photo of his own and ask others to read out his feelings or write on the sent photograph in 3 lines. The other student should express his descriptive vocabulary and send the answer back or inspect the sent picture or photo and answer whether it is Hot or Not and Why.

Outcomes:

- Improves   vocabulary
- Creates lot of fun and while learning

Table-5 indicating Activity 5- Face Reading/Book- conducted on 48 students:

Skill enhancement Activity	Comprehension skills	Clarity in identification	Creating an active group	Improves interpersonal skills	Remarks
Interpersonal skills	20	34	48	48	48 Class capacity

Table 5

These activities create a lot of interest and fun in learning of English. It proved that the enhancement of language learning is done without much hard work. It can be said as a student centered activity. Hence teacher may give a try for fast and interesting learning using such tools.

Conclusion

The role of Information and Communication Technology or ICT plays a vital role in bringing the facts closer to the understanding of the learners**.   ICT** is a boon to enhance the teaching learning process. Teachers with Techno- savvy are able to make the best use of ICT and to make Language teaching and Learning more interesting and motivating. They can use ICT as a tool to connect language learning globally and enhance the teaching learning process through technology independently. Innovation and Language go hand in hand. Both technology and English language are found to be equally important and necessary skills. Hence students are equipped and introduced to new methods and tools of learning.

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