ԱՎԱՐՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԵՏԱԶՈՏԱԿԱՆ ԱՇԽԱՏԱՆՔ

Թեմա՝ The Use of Information Technologies for Developing Speaking Skills

Հաստատության անվանումը՝ Գյումրու թիվ 7 հիմն. դպրոց

Մասնագիտություն՝ Անգլերեն

Կատարող՝ Նաիրա Բախալբաշյան

Դասախոս՝ Ohաննա Ավետիսյան

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Speaking is one of the skills that students have to be mastered in learning English. Speaking is an essential tool for communicating. In the fast developing 21st century various innovative technologies are being introduced to teach speaking skill in the classrooms.

Technology is the vehicle to get access with this modernized world. More than the process of communication, trade and transactions, today technology is widely used in education.

Technological tools have been regarded as ways of helping students improve language skills such as speaking skill. Internet, podcasts, video conferencing, videos and speech recognition software are considered the best tools for teaching speaking skill.

Technology plays a vital role in the educational learning process. The new form of Information and Communication Technologies are used in teaching effectively in the second language classroom to help learners enhance their speaking skills. Speaking is an important skill to develop their oral proficiency. Speaking means oral production of language activity. Information and Communication Technology used to transmit, store, create, share or exchange information. Many researchers accept that Information and Communication Technology tools play a vital role give a great challenge that can change oral classes and motivate EFL learners to speak. Some of the important ICT tools and applications used in the field of English Language Teaching are Computers, Projector, Television, and Internet. In 1980s, Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) facilitated language teachers and learners to enhance their level. ICT has become more wide spread. Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL) started in 1990s. Technology becomes an integral part of the learning experience and a significant issue for teachers, from the starting of preparing learning experience by the method of teaching and learning process.

The topicality of the research lies in the fact that the use of information technologies in foreign language learning is an important way of developing learners' speaking skills.

This paper aims to discuss some modern technologies available for teachers of English today to enhance speaking skill of second or foreign language learners.

The specific objectives of the research aim

- To study the modern technologies in developing speaking skills
- To analyze the integration of information technologies in developing speaking skills
- To reveal the efficiency of ITs in foreign language learning

The research paper consists of an introduction, two chapters, conclusion, references.

Introduction defines the topicality, the aim, objectives as well as the practical significances of the research.

Chapter one entitled as " Modern Technologies in Developing Speaking Skills" discusses the role and importance of information technologies in foreign language learning. the goal of teaching speaking skills targeted improving students' communicative competencies as a way to aid learners express themselves and learn how to follow the social and cultural rules appropriate in each communicative circumstance. Speaking is a part of the language skills that is important for language learners to develop and acquire.

Chapter two entitled as " The Integration of Information Technologies to Enhance Speaking Proficiency" discusses that the technologies can develop students' critical thinking and allow them to organize, analyze, interpret, develop, and evaluate their own work thus helping them to achieve learning and speaking skills. As the conventional teaching method such as the chalk and talk method seems to be outdated, the modern technologies can be used as a supplement to the classroom teaching method to have a lively atmosphere in the classroom. It is the need of the hour to integrate modern technologies to upgrade the level of English teaching. The modern technologies relax the mind of the students to get into the subject with full involvement rather than a difficult task to do. New technologies in language learning by multiple intelligence and mixed abilities replace with old methods of teaching

Conclusion sums up the achieved results of our research paper.

References present the used sources.

CHAPTER 1

__THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN DEVELOPING SPEAKING SKILL__

Of all four key language skills, speaking is deemed to be the most important in learning a second or foreign language. As stated by Ur (1996), speaking included all other skills of knowing that language. Speaking is "the process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols, in a variety of contexts" (Chaney, 1998).

Speaking is a crucial part of second language learning and teaching, it's an art of communications and one of 4 productive skills, that must mastered in learning foreign language. Good speaking skills are the act of generating words that can be understood by listeners.

According to Brown and Yule (1983), speaking is the skill that the students will be judged upon most in real-life situations. It is an important part of everyday interaction and most often the first impression of a person is based on his/her ability to speak fluently and comprehensively.

Teaching speaking is to teach learners to:

(1) Produce the English speech sounds and sound patterns.

(2) Use word and sentence stress, intonation patterns, and the rhythm of the target language.

(3) Select appropriate words and sentences according to the appropriate social setting audience, situation and subject-matter.

(4) Organize their thoughts in a meaningful and logical sequence.

(5) Use language as a means of expressing values and judgments.

(6) Use the language quickly and confidently with few unnatural pauses, which is called as fluency. (Nunan, 2003)

For many years, teaching speaking did not take much importance on the part of teachers as they continued to teach this fundamental skill as memorization of dialogues and/or repetition of drills. But, things have been changed and the goal of teaching speaking skills targeted improving students' communicative competencies as a way to aid learners express themselves and learn how to follow the social and cultural rules appropriate in each communicative circumstance. Speaking is a part of the language skills that is important for language learners to develop and acquire.

Speaking is a crucial part in foreign language teaching and learning. However, this skill represents a challenge for most students. That is, speaking remains the most difficult skill to master for the majority of English learners (Naciri, 2014).

Speaking is of key significance for English language students to acquire. In this context, ICT, if appropriately used, could play a crucial role in rising students' speaking proficiency. It is essential to integrate ICT in teaching oral expression as it brings the real world into classrooms.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have become within a short time, one of the basic building blocks of modern society. Many countries now regard understanding ICT and mastering its basic skills and concepts as part of the core of education. it should be noted that some people think that ICT generally refers to computers and computer related activities.

 However, IT is defined as a diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate and create, disseminate, store, and manage information. These may include computers, smartphones, tablets, the Internet, broadcasting technologies, etc.

The rapid growing advancement of IT has made potential contributions to English language education for the past few decades. The field of education has been affected by IT, that have undoubtedly affected teaching and learning foreign languages (Yusuf, 2005). Research in the field of education has revealed that IT is beneficial to the quality of education (Al-Ansari, 2006).

In education, IT plays crucial roles in facilitating teaching and learning. The use of technologies has the great potential to change the language teaching methods and techniques (Pourhossein, 2013). IT can provide learners with unprecedented opportunities to practice English and involve themselves in authentic environments of language use (Kramsch and Throne, 2002 In Dang and Nhung, 2014).

In this context, learners can use Skype Chat for oral interaction, or social networking sites as Facebook or Twitter for oral and writing practice. Additionally, ICT enhances learners motivation, learner independence, and facilitates the acquisition of different language skills (Dang and Nhung, 2014).

Besides, the adoption of IT in education can affect the delivery of education and enable wider access to knowledge. These positive aspects of integrating ICT in English classrooms can have a positive impact on students` performance and achievement. Similarly, this can foster better teaching and improve learners` academic achievement. As far as developing learners` speaking skills is concerned, ICT provides great amount of resources that aid teachers and students to get access to authentic materials for teaching and learning speaking skills.

The authenticity of ICT educational resources can be a potential support for teachers in facilitating teaching speaking skills and preparing students to cope with different speaking situation in real life contexts. For this reason, English language teachers have opted for incorporating these emerging technologies into their everyday teaching as such technologies can empower them as teachers and improve their teaching as well (Gumawang, 2012).

The benefits of implementing IT in oral expression sessions can be summarized in the following brief notes:

 (1) It offers both teachers and learners a wide range of authentic materials of the target language.

(2) ICT motivates students to develop their speaking skills.

(3) It bridges the target language culture with the teaching and learning process. (Cited in Ghedeir and Nesba, 2019: 317)

The use of technology has great influence on EFL learners speaking ability inside as well as outside the classroom. Speaking is very important process, and it becomes very essential in enhancing learning, because it gives learners chance to communicate using the target language. As well as the use of the different activities that EFL teacher may use in oral classes are good motivator for learners.

CHAPTER 2.

THE INTEGRATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES TO ENHANCE SPEAKING PROFICIENCY

Teachers have a responsibility to prepare the students as much as possible to be able to speak in English in the real world outside the classroom. Despite its importance, for many years, teaching speaking has been undervalued and English language teachers have continued to teach speaking just as a repetition of drills or memorization of dialogues. However, today's world requires that the goal of teaching speaking should improve students' communicative skills, because, only in that way, students can express themselves and learn how to follow the social and cultural rules appropriate in each communicative circumstance. In the preliminary stage, teachers used tape recorders as a technological device to instruct the students, which later evolved as communication laboratory. The integration of technology into language teaching which was started in the early 1960s and 1970s, assisted teachers to teach second language learners how to speak in the best way possible.

Every day teachers are getting access to some new technologies, which join hand with English teaching. As the conventional teaching method such as the chalk and talk method seems to be outdated, the modern technologies can be used as a supplement to the classroom teaching method to have a lively atmosphere in the classroom. It is the need of the hour to integrate modern technologies to upgrade the level of English teaching. The modern technologies relax the mind of the students to get into the subject with full involvement rather than a difficult task to do. New technologies in language learning by multiple intelligence and mixed abilities replace with old methods of teaching.

Peck and Domcott (1994) outlined some reasons that technologies should be used in schools;

a.technology enables teachers to individualize instruction, which allows students to learn and develop at their own pace in a non-threatening environment;

b.students need to be proficient at accessing, evaluating and communicating, and information;

c.technology can increase the quantity and quality of students' thinking and writing through the use of word processors;

d.technology can develop students' critical thinking and allowing them to organize, analyze, interpret, develop, and evaluate their own work;

e.technology can encourage students' artistic expression; technology enables students to access resources outside the school;

f.technology can bring new and exciting learning experiences to students; students need to feel comfortable using computer, since they will become an increasingly important part of students' world;

g.technology creates opportunities for students to do meaningful work, and; schools need to increase their productivity and efficiency.

Teaching speaking is to teach our learners to:

- ➢ Produce the English speech sounds and sound patterns.
- ➢ Use word and sentence stress, intonation patterns and the rhythm of the second language.
- ➢ Select appropriate words and sentences according to the proper social setting audience, situation and subject matter.
- ➢ Organize their thoughts in a meaningful and logical sequence.
- ➢ Use language as a means of expressing values and judgments.
- ➢ Use the language quickly and confidently with few unnatural pauses, which is called as fluency[1]

There are some categories that can be used as the role of learners in developing speaking skills in the classroom:

- ✓ Intensive - It goes one step beyond imitative to include any speaking performances that are designed to practice some phonological or grammatical aspects of language.
- ✓ Responsive - It consists of short replies to teacher-or student-initiated questions or comments.
- ✓ Transactional (dialogue) - Transactional language, carried out for the purposes of conveying or exchanging specific information, is an extended form of responsive language.

---

[1] Brown, H.D. (1994).Teaching by principles: An interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall Renents pg123

✓ Interpersonal (dialogue) - It carried out more the purpose of maintaining social relationships than for the transmission of a fact and information. These conversations are little trickier for learners because they can involve some or all of the following factors - a casual register, colloquial language, emotionally charged language, slang and sarcasm.

✓ Extensive (monolog) - Here the register is more formal and deliberative. It can be planned or impromptu.

Technology can stimulate the playfulness of learners and immerse them in a variety of scenarios. Technology gives learners a chance to engage in self-directed actions, opportunities for self-paced interactions, privacy, and a safe environment in which errors get corrected and specific feedback is given.

Feedback by a machine offers additional value by its ability to track mistakes and link the student immediately to exercises that focus on specific errors. Studies are emerging that show the importance of qualitative feedback in softwares. When links are provided to locate explanations, additional help, and reference, the value of technology is further augmented. Modern technologies available in education today are:

- Communication lab
- Speech recognition software o Internet
- TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning)
- Pod casting
- Quick Link Pen
- Quicktionary

COMMUNICATION LABS

Software's are available to develop speaking skills. By incorporating suitable software through computers the students will play it again and again with their own interest and try to improve their speaking skills, which are most essential in this modernized IT world. The usage of headphones in the lab makes the students to have interest over the subject and induces them to repeat again and again instead of feeling boredom.

SPEECH RECOGNITION SOFTWARE

Speech recognition software also helps improving the students speaking, this can convert spoken words to machine-readable input. The device recognizes the accuracy of what was read and then provides a positive reinforcement like "You sound great!" or gives the user an opportunity to try again, in this way the learner can figure if he is reading well or not. As the user's skill improves, the technology reads less material so that the learner reads more. This software also evaluates and provides scores of grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and provided with the correct forms, for examples if a student mispronounces a word, the learning tool can immediately spot it and help correct it. This device can be a very useful device for distance learners because they don't have a teacher who corrects their speech and this device can help improving their speaking skills.

INTERNET

Internet is a commonly acknowledged term and widely used by people throughout the world. Students now use Internet in the class to learn English. Online teaching inside the classroom seems to be interesting and makes the students to find out the suitable materials for them. Students are instructed to do the grammar exercises which are available online. Through Internet we can collect data from various sources for any instruction. to improve speaking, students can use Skype, MSM Messenger, Google talk (used to have conferences on line) and other applications where students can connect with friends, other students, teacher and even native speakers, these ways of learning have been observed to improve oral proficiency in students and make up for the lack of native speakers in the areas where students live and what is more, on line conferences also enhance intercultural awareness, motivation and raise the level of interaction. Over the internet, students can find a lot of learning materials, for instance, audio, video, radio and TV shows, games, voice recordings, quizzes, podcasts and so on , in this way, students get exposed to a great amount of target language and this help them develop their speaking skills.

TELL

TELL is the use of computer technology including hardware, software and the internet to enhance teaching and learning of languages. It allows the students to get access with all the technologies available for the enhancement of English learning. Students are allowed to use online dictionaries, chat, and to view the various happenings around the world.

POD CASTING

Podcasts can be uploaded or downloaded, this audio help the learner familiarize with the target language and teachers can use them as useful audio material that can be used in class for activities like discussions, besides, in the web, there are even particular podcasts that are for ESL learners and these can include pronunciation for particular needs of students. Podcast undoubtedly help learners in speaking. Pod casting is the integration of audio files where we can feed our own materials and ply it inside and outside of the classroom.

Students use i-pods to hear their favorite music files. In the same way they have their education in the form of entertainment. Podcasting allows students to use their tech-based entertainment systems for educational purposes. With it we are able to move away from the traditional face-to-face training without losing the student-to-trainer relationship that is so effective in any learning process. Podcasts enables students and teachers to share information with anyone at anytime. An absent student can download the podcast of recorded lesson and is able to access the missed lectures. They could also access lectures of experts which may not otherwise be available because of geographical distance and other reasons.

QUICK LINK PEN

Quick Link Pen allows learners to copy and store printed text, Internet links. It helps to transfer the data to computers and enables the reader to get the meaning of the word from a built in dictionary. Accessing this type of machine seems to be a more convenient method. Recent developments in machine translations presents translation engines like GO Translator and Bablefish.

QUICKTIONARY

It is a pen-like device. It allows the reader to easily scan the word and get its definition and translation on its own LCD screen. Technology such as Enounce and Sound-Editor enable learners to adjust the speech rate of listening materials to assist their comprehension, and present spectrum of speech waves and visual depictions of mouth and tongue movement to ease the learning and refine pronunciation.

Thus the effective use of information and communication technologies in education is mainly based on increasing the learning speed of the students during the education process, reducing the

cost and providing effective learning. The rapid progress of technology makes technology usage indispensable for foreign language teaching and learning as well. It is understood that the integration of technology in English teaching and learning is of great importance in the development of basic English language skills such as listening, reading, speaking and writing. The hardware and software technological tools used in English language teaching and learning can make many contributions both to teachers and students in terms of being repeated use of materials, availability of materials everywhere and at all times, costless or low cost of materials, and effective learning in a short time.

REFERENCES

1. Brown, H.D.,Teaching by Principles: An Interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall Renents (1994).

2. Brown, G. and G. Yule. Teaching the Spoken Language. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983 .

3. Celle-Murcia, M. , Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language. New York: 4. Newbury House, 1991

5. Chaney, A.L., and T.L. Burk. Teaching Oral Communication in Grades K-8. Boston: Allyn&Bacon,1998

6. Chirag, P. Use of Multimedia Technology in Teaching and Learning communication skill. International Journal of Research Academics, 17 (5), 473–495. (2003)

7. Naciri, H. The Use of ICTs to Enhance Students' Speaking Skills. International Conference Proceedings on Innovation in Language Teaching, 2014

8.Nunan, D. Practical English Language Teaching Teacher's Text Book. McGraw-Hill , 2003

9. Ur, P. A Course in Language Teaching, Practice and Theory. Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Online Resources

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877050920313326

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315790125_TECHNOLOGY_IN_TEACHING_SPEAKING_SKILL#:~:text=Technological%20tools%20have%20been%20regarded,tools%20for%20teaching%20speaking%20skill.

https://www.asjp.cerist.dz/en/downArticle/119/12/5/127703