ICT as a Learning Tool for English Language and for Social Change

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Abstract

By the arrival of computers and internet technology, computer based teachings& curriculum has been extensively used in language classroom for last few years. This technology has drastically altered the way people used to collect information, conduct research, assessment &connect with people worldwide. Technology can play a very important role in backup and improving language learning, the efficacy of any technological tool rest on the knowledge and expertise of the skilled language teacher who copes up and expedites the language learning thing. Technology always continues to grow in importance as a tool to help teachers to enable language learning and its learners. This study centres on the learner as a social organism and probes the prospective of English language learning as a social and political act for the purpose of social revolution with the help of technological riggings. Main research question aims on two major query: Do we need technology in language classrooms for language learning? What is English language learning from the viewpoint of the learner who is encouraged by tracking social revolution and change? This paper discusses different approaches which supports English language learners to escalate their learning swotted earlier studies on using technology in developing language learning skills, and specified certain recommendations for the improved use of these technologies, which assist learners in improving their learning skills. Distance learning programs also enables language instructors to develop language-learning prospects among all learners, regardless of where they live, the human and material resources available to them, or their language background and needs. The literature analysis indicates that the effective use of new technologies upgraded learners in language learning skills and helped for social change.

Keywords- Technology, Language Learning, Expertise, Skills, Social Change

The usage of technology has become a very imperative part of the learning process now a day inside and outside of the classrooms. Language is one of the substantial elements that affect international communication learning activities. Students use different parts of English language skills such as listening, speaking, reading & writing (LSRW) for their communication and skill (Grabe & Stoller, 2002). It is sporadic to find a language lesson that does not use some form of technology except in some traditional or conventional form of teaching still practiced in India and other countries. In current years, technology has been used both assisting and enhancing language learning for non-native speakers. Teachers of different teaching levels have assimilated various forms of technology in classroom to support their teaching, involve students in the learning process, and provide some reliable examples of the target area/curriculum. Quoting Becker (2000), computers are observed as an important instructional device in language classes that teachers access appropriately, are sufficiently prepared, and they have some liberty in the curriculum. Computer technology is viewed by umpteen numbers of teachers to be a significant and noteworthy part of providing a quality education. Technology has always been a very important tool of teaching, learning and sharing knowledge. It is an indispensible part of the teachers' profession through which they can practise it to simplify learners' learning. With the use of technology being an unavoidable part of everyday lives, it is time to rethink the idea of assimilating technology into the curriculum and aim to entrench technology into teaching to support the learning process and observe a social change. We can say, technology has become an essential part of the learning involvement and a remarkable issue for teachers, from the commencement of preparing learning experiences through teaching and learning process (Eady & Lockyer, 2013).

Basic Functions of language

Language is frequently considered to be a tool because it is used to accomplish the function of letting other people know the thoughts, ideas, emotions and feelings. Language aids a multiplicity of purposes. In conformity with the several functions to be served language is employed in several ways. For example, there is a language of science, media, journalism, advertising, political oratory, prayer and worship. In these cases language is used as a versatile tool and place to various uses as and once needed. The chief function of language is to transfer information of some kind or other. All kinds of rumours and even

thoughtful or deliberate misinformation could come under the term information. In order to clarify the world and reason about it people may make use of true or false propositions, correct or incorrect opinions and arguments and pass on information which may or may not be significant. It becomes obvious; however that language is informative in function. Language is used to instruct others, to direct them to do certain things and to express feelings, moods, ideas, information, experiences etc. Language universally has a very significant social purpose because it is mainly used for etymological communication. It is difficult to imagine or visualise a society without language which is the basis of human progress. It is not only the flesh and blood of human culture but the soul. Language is an enormously complex and highly versatile code that is used to communicate thoughts, desires and experiences to other persons. One's identity is central to an individual and considered as a marker of a social group. The usage of a particular language variety identifies each of us as belonging to a particular social or ethnic group. Language is constantly evolving like society and is subject to grow and alter in much the same way as a living organism.

Language sets up both linguistic and communicative competence and abstract set of psychological principles & sociological consideration that creates a person's competence as a speaker in a specified situation. This principle provides the availability of unlimited number of sentences to the users who can draw upon in actual situations. This also provides users with the 15 ability to understand and produce entirely new sentences. Language is a set of principles that a speaker masters and not anything that he does. In nut shell, language is a code which is different from the act of encoding; it is a speaker's linguistic competence rather than his linguistic performance. However the linguistic competence of the speaker has to be tied with communicative ability. Sociolinguists hassles the use of language according to the occasion & context, the speaker and the listener, the profession and social status of the speaker and the listener. Hence language is the result of social interaction.

Definition of Technology as changing agent

Technology (as a change agent) has been defined by different researchers at different times. According to İŞMAN (2012), it is the practical use of knowledge particularly in a particular area and is a way of doing a task especially using technical processes, methods, or knowledge. The use of technology contains not only machines (computer, hardware & other related instruments) but also involves organized relations with humans, machines and the

environment (İŞMAN, 2012).Several technological tools alter academics to distinguish Instructions and adapt room activities and classroom assignments therefore improving the learning competency. Distance learning programs also enable language educators to increase language-learning opportunities to all students, regardless of where they live (society), the human and material resources existing to them or their language background and needs.

In short, technology remains to grow in importance as a device to assist teachers of foreign languages in facilitating and arbitrating language learning for their students. Technology can play a significant role in enhancing and providing support in language learning. The effectiveness of any technical tool depends on the data and experience of the competent language teacher, who supports and facilitates the attainment setting. In some cases like school and university directors have permissible technology to be required within the language programme and have even used it to switch certified language lecturers. Previous researches do not support the secluded use of technology for obtaining a language. Pourhosein Gilakjani (2017) and Solanki & Shyamlee1 (2012) supported the view that language teaching method has been altered due to use of technology. The scholars finding is that the application of technology helps learners learn on the basis of their interests. It also satisfies both visual and auditory senses of the learners.

Education has a great social importance in the modern and complex societies. It is one of the real and basic sources from which one gets information and affects the society. The role of education as an instrument or agent of social change and social development is widely accepted in the present scenario. Society needs to change from time to time for its own prosperity and upliftment. Social change also includes changes in social behaviour, its nature, social institutions and social relations. Change means accepting the new ideas leading to evolution and development in context with learning new languages through the use of technology.

Impact of Technology in terms of Social Change

According to Merril and Eldredge, "Social change means that huge number of persons are involved in activities that differ from those which they or their immediate forefathers involved in sometime before. When the alteration of human behaviour is in the process, it's only another way of representing that social change is occurring."Science and technology are

indispensible elements of modern life. They excel local boundaries and touches lives of one and all. Progression of human being can be seen in terms of technological development as well. Invention of fire and wheel literally changed the aspect of mankind. Several historical epochs, agrarian society and industrialist society are distinguished from each other in term of technological progression. The technological aspects reflect the settings created by men that have an insightful influence on his life. We can now quote that technology is product of civilization. Karl Marx even gives his view on the construction of social relations, mental outsets and attitudes are dependent upon technology. This variation is typically within the material atmosphere and therefore the adjustment that we have a tendency to build with these changes usually modifies customs and social establishments.

Technology has drastically changed the lives of people by increasing the speed of time. We were human and we developed and established technologies to change our life to its best. Now a day technology is rapidly changing our lives every second, Technical developments such as computers, cellular phones, automobiles, airplanes, radio, television, modems, fax machines and many more have brought chief advances and changes to the world. Indeed, 21st century technology has entirely—and conclusively—changed the way people meet, interact, learn, work, play, travel, worship, and do business. The latest advancements, Robots are supposed to be our new human model on earth and at the end, only robots will control this world. Technology is now trying to go inside our body, it is almost there and the object is human blood and emotions. So, far! Technology is successful in that. In research & business, the use of artificial intelligence, cloud computing, machine learning, predictive analytics and business intelligence tools, applications now forming new methods to conduct, control and manage the business. The latest inventions & development of technology have changed our life both as positively and negatively. The latest technologies and inventions are the results of our curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving technique.

A collective difficulty with the above report of social change is the problem of hypostatisation, the inclination to connect conceptual abstractions of reality with an actual slice of reality. These elements highlighted in the definitions, which include the social structure, the functioning of society, social relationships, forms of social processes and time can be insulated but there are difficulties in understanding what is changing. As Stalin

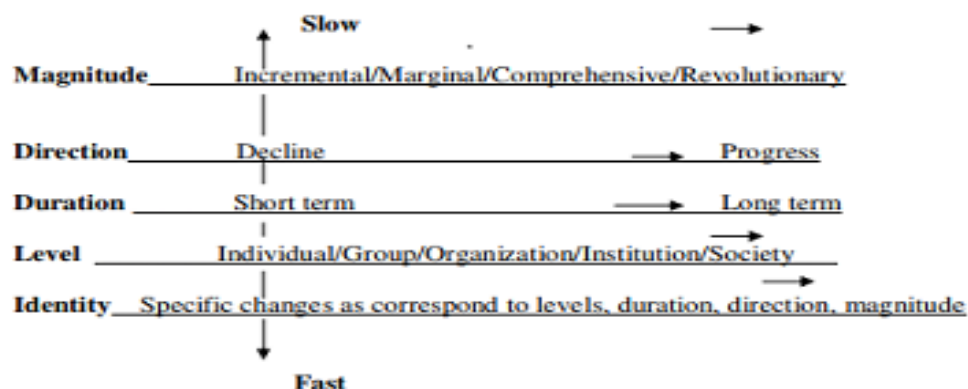observes about language- "It arises and develops with the rise and development of a society. It dies when the society dies. Apart from society there is no language."

The meaning of change is often used slackly, and as it has been exemplified, attempts at definitions are plentiful and conflicting. Vago's (1992) proposed that social change must be theorized as the process of strategic or unintended qualitative or quantitative alterations in social phenomena, which can be portrayed on a six-part continuum, composed of interconnected analytic components namely identity, duration, level, direction, magnitude and rate of change. Identity of change refers to a specific social phenomenon undergoing transformation such as a definite practice, behaviour, attitude, interaction pattern, authority structure, and productivity rate, voting pattern, prestige and stratification system.

The perception of change describes the location in a social system where a particular change takes place. Several points may be designated such as individual, group, organization, institution and society. It refers to long term or short term (momentary change phenomena). The idea of change may designate development, growth or decline. The outline can also be linear or evolutionary, takes place in cycles or stages or relate to some other pattern. There may also be a slight fluctuation or variation on a specific theme. Thevariation may be based on arbitrary scale such as fast or slow, continuous or irregular, arranged or erratic. This can be analysed by the figure below that illustrates the elements of this conceptualization of social change.

Slow →

Magnitude _____ Incremental/Marginal/Comprehensive/Revolutionary

Direction _____ Decline _____ → Progress

Duration _____ Short term _____ → Long term

Level _____ Individual/Group/Organization/Institution/Society →

Identity __ Specific changes as correspond to levels, duration, direction, magnitude →

Fast

(i) The effect of the computer

Now a day when we purchase anything, a computer scans our buying and produces a printout of the name, price and quantity isof each item. In different exams we get our grading

computerized and possibly our pay checks as well. Essentially the computer's significance has given way to everyday routine. It is simply another tool. Various people exult on the computer's capacity to improve their quality of life. They also feel contented with the quality of manufactured goods. From the introduction of computer the records are much easier to retain, people can type just one letter and the computer prints address and bills up to ten characters. The most noteworthy are as where the computer has a huge impact are in education field, medicine, banking, marketing, the workplace and in geographical and social mobility (World Bank, 2009). With the advent of computers, physicians/doctors can peer within the body's hidden recess to diagnose how its parts are functioning or to see if surgery is necessary. Surgeons can drive an operation on unborn babies and on formerly inaccessible parts of the brain. In the area of education the computer continues to do miracles. For instance, almost every grade school in country & abroad introduces its students to the computer and its applications. Children get to learn how to type on it, as well as how to use mathematical and science software.

(ii) The Internet

From the time Internet has introduced it added impact factors in social interactions in modern days such as social media (Facebook, twitter, Instagram, Linked-In etc) and trustworthiness, selfless guides, blogs and profile descriptions. In addition to this online payment, online shopping, online jobs, online banking, online marketing and mobile wallets are helping societies to explore new heights by the use of internet. It's not only increasing the living standard of society but providing a wide platform to explore the whole world from one place. Internet also provides varied and variegated communication methods & platform for different people and societies. Today, most of the social workers and social entrepreneurs are able to influence a broader audience differently on social, personal, economic & environmental topics through blogs, social media, videos, podcast, e-books, newsletters etc. This was formerly not possible for computer and internet to perform lessons learned from one society or culture to implement that in another society. Internet also provided freedom of options to share feelings and thoughts within society and this is the positive advantages of the internet in evolving new ways for social developments. Netizen (people active on internet) can get in touch with each other and can telecommute, read articles, conduct research, check stock prices, comparison price, meet others in chat rooms, follow up college courses, and

even earn an accredited degree through the use of technology. Internet has certainly brought exciting new potentials & tactic for an electronic communication; nevertheless critics argue that a gloomy side exists to this informational tool. Another area of special concern for all the families with young children is the ability to access and download pornographic materials. They (internet users) can download pornographic photos, trade sexual messages, have blatantly sexual chats with a distant "playfellow," play erotic games, or purchase tickets for a singles cruise and etc. In recent years, sexual predators have also used the internet to identify and grab the impending victims. The areas of concern at the end comprises with potential social seclusion, random and reckless diffusion and family estrangement.

(iii) Vagaries in social institutions:

Technology has severely altered our ways of life. Technology has not even spared the social institutions from its effects. The institutions of religion, state, family, marriage, morality and property have been altered. The recent technology in taking away industry from the household has drastically changed the family organization. Most of the utilities of the family have been taken away by other agencies. We can't turn our faces from the fact that now a day marriage is losing its sanctity and becoming more and more unsteady. Instances of divorce, desertion and separation are growing. Technology literally elevated the status of women but it has also backed to the stresses and strains in the relations between men and women at home. Religion is losing hold over the members and believers. People are becoming more rational, secular and scientific but less religious in their attitude and outlook. Many of the innovations and discoveries in science and technology have shaken the foundations and pillars of religion. Technology has also contributed in making the states to accomplish functions such as- the protection of the elderly, the weaker section and the minorities making provision for education, health care etc. Transportation and communication developments are leading to a swing of utilities from local government to the central government of the whole state. The contemporary inventions have also supported nationalism and created a social bond. The most striking and remarkable change in current times is the change in economic institutions and organizations. Technology has taken away industries from the domiciliary and new types of economic organizations have been set up such as factories, stores, banks, corporate etc.

(iv) Mass media, publicity and social movements

Cognizant of how effective the mass media and social media are, now a day the leaders of social activities and movements try to manipulate the media in order to influence and infuse public opinion, how people look about some issues. The promotion in right kind enables them to arouse a compassionate public and to lay the groundwork for recruiting more members for their parties. Propaganda or publicity, by definition, is the presentation of information (to misinform) in the attempt to influence people (Jefkins, 1998). The actual meaning was positive, for propaganda referred to a committee of cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church whose task was to take care of foreign missions. They were to promulgate faith and belief. The word has travelled a long way since then, however, and today it denotes to a one sided presentation of information that misrepresents reality (A/C to Henslin, 1998; Jefkins, 1998). In this technology driven world propaganda is in the sense of organized attempts to manipulate public opinion is a regular part of modern day to day life. Advertisements, for example, are a form of propaganda, for they present a one-sided form of reality. The relationship of mass media with social movements displays itself through the fact that mass media are janitors of social movements. If those who regulate and work in the mass media from proprietors to journalists (reporters) are sympathetic or biased to some specific cause, one can be certain that it receives sympathetic treatment. If the social movement goes against their own opinions, it will be overlooked, ignored or given critical treatment to coverage, this is the social change we talk about.

(v) SMS Language:

The SMS (Short Message Service) was not in stream line a couple of decades back. It is the product of mobile communication technology which skilled people with this useful and convenient way of communication. All mobile phones (even basic mobile phones) have this facility and it happens to be one of the most economical means of communication. This application has become popular among students, people, and society and others, who use it to send text-based messages. In today's technology driven era 'texting' as it is regularly referred to be widespread amongst the younger generation but as this generation ages they will carry their SMS fluency and prospects with them and then even elder age generations will make use of this system to connect with their friends, family members and colleagues.

How Technology can help to develop different skills of Learning

There are some very useful ways, where technology can help language learning in different possible aspects. The first thing we can include here in respect of learning language is-

Word process - Word processing is the finest method for learners to engage in writing, drafting, revising, editing, saving, inserting tables and graphics, and publishing. In this age of information, word processing is inevitability for any set of language class or target language learning.

Technology texts; E-books are very rich additions for printed textbooks now a day, though they can't never completely swap traditional books (Leu and Leu 1997). Stories accessible on internet are really enriched by multimedia to intensely motivate reading-reluctant students, leading to better literacy results.

Communication through the Internet- If language is for communication, obviously internet has broken down the distance barrier in communications. Therefore, students can build up companionships with learning peers in target languages through the help of internet. The core means of communicating on the Internet include e-mail, instant messaging, chat rooms and bulletin boards. With the advent of MSN and Yahoo messengers, students apart from sending instant messages, can also have audio and video conversations that greatly motivate and improve their speaking and listening skills (abilities).

(e.g., E-journals, news, instructional materials, databases, etc.) Hence technology enables many teachers to use the internet as their "virtual library".

Conclusion

The above discussion in this paper highlights the growing essential intricacy and social changes due to technologies. It is apparent from the discussion made in this paper that the dynamics of clash, gender and development are now much more complex. It has also been noted that a change in technology must leads to a remarkable change in culture, society and a people's way of life. For some, these changes are threatening, for instance, the industrial revolution and its technological motivation affected the livelihood of many manual workers and rendered them redundant (sacked). Accordingly, when the people welcome new technology, others resist it. It has also been observed that the occurrence of social change is inevitable for society owing to these processes as culture contact and its resultant effects,

cultural diffusion, cultural levelling, globalization and the information worldwide computer network views. Cultural levelling, For instance, people have some contact with other groups, during which culture contact occurs. In this process, cultural diffusion (the spread of creation or discovery from one area to another) occurs. This leads to cultural steamrolling, a state of affairs whereby many groups adopt western culture in place of their own customs. With today's technology, for the changes in communication are no less enormous. Today's electronic communications convey messages across the globe in a matter of seconds, and we learn almost instantaneously what is happening on the other side of the world. In fact, travel and communication unite to such an extent that there almost is no other side of the world any more. The outcome is cultural levelling, a procedure in which cultures become almost similar as the globalization of capitalism brings not only technology but also western culture to the rest of the world.

In this research the findings are that, since the evolution of humans the need for language and communication became evident. It became almost like an organic need. Communication is essential and vital to man just like the consumption of water and food is essential for survival of mankind. Quoting an essay 'A Word for Everything' written by Helen Keller she described her experiences as a deaf and blind child trying to understand language and communication. After her well-read that words have meaning and symbolic messages she was able to practise language not only to communicate her ideas but also to multiply and expand her knowledge, "I learned more words, my field of inquiry broadened, and I would return again and again to the same subject eager for more information". As she studied the basic concept of language she was able to know-how the scholastic acumen that helped her to become a quick learner person. Nothing can be more befitting than this to expedite the significance of communication. Language distinguishes men from the animal world. Because of language me can share ideas, educate them and improve their lives. Language helps the society to keep evolving. Language has allowed for societies to be fabricated not upon strength and physical dominance, but on co-operation and the exchange of ideas, views and opinions. Language is omnipresent throughout human society today. If technology wouldn't be there we the men would have been like apes pointing fingers at what they see. Hence, technology has created a great variation and change in society that no one can think upon.

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