

Potency of Technology in Second Language Acquisition

Chitra Dhanapal

Assistant Professor, Dept. of English , Science and Arts College for Girls, Al-Majardha, King Khalid University, Abha, Saudi Arabia .

Abstract

Technology is no longer simply contributing machinery, it become part of an education especially it gives greater access to the second language learners. This research paper is about the role of technology in learning English as a second language, also on how technology enhances the learning process and the ways of using technology for academic and non- academic situations. At present scenario technology impacted in the field of education, at this situation many young students are digital native, whereas most of them are technophobe and digital immigrants. The main idea of this research has two reasons, the first how technology providing teaching resources, the second one how it enhances the learning experience to the learners in second language acquisition.

KEYWORDS:technology, digital native, technophobe, digital immigrants, second language acquisition.

“Educational technology has significant potential for improving students learning” – Michal D. Bush

The evaluation of second and foreign teaching has been the continuous attempt to renew language teaching through change in teaching method. This attempt finds a way to integrate technology in education. For many years technology have served audio and video recordings added with some playback equipment but in recent years technology has been used to enhance both teaching and learning experiences. Now technology is inevitable in education because it's difficult to find a language classes which does not use any form of technology. Simply Teacher sets up the lectures with any form of technology that focuses learners attention on the structure of the target language and the students receive a great deal of practice with a given target language.

Further technology helps in distance learning programs, it enable language instructors to expand the second language learning opportunities. When we look up in the history during 1990's at Brigham Young University – Hawaii taught a distance education English course from Hawaii to Tanga via telephone and computer. During 2003 University of Wisconsin developed several foreign language courses which have used wireless handheld computer for various classroom activities.

The use of technology never had been a goal in language learning, rather as a tool for supporting the learning process. As a tool it helps inside and outside of the classroom. Technology has broken the traditional teaching and learning methods. In traditional way of learning, students spend most of their time in reading and writing and given light attention to listening and speaking. But as of now technology mixes things up, captures students attention and engages them in an interactive way, like students uses the computer lab, make their own PowerPoint presentation and multimedia reading program

that helps students to develop English fluency .integration with multimedia technology is moving toward what has been called the digitalization of everything in uniformed environment, in relation to this another concept often arise as hypertext and hypermedia.

Another benefit from technology is form of applications , those includes language learning software which helps to associate images with English words and sentence structure to build vocabulary. Second language education has always been in the forefront of the use of the technology in enhancing language acquisition process. In the early 1960's and 70's use of tape recorders and traditional language labs are existed for learners to listen to tapes of the target language and might record their own voice for playback and self-correction. But then in 1980's computer were hailed as the tireless task masters, allowing the second language learners access to the patient, nonjudgmental drill and practice.

Translation other aspect of modification that learner receive as help. There are many translation application learners gets from the internet. Translation helps out to clear the perceptions about meaning but native language only used to get instruction when necessary. So the learner should develop their strategies for figuring out the meaning or guessing the right word rather than relying on the first language.

MALL- Mobile Assisted Language Learning- it's formal and informal mode of learning second language. This is a learning place using content or interaction affordances facilitated by mobile devices and number other portable devices. This way of learning really enhances the learning experience. MALL currently serves not only as a primary sources of language education, also supports the retention and utilization of newly acquired language skills.

With rapid development and emerging technologies will increase the demand for MALL for its learning flexibility and its serving the ideal solution to the busy students and professionals seeking to acquire one or more new languages. There are so many researches are experimenting with the new designs for learning that can cope with and work well for new generation of learners.

Though internet and mobile apps are used wisely, mobile applications stand for a reason because there are many independent MALL apps which do not require an internet connection when being used. This is the major different between web apps and MALL apps. Web apps need constant internet connection whereas most MALL apps do not require an internet connection.

However current trends in education modules especially in language education give a logical point of departure in accessing the value of new technologies for languages. We are in the era of language education in which the emphasis is placed on process rather than product, on function over form. This helps to attaining communicative competency and developing cross-cultural insights and strategies for effective communication. Here there are summary of ESL learner's comments before and after entering internet discourse community.

Before internet	After Internet
"My English won't be that good even in 10 years ".	"Iam not as afraid now".
"English is my biggest problem".	"I've improved, it's because of ICQ or other reasons".

(Summarized from Facebook language learning community)

With these credentials, the technology in SLL is the tool needed to accomplish what the learners wish to do. So internet communication is providing an in-depth look at how one learner was afforded opportunities for successful use of English through technology.

Technology based language learning task have been seen as an exiting opportunity, because it providing rich variety of options for presenting text and adapting to individual level during testing their skills and soliciting responses. The need for the lots of book brought back from institution to home is no longer needed with modern technology because any information related SLL is available on the internet.

Technology offers exciting way for the learning process in SLL; surely with all of the material in English on the internet any learner can find enough comprehensive input for a virtual immersion.This research has an implication for the way that technology is effectively being used in language learning.

References

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