The Role of Smart (Mobile) Phones in Learning and Improving English

Mr. Phani Kumar V (phani9kumar@gmail.com)
Software and Technical Analyst, Hyderabad, India

Abstract

The use of smart phones makes it essential for educationists to discover methods for using this new pattern in teaching-learning. A number of studies in integrating the use of mobile phones in teaching English indicate that the use of mobile phones has improved the capability of the students to improve their outcomes in language learning. Mobile phones simplify the teaching and learning process; they endeavor to recognize the mobile phone applications used for teaching and learning, research the sorts of learning exercises/activities enabled through mobile phones and evaluate the general confines of learning.

Keyword: Learning English, Learning Technologies, Mobile Technology, Smart Phones

Introduction

Now a day's smart phone is one of the essential things of one's life which plays a tremendous role taking part and assisting in the activities of one's day-to-day life. Technology has suffused each aspect of one's life. Subsequently, the field of education has additionally encountered this impact of technology in an incredible manner.

Learning experience irrespective of space bound with the assistance of mobile devices as portable learning. Students are discovered utilizing smartphone for learning translation and retranslation, reading online books, and practicing their communication skills via smartphones (Kukulska-Hulme & Shield, 2008).

Mobile Learning makes adapting increasingly private and individual issues just as it makes learning conceivable in formal and casual circumstances. Technology is changing the manner of communicating, mingling, playing, shopping and conducting business. One new aspect of one's life today is the wide spread utilization of smart phones. The use of smart phones makes it essential for educationists to discover methods for using this new pattern in teaching-learning.

Students are recommended by International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE, 2007) for the use of Smartphones and other alike technologies are intensely encouraged to meet objectives set out for high school students and teachers enabling them to utilize the technologies for education, communication, innovation, information research and collaboration, problem solving and critical thinking purposes in highly professional manner.

The utilization of mobile learning can be of any sort; however when it comes to language learning, mobile learning technologies, for example, mobile phone or Smartphone is being used for different purposes and from individuals of irrespective of nationality, geographical, social and educational background.

Smart Phone and Mobile Technology

The incorporation of information technology and communication technology is bringing great changes to the public activity. Mobile technology and the Internet have become the central driving forces for the improvement of information and communication technologies. Mobile technology is a type of technology that is mostly utilized in cellular communication and other related aspects.

A smartphone is a mobile phone with exceptionally advanced highlights and it performs a large number of the functions of a PC, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system equipped for running downloaded applications. A typical smartphone has a high-resolution touch screen display, Wi-Fi connectivity, Web browsing capabilities, and the ability to accept sophisticated applications. The majority of these devices run on any of these popular mobile operating systems: Android, Symbian, iOS, BlackBerry OS and Windows Mobile (techopedia.com/definition).

A mobile operating system (OS) supports the smartphone and provides the device with advanced computing capacities, such as: a media player, gaming console, camera, video recorder, document editor and GPS navigational device.

The Use of Smart (Mobile) Phones in Language Learning

A number of studies in integrating the use of mobile phones in teaching English indicate that the use of mobile phones has improved the capability of the students to improve their outcomes in language learning. They declare that the integration of mobile phones in second language instruction is satisfactory to students and has a significant role in improving language abilities and related language areas.

Smartphone and other mobile learning technologies can provide opportunities for learners to learn interactively through various platforms as well as making a number of ways and tools available for learners to learn on their own and teach themselves in their way (M Kurtz, 2012).

According to Jacobs (2013) mobile learning technologies enable access to digital content and online communities at days and nights, which make learning different from classroom setting, and help teachers and students, organize their time and use it more successfully. Further, he claims that when students get access to such digital content, they take advantage of their learning as they can adjust to their pace, technique and style.

As far as Smartphone use in learning English, Zilber (2013) states that obviously they won't substitute committed teachers, yet their incessant use by second language students, empowers them adequate English language practice to help their endeavors to learn it paying little mind to their areas. All the more significantly, Smartphones are such gadgets that can be effectively taken with anyplace; they are easy to use and truly appropriate for practice speaking and listening skills; and one can approach on various applications for language practice, be it for vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar or other language abilities.

The majority of the students these days carry wireless mobile phones, small computers graphics, iPads and numerous other technological aids to the classrooms. It is because many students fright of the writing assignments particularly when such assignments require pen and paper; some students frequently complain that as soon as they get their pencils, their minds go blank; some of them are afraid of the mistakes that they might make in spelling, sentence structure or grammar, mechanics or vocabulary when they begin composing their assignments.

Mobile phones simplify the teaching and learning process; they endeavour to recognize the mobile phone applications used for teaching and learning, research the sorts of learning exercises/activities enabled through mobile phones and evaluate the general confines of learning.

Negative Effects of Smartphone Use

Several investigations reveal that Smartphone use in education can have negative effect either on learning or in health related issues. The uncontrolled way and long-time utilization of Smartphone can prompt negative consequences for learning; the inadequate use of Smartphone or either the uncontrolled and long-time utilization of Smartphone can have harmful effects on eyes. If it is used inadequately or irrelevantly, it can preferably take as much time as necessary over assistance you in learning.

Town (2013) suggests the negative effect of utilizing Smartphones in education is identified with students' accomplishment, as learners may become habituated to playing games, chatting or conversing with their companions, and this in reality may be considered as an exercise in futility instead of learning.

Conclusions and Suggestions

Mobile Learning makes adapting increasingly private and individual issues just as it makes learning conceivable in formal and casual circumstances. Mobile learning technologies enable access to digital content and online communities at days and nights, making learning different from classroom setting.

For language learning in particular learners should remember that they need to use Smartphone for short period of time and for learning purpose; and to use Smartphone applications enabling practicing language skills; they use it either at home or in classroom, but keep using it in a controlled way, not wasting too much time for chatting, or playing games as this would lead in negative effects.

The studies on the use of Smartphone and other mobile learning technologies reveal that one can profit a great deal, as they offer language learning openings all over, and this is because of their

entry and availability capacity. In any case, on the off chance that they are utilized crazy and not in consistence with learning targets they can accomplish more mischief than anything to the educational reason.

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