Technology for Enhanced Language Learning

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ABSTRACT

This paper gives a glimpse on various technological tools and sources which elucidates the process of language learning. Communication plays a crucial role for transmitting messages in the Universe. Acquiring and imparting language is a part and parcel of communication. Technology equips a learner in many ways to attain proficiency in language. Now-a-days these tools are efficacious to create rapport between facilitator and learners beyond the classroom. Practical learning and Visualization are possible through technology for enlightening a learner in a unique way. It helps the learners to create the ability for lifelong learning in an easiest way. This paper lime lights the uses of technology and paves the way for the art of learning it.

KEY WORDS: ELUCIDATE, CRUCIAL, ACQUIRING, IMPARTING, PROFICIENCY, EFFICACIOUS AND RAPPORT.

INTRODUCTION

Language is used as a tool to express one's notions, feelings and emotions. It is expressed as words, and symbols or signs (ie) verbal and non- verbal communication. Language attained drastic development through gradual evolution in culture and civilization. Noam Chomsky pointed out "Language is not a system of habits. Ordinary language learning typically involves creativity, forming new sentences and patterns in line with rules of high abstractness and complexity."(p-8) Apart from mother tongue (L1), learning a new language (L2) is a complex one.

But this learning will facilitate a learner to acquire multitudinous language which leads to sustain in a field and ensures learners adaptability. It also enriches learner's imagination, cultural understanding and linguistic skills. The incorporation of language with technology provides away for the blended learning. Bax (2003:6) states about Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL) as "Learning a foreign language can enrich the education of every pupil socially and intellectually and be vocationally relevant. The new technology should form

an integral part of a modern language department's over all teaching strategy

By these means, to coin a communicative-sounding acronym, TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning) can help produce telling results in language performance both in school and in the wider world. It therefore has a place in every modern language department. Warschauer doesn't consider elements of technology such as location of the computer (in the lab, in the classroom, in every pocket), the role of the teacher, the types of activity, and the type of the feedback provided within each approach." (p-13) Technological innovation in modern teaching aids changed the life of the educators forever. Now the learning process occurs without the assist of an educator. This system of obtaining language put forth the idea of learning beyond the classroom. This leads the learners to enhance their language through creativity with the help of the technology without any bound of time and place.

Actually, technology assists n on native speakers to master in L2. Primarily L2 learners listened through headphones and repeated the same with the help of a teacher. But the trend is changed through various technological tools like Mondly, Babble, FluentU, Audionote, Busuu, Flipped classroom, Speech recognition for language, Language Laboratory, Computer as educator, Mobile learning and WhatsApp. Technology has created an opportunity to enhance the process of language learning through numerous applications and websites which are helpful to learn by oneself. As rightly pointed out by Patel "The use of the computer as a technological innovation to display multimedia as a means of complementing a teaching

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method”(Patel,2014,p.1).Let us see how technology occupies the place of an educator.

Enhancing language learning through technologies:

1. **Speech Recognition for Language Learning:** This application is used to fine tune learner's pronunciation. This paves a way for L2 learners to identify their mistakes and make them to correct it independently. This app provides learners to create an immersive learning environment.
2. **Mondly:** Mondly is a language learning application with online conversational agent (Chabot) and recognition of speech technology to support L2 learners to procure language. This app engages the learner throughout the conversation by giving immediate feedback on pronunciation with the help of conversational agent (Chabot). It is helpful for beginner and intermediate learners. It helps to obtain 33 languages.
3. **Babbel:** Babbel is a useful app that allows a learner to acquire a language by spending 10-15 minutes to complete a lesson daily. Most probably the topics discussed here are informative and deals with real world happenings. It has a feature to strengthen vocabulary by seeing the word and hearing the pronunciation. There is an option to record what learners speak. The motive of this app is to surpass pronunciation by the learners what they listened and to promote language learning into language using. It helps to acquire 13 languages.
4. **Audionote:** Audionote is another app to improve pronunciation. In this app learners can record their voice and listen to it. The most interesting feature in this app is while learners play back the recordings they get transcription of their recordings. This will help the learners to review themselves where they are.
5. **FluentU:** FluentU application supports the L2 learners to strengthen grammar and pronunciation. This will be carried out by modifying real time videos, motivational talk, speech into customized language learning sections. These modifications are made especially for education purpose by highlighting the importance of learning. Through flash card exercises learners are made to remember what they have learnt. Videos are ordered by genre and learning level. This helps the learners to find their level and improve their language skills like L1 speaker.
6. **Busuu:** Busuu facilitates with grammar enriching vocabulary exercises and conversation practices with L1 speakers to improve L2 Learners pronunciation and their accent level. This guides L2 Learners from beginner to fluent level. It offers 12 languages.
7. **Flipped Classroom:** Flipped classroom is entirely different from the traditional. It enhances blended learning which emphasize learners to engage in listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. In flipped classroom, learners listen online lectures, videos, talks and involve in various activities like discussion, taking notes, etc. This will be helpful to L2 learners to develop their communication skills.
8. **Language Laboratory:** Learners may feel learning English is difficult. Language Laboratory mainly deals with the purpose to make the learners to participate actively in acquiring language, L2 learners can listen, record and practice with the help of advanced software version. These software render support to learn words with apt pronunciation. Independent learning and self access are possible in language laboratory. The most advanced software in language lab can be used anywhere and anytime via web browser. Cloud based software makes a learner to learn different languages on any gadget.
9. **Computer as an Educator:** Computer acts as a facilitator. To enhance language learning it provides different software not only designed for attaining language but it is helpful to improve learners' communication skills (LSRW). In computer, one can learn by correcting a sentence by using spell checker, grammar checker and e-dictionary. It leads to collaborative learning as well as blended learning. Actually computer will not give information about language, but it will render support to comprehend the language.
10. **Digital Stories:** Through digital stories one can develop their communication skills. While listening to the stories they can get apt pronunciation and accent of a word. It provides new vocabularies.
11. **Games:** Through online language games L2 learners can improve their language. It is entirely different from normal way of learning. By playing this type of games, learners can test their skills and assess whether they have attained the level. Learning language through games will reduce stress and creates interest towards it. Activities and games always focus to teach something in a simplest way.
12. **Mobile Learning/ M- learning:** Mobile phone is considered as miniature of a laptop and portable one. It occupies a predominant position in one's life to maintain prestige. L2 Learners can use this inevitable electronic device as a language learning tool. In Google play store, abundant applications are available which are capable to develop communication skills. Virtual interaction, self learning and developing LSRW skills are possible through mobile learning.
13. **WhatsApp:** In this modern century, we witnessed most of them are addicted to many apps like whatsapp, facebook, instagram, twitter, telegram, etc., in order to maintain a social stature. While sending or posting a message, a person can learn the usage of language from their mistakes. WhatsApp helps L2 Learners to develop their listening skill, speaking skill (by recording and sending a speech), reading skill, writing skill and vocabulary. It makes learners to think in English and helps to enhance their language.

CONCLUSION

In this modern era, Technology has become a part of environment

and people grow up with the advanced technologies side by side. Technological tools are indispensable aids for the L2 language learners. Technology and its advanced applications make L2 Learners to think critically and facilitate effective language learning environment. It has created an opportunity to develop and fine tune language proficiency through various tools and it supports independent learning. These technologies are mainly designed as learner centered and less time consuming. It lays a platform to improve learners' communicative competence and their skills regarding communication. This paper insists that L2 language learner can improve their language learning skills gradually with the assist of these technologies.

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