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The Role of ICT in English Language Learning & Teaching

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At the end of this lesson, you are going to know:

- What does ICT mean?
- What is the difference between ICT & IT?
- ICT in Education
- ICT & Language Teaching
- Teachers' Role in ICT Implementation
- ICT Tools Used in Language Teaching

- The importance of ICT
- ICT between Teachers and Students
- Advantages of ICT in English language teaching
- Disadvantages of ICT in English

language teaching

"With the help of technology, teachers will be leaders in the transformation of education around the world" Craig R .Barrett

Introduction

The advent of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and its easy accessibility globally and locally has become mainstream in the present education system throughout the world. The Internet and its use through several devices like personal computers, smartphones, and other devices have become commonplace both for teachers and students. Computer integrated ICTs now are no more static, standalone but have become personal devices that play a decisive role in the way we get knowledge, the process we teach and learn, and the way we do.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are currently being used in education to assist students to learn more effectively by providing teachers with access to a wide range of new pedagogy and their use in the field of language education has been a priority throughout the world during the last decade, but progress has been uneven ICT has made the process and style of language teaching and learning ever-changing. Today's language classrooms are drastically different from that of the mid to late 20th century

What does ICT mean ?

ICT, or information and communications technology (or technologies), is the infrastructure and components that enable modern computing.

ICT is a broad subject and the concepts are evolving. It covers any product that will store, retrieve, manipulate, transmit, or receive information electronically in a digital form (e.g., personal computers, digital television, email, or robots).

Although there is no single, universal definition of ICT, the term is generally accepted to mean all devices, networking components, applications, and systems that combined allow people and organizations (i.e., businesses, nonprofit agencies, governments, and criminal enterprises) to interact in the digital world.

ICT is a Term that describes the general processing and communication of information through technology.

In the case of our module, it includes a number of technologies, such as mobile technology; email; chat rooms; social media, meeting programs, blogs; personal web pages, audio, and video.

These technologies have been classified into the following:

Online media activities, digital communications, ICTfacilitated learning activities, ICT-facilitated social/economic activities, and video games.

ICT in Education

"ICT in education refers to Information and Communication Technology such as computers, communications facilities and features that variously support teaching-learning and a range of activities in education,

Because of its interactive and dynamic nature, ICT has the stamina to meet the needs of the individual student by providing opportunities to direct their learning and to pursue information. With the usage of ICT, students can learn any subject, especially English with ease.

In the context of the global exchange, the role of ICT has become inevitable in the 21st century. The use of ICT has become essential in everyday classroom teaching and learning. Its use gives a chance to teachers as well as students to increase the quality of education and meet the requirements set by the coeval knowledge society. ICT has become an essential tool for educational change and reform.

ICT & Language Teaching

The focus of language teaching is an integration of cultural, content, and linguistic knowledge for making global communication effective and more comprehensive rather than teaching grammar, memorizing, and learning rules and vocabulary in isolation from rote. UNESCO (2005) reiterates that most of the countries in the world have integrated ICT into their education system because of its profound implications in several domains of education. It enables both teachers and students for creating and constructing rich interactive and multisensory contexts with almost unlimited teaching and learning potential.

ICT & Language Teaching

Using ICT in language teaching and learning gives the learners a huge exposure to the cultures of the people and countries where a new language is spoken.

The American Council on the Teaching Foreign Language [ACTFL] (2013) notes that language teaching and learning have been assisted and enhanced with the use of ICT. It is quite difficult to get any English language curricula at any level of education that does not make any provision of ICT and its use. ICTs have necessitated a change in the whole education system. ICTs can make some valuable contributions in the development of various aspects of education and learning through improving quality of learning, enhancing teaching quality, expanding the access of resources, and improving the management system.

ICT integrated language teaching is interactive, updated, and relevant for global connection and communication

Teachers' Role in ICT Implementation

Teachers are the key to the classroom teaching-learning context and the impact of ICT on their roles and the strategies they employ to facilitate the learning environment is crucial and critical.

Using ICT to support learning requires significant change for all, while there are a number of shreds of evidence of an appropriate learning environment without using ICT. The implementation of ICT in teaching and learning brings pervasive changes in the professional practices of teachers where teachers are being changed from instructors to facilitators and dictators to prompters.

To implement ICTs for effective language teaching, it is important to understand the factors that are rooted behind teachers' decisions regarding ICTs. These discourses reveal that teachers' role is shifting from teachers to learners in the sense that they require new competencies to be able to integrate ICT in teaching and learning the English language. They are supposed to upgrade their professional skills and knowledge in their pedagogical practices and curriculum design, development, and implementation to be able to integrate ICTs in teaching and learning language effectively, efficiently, and successfully

ICT Tools Used in Language Teaching

- Tape Recorder
- Computer
- Internet
- Mobile Phone
- Radio
- Telephone.
- Projector And Printers
- Tv Set
- Skype

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• Interactive White Board

- eBooks / Audiobooks
- Webinars
- Audio-visual aids
- Language Laboratories
- blogs, social networking websites

The importance of ICT :

• The use of ICT increases the scope of teaching.

- It provides quality learning materials and creates autonomy of learning.
- Along with academic excellence, students must have English communicative skills for their prosperous future.
- Curriculums must be made easy by including technological aids.
- The use of ICTs plays a crucial role in ameliorating knowledge acquisition in general and enhancing English Language mastering in particular.
- ICTs create innovation and motivation for teachers and learners which brings good performance in quality education.

Advantages of ICT in English language teaching:

The use of ICT has positive effects on foreign language teaching-learning.

- We can get the required information within a fraction of a second.
- Learners become more innovative with the help of e-learning.
- ICT provides the information to the students which will be useful for them to compete with this competitive world.
- English lessons that incorporate multimedia applications can exert powerful motivation and provide bored students with exciting new ways to learn.
- ICT can make students and teachers work with current and authentic sources.
- ICT ameliorates the learner's interaction, verbalization involvement in group collaborative learning.
- Students can learn independently.

• With ICT pictorial description is available.

Disadvantages of ICT in English language teaching:

- Students get a short span of attention because of the ICT in language learning
- Online learning cannot offer human interaction.
- Students may open or log on to unnecessary websites to play games or to watch movies etc.
- Intense requirement for self-discipline and self-direction.
- Good infrastructure and trained manpower is required to use the ICT tools in teaching and learning.
- Communication is taking place between learners.
- The teacher is only a mediator

