



AN OVERVIEW OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

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ABSTRACT

Technology has occupied a prominent place in very field and currently it has become a buzzword worldwide. The practice of technology in education helps to facilitate learning and improving performance by creating, using, and managing appropriate technological processes and resources. Incorporating technological tools in education makes learning exciting and student-centric. Recently, E- learning tools have made a big breakthrough in the teaching learning process. Incorporating traditional mode of teaching with modern E-learning techniques will make teaching more interactive and eye-catching. The use of application tools is essential for today's generation of teaching. Pupils should be ready to embrace technology so that learning becomes easy and interesting. It is the responsibility of the teacher to play active role in making the students acquaintance with the right E-learning tools and encourage them to use effectively and appropriately. The current paper throws light on the emerging tools and its effectiveness in teaching English. The reader also understands how the above tools support in enhancing the skills of the learners with ease. Some of the efficient tools are depicted in the study to develop listening, speaking, reading, writing, vocabulary and grammar skills of the students.

Keywords: Technology, English language teaching, Effectiveness, E- learning tools

Introduction

Earlier, language was taught as a subject rather than developing skill. But now technology is playing a vital role in language teaching. Language institutes and teachers have begun incorporating some or the other form technology to facilitate the teaching in classroom. The role of the teacher is important in guiding the pupils in accessing the relevant language tools. E learning tools are widely used by teachers to enhance the teaching skills and modify classroom activities and assignments. Activity based learning is given specific importance in English teaching and the use of tools to conduct language activities has made the job easy and interesting.

In fact, e learning tools is playing a key role in English language teaching and many universities across the globe have even allowed teaching the curriculum with tools. Efficient use of technology is incomplete without the contribution of the qualified language teacher and if both go hand-in-hand than the results will be outstanding.

There are many technological tools available to use in the English classroom and many evolving at a rapid rate. The demand to incorporate e teaching methods is increasing and in this technological era many teachers feel uncomfortable to incorporate technology in the classroom. This is mainly due to several factors including lack of available resources to use tools, lack of positive perception about technology or lack of preparation regarding use of E- tools in the classroom. Moreover, the curriculum may not demand the use of technology and it is more teacher specific rather than student centric.



Benefits of effective use of technology in English classroom:

➤ **Attention-Grabbing**

Initially, with the use of technology it is easy to grab the attention of the students and also motivates them to focus on learning the language in the classroom. For today's generation of learners technology has become part and parcel of life and so their involvement in learning with technology helps to learn the subject with interest.

➤ **Interactive**

The best way to learn language is through an interactive learning environment created by technological tools and resources. For students learning a language, it's key to do things with language rather than just learning about language from teacher. Technology makes it possible for students to interact with their language courses and gather a more complete understanding of all the language components. Some students feel more comfortable, less embarrassed to make mistakes and learn from them in this interactive atmosphere.

➤ **Familiarity**

The best way to make sure that students can keep up with the fast-paced advancements in technology is to make them familiar with the tools and programs available today.

➤ **Time**

Efficient use of time Technology can be a huge time saver for teachers and can make some of the most difficult tasks quick and easy.

➤ **Focus**

Focus on content specific tools helps to develop context and makes learning the language more meaningful. Thanks to technology, students can benefit from experiences to which they otherwise may not have access. Whether they are visiting social media sites, reading or listening to the news or participating in online discussions, these experiences are rich and meaningful.

The teachers can engage the learners to become skilled at English Language by using the innovative ELT techniques like English songs, movie clippings, situational dialogues, advertisements, sports commentaries, book reviews and many more. This paper stresses on the need to make English language lessons easy and enjoyable through innovative ELT methods with help of E-learning tools.

There are many educational E-learning tools available to use in English classroom. Most of the technological tools are successful because its applications are so intuitive. Below are a few handy tools to incorporate in teaching.

1. Google Apps

Google Apps is equipped with all necessary tools for communication, collaboration, documentation, storage, sharing, learning and high security. Google Apps for Education includes Gmail, Calendar, Contacts, Drive (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Drawing), Sites, Groups and many more.

- i. Google drive is a free online file storage service developed by Google. It helps the user to store and share files in the cloud. Google drive encompasses Google docs, sheets and slides, an office suite that permits editing of documents, spreadsheets, presentations, drawings, forms. Files created and edited through office suite are saved automatically. Users can access and edit these documents on a tablet device or computer from various locations with their Google account login.

Google Forms can be used to create a test with multiple choice or text based questions. They can then easily share it with a class or embed an entire test/exam on Google Sites.
- ii. Google Calendar helps to add all the classes, time table or upcoming events to it. This can be either shared with selective users or kept public for the class to subscribe.



- iii. Google Docs is a very interactive app with lots of new features, such as research, add-on, embeds gadgets and more. Furthermore, teachers can create documents, store it online, in drive and share with others with a choice of access. For traditional essay writing in classrooms, there is no better app than Google Docs. Google Docs has all the traditional functionality of Microsoft Word but allows for collaboration between students and for easy-to-give and easy-to-receive feedback from teachers through the commenting and suggesting functions. When paired with Google Classroom, Google Docs makes the assigning, collecting, and grading of essays a breeze for teachers and students.
- iv. Google Hangout can be used by end-users or teachers for taking online classes. Classes can be recorded and saved in the class-specific YouTube channel. Tutorials/Webinars are the best way for students to learn and interact. In addition, one can do one-to-one or one-to-many text/audio/video chat sessions.
- v. Google Apps admin can control all apps, access and sharing settings for the institute. In addition, it gives powerful control in the hands of admin to manage and monitor the use of the application.
- 2. Public speaking VR**
Virtual speech app helps to practice public speaking with immersive virtual reality experience. With photo realistic environments, students can prepare for a job interview or a class presentation.
- 3. Brainscape Pro**
This app allows you to search one million topics to get quizzed on using flashcards. Some even use the app to learn languages from scratch. You can also create your own flashcards and share content with others.
- 4. Grade Proof**
GradeProof will go through your essay and come up with suggestions how to fix the problems. It will also check for plagiarism and it will help you to fix it.
- 5. The Interactive Grammar of English**
The grammar in this app is based on the most current research and reflects real situations and real sentences, not just the repetition of archaic rules. The app is progressive, spanning concepts from basic level understanding to complex, collegiate-level pieces of writing.
- 6. Writing Challenge App**
This app allows students to enjoy writing in the guide of a fun, interactive game. The app provides a prompt to get student writing started then, every minute, the app supplies another prompt to add new ideas, words, characters, sentences, places or actions to the plot. Students who have a hard time getting started with creative writing assignments will enjoy the fast-paced, game-like setup of this app. And in the end, they'll have been inspired to write an entire story.
- 7. Writing Prompts**
This app generates fiction, and nonfiction writing prompts, helping students master the skill of the short write. The app uses current events, scene elements, words, pictures, colors, and even random tidbits from fiction works to inspire students to write both short and long pieces. The 600 creative writing prompts are available both on- and offline to encourage student writing wherever they may be.
- 8. Blogging**
There are many blogging platforms around but the two that are most popular are Wordpress and Blogger. Create own blogs and use them as digital portfolios for the year, posting up the best work. Getting feedback from a real audience as well as peers, parents and teachers is a great opportunity for development. We can update the main page with homework tasks, recommended



reading and updates from classroom. We can also create playlists within your channel to organize videos into topics .Mainly useful for enhancing writing skills.

9. LearnBoost

LearnBoost is aimed at both teachers and parents, because it allows them to track student progress in real-time and over a certain time span. Aside from acting as a digital grade book, it can also provide teachers with the ability to upload new lesson plans, create schedules, and even track student attendance. This tool can also integrate with Google Apps and store all necessary information safely in the cloud. On top of everything, it is also free.

10. ClassDojo

It can be used effectively by teachers to better student behavior in class, and to inform parents about their child's performance in the classroom. The app is also able to generate reports which can be shared easily with parents.

11. VoiceThread

VoiceThread is a teaching app which enables both students and teachers to upload photographs, images, clip art, scans, their own drawings, or even PowerPoint slides. Teachers and students can then add their own audio comments to the uploaded materials, which enables creative idea exchange and boost collaboration. It can also be used by teachers to upload a new lesson and provide audio commentary which further explains the subject matter.

12. Socrative

One of the biggest challenges of education is gauging just how well the students have been able to grasp certain lessons and concepts explained by their teachers.. They simply share their inquiry using the app, and the students provide the feedback, thus making the teacher's job much easier.

13. Engrade

Engrade allows teachers to keep track of all their classes with just one application, and that includes managing grades and exporting them to Microsoft Excel. The same app can be used to track student attendance, as well as performance in class. Another useful feature of Engrade is that teachers can create interactive lessons using the materials they have collected online, and even make online quizzes that will prepare their students for future tests.

14. TopHat

Top Hat enables teachers to create interesting and interactive presentations with the goal of enhancing student activity in class, as well as their knowledge retention, teachers can engage students, and check their knowledge of the subject, and this tool is especially useful for revision after each chapter.

15. Trello

Trello is both a scheduling app and a project management tool rolled into one, which also sports a brilliantly designed user interface. Unlike some of the similar apps, this one will actually engage students, especially those which prefer visuals. The app also facilitates communication between students and teachers, which can help them, receive feedback on their learning workflows and assignments.

16. Kahoot

It allows teachers to introduce gaming elements in their classroom in order to engage students and grab their attention. The app enables them to create presentation, quizzes, and collaborate on each new lesson. Students can take part by checking out the presentations on a shared screen, or using their own Smartphone's, tablets, or laptops. Works best for groups.



17. You Tube

One way to collate the videos created by a screen cast tool is to start a YouTube channel and upload them all there. This is simply your own YouTube home page; you can style the background, upload profile information and follow other channels of interest. You can also create playlists within your channel to organize videos into topics and allow students to find them easily. If creating your own videos is not for you then you can create playlists of videos that are already out there that relate to the topics you are studying.

Conclusion

It has been observed that there are many ways of teaching English language, out of many ways available using technological tools in the language teaching improves the skills of the pupils. As students are fond of using and adapting technology very fast, it became easy for the teacher to make them focus on learning with ease. The trainer has to properly monitor and guide the pupils to use the tools effectively and appropriately. Therefore, activity based learning is given specific importance in language teaching. Technological tools not only used to promote learning with interest but also engage the students to acquire the required knowledge to master the skills in the subject.

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