

RECENT TRENDS IN TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Dr.M.Suganthi¹, Dr.C.Muthurasu²

¹ Assistant Professor, Alagappa University College of Education, Alagappa University, Karaikudi – 630 003.

² Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Alagappa University, Karaikudi – 630 003.

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Corresponding Author:

Dr.M.Suganthi

Abstract:

Old teaching approaches are being replaced by new technologies in language learning for people with mixed abilities and multiple intelligences. The four fundamental talents are taught in variety of creative ways in the multicultural community. As a result, they are eager to master the language. Imitation is one way to learn a language. Thus, in order to improve listening skills, one should hear more. Naturally they try to speak in the same styles as we learnt out mother tongue. The usage of Internet has brought tremendous change in the field of teaching and enhancing English learning. It is believed that people tend to forget everything within three days after they hear. From dawn to dusk, man is using technology in various aspects for all his works. It is technology that is evolving every day. People have to update themselves for surviving in this hi-tech world.

Keywords: Modern Technological, Communication Skills, Teaching methods, Software

1. Introduction

Communication is an integral instinct of all living things. The most important bearings of communication are best understood when there is a lack of it. There is more to communication than just talk and gesture. Listening, understanding and interpreting are as much integral to communication as words-verbal, written or gestured. Yes, even gestures in communication play a crucial role in conveying and interpreting the message. Similarly, how we communicate or express ourselves goes a great way towards determining how our expressions are interpreted. To quote Karl Popper, “It is impossible to speak in such a way that you cannot be misunderstood”. Faculty or incomplete communication can completely mar the purpose of communicating and may result in damaging consequences. This is where understanding how important communication is and communicating the right way comes into picture. Not everyone is equally endowed with the ability to effectively express himself and this is where the significance of communication skills can be truly fathomed.

Modern Technologies available for teachers today are:

- Communication Lab
- Video Conferencing

- Video Library
- CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning)
- TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning)
- Pod casting
- Quick Link Pen
- Quicktionary
- Programmes through educational satellites
- Blogging

The integration of technology was started in the early 1960s and 1970s. In the preliminary stage, people used tape recorders as a technological device to instruct the students, which later evolved as communication laboratory. Every day people 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 out dated, these technologies can be used as a supplement to the class room teaching method to have a lively atmosphere in the classroom.

2. How to use these Technologies

1. **Video Tapes:** Scenes from popular English films can be screened first without any running script on the scene. Then the students are asked to identify the words, script, etc., Again the scene will be repeated with the scripts on the scene. This kind of telecasting videotape with and without script makes the students to get access with the pronunciation, accent and word usage of English with interest.
2. **Communication Labs:** Software's are available to develop LSRW skills. By interoperating suitable software through computers the students will play it again and again with their own interest and try to improve their LSRW skills, which are most essential in this modernized information technology world.
3. **Video Conferencing:** Video conferencing is the method in which one person can access to the speeches of other persons in some other parts of the world. It is the live reality of a programme, which is mostly used to view the lecture of a professor who resides in foreign country. In short it is very helpful for the students to understand what is going in this world and to hear the speech of the top most personalities in a lively manner.
4. **Video Library:** Video Libraries are most essential in our fast and modernized world. This is helpful for the students to those who miss some interesting session. In this process the teaching of the faculty will be recorded and made available to the students.
5. **Blogging:** Blogging can be used for instructing the candidates when the teacher is off campus. The teacher can post his article or the instruction to the students, where the students are allowed to post their comments and queries. The teacher can answer the question through his blog. Blogging seems to be widely in use.
6. **Messages through Mobile Phones:** Mobile Phones can also be utilised to enrich vocabulary skills by receiving new words daily. There are certain websites and services to provide new words every day.
7. **CALL:** The educational role of computers in learning a second language and the role of CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) is significant. The teacher can use the

latest technologies, which have the potential to transform the students from passive recipients of information into active participants. CALL is defined as the search for and study of applications of the computer in language teaching and learning.

8. **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 of the enhancement of English Learning. Students are allowed to use online dictionaries, chat, and to view the various happening around the world.
9. **Educational Satellites:** In the college we can create Educational Satellite lab, whereby satellite programs of educational value like UGC's country wide classrooms, Anna University programmes and other worldwide programmes are recorded and students are given access to the recording either through big screen monitor.
10. **Internet:** Internet is a commonly acknowledge 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.
11. **Pod casting:** 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 favourite music files. In the same way they have their education in the form of entertainment. Pod casting allows students to use their tech-based entertainment systems for educational purposes.
12. **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 build in dictionary.
13. **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.

3. Conclusion

The modern tools are in addition to the inputs given by the teachers in the classrooms. The magic is real in that it helps the students to enhance their language learning in a fruitful way. Recent technological trends have transformed the way communication skills are taught, making learning more interactive, personalized, and effective. Tools such as Artificial Intelligence-based learning platforms, Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), Language Learning Apps, Learning Management Systems (LMS), and digital collaboration tools enable learners to practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing in realistic and engaging environments. These technologies support immediate feedback, self-paced learning, and global interaction, which help learners gain confidence and competence in communication. Overall, emerging technologies bridge the gap between theory and practice, making communication-skills training more accessible, meaningful, and aligned with modern educational needs.

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