LEARNING AND TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE THROUGH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

K.RAMAKRISHNA RAO*

*Assistant Professor, Sree Vidyanikethan Engineering College, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

The stamping impression of technology or the application of multimedia approach to English language teaching and learning has always been impeccable and innocuous, but at times quite alarming for the one who are not well-informed and well-equipped. Latterly, the penetration of instructional technology has been ameliorating the teaching-learning process of English language for effective communication in classrooms. The advent of technology driven approaches have been promising, encouraging, and yet astonishing for the one who are new to it. Technology driven multimedia approach in teaching and learning English Language has been the –be-all-and-end-all nowadays. Umpteen numbers of modern ways and approaches have been juxtaposed for teachers and learners for mastering English language for better communication. The present paper highlights some of the technology driven novel approaches like learning English through electronic dictionaries, learning English through websites, learning English through software and books and learning English through movie clips, for learning English language for effective communication.

INTRODUCTION

Multimedia teaching creates a context for language teaching and learning. This method makes the learning lively and interesting, as well as optimizing the organization of the class. Multimedia has its own features such as visibility and liveliness. During the process of multimedia English language teaching and learning, sounds and pictures can be set together, which enhances the initiative of both teachers and students. The ultimate goal of multimedia language teaching is to promote students’ motivation and learning interest, which can be a practical way to get them immersed in the language learning. The stamping impression of technology or the application of multimedia approach to English language teaching and learning has always been impeccable and innocuous, but at times quite alarming for the one who are not well-informed and well-equipped. Latterly, the penetration of instructional technology has been ameliorating the teaching-learning process of English language for effective communication in classrooms. The advent of technology driven approaches have been promising, encouraging, and yet astonishing for the one who are new
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Learning Correct Pronunciation through English Pronouncing Dictionary

Learning correct pronunciation is the most important factor in learning a foreign or second language. This is a difficult area in English, unlike the other European languages; English does not have fixed phonetic rules. This is partially because of the fact that English has borrowed words and expressions extensively from many languages. The pronunciation of the word has naturally changed when borrowed into English. Some examples of such examples of such changes in the pronunciation can be taken from French: restaurant, café, garage etc.. The French pronunciation of these words is different from that of English. Again, guessing the pronunciation of a word in English is equally difficult and dangerous as in many contexts the original spelling is retained through though the pronunciation has been changed. So, the pronunciation of English words has to be learnt with the help of teachers or a dictionary, and should never be guessed. The English Pronouncing Dictionary (EPD) is one of the most well-known works on English pronunciation. Its first edition, published in 1917 and written by Daniel Jones, used symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet to represent the pronunciations of English words. The dictionary transcribes all inflected forms for all entries (for an example, see picture to the right). At the very beginning, this is a very good feature for the learners who often have setbacks in pronouncing the -s or -ed word endings. By referring to the EPD, learners can quickly learn that e.g. eyes is pronounced /aɪz/, but ices is pronounced /aɪs/.

The EPD simplifies “stress shifts” for all compound words. For example, in hard-working the stressed syllable is work. However, when the word is used in front of a noun (as in “a hard-working secretary”), the stressed syllables are hard and sec. American pronunciations in the EPD are completely separated
from the British transcriptions. Perhaps 90% of the entries list separate transcriptions for British and American English. This is a completely different approach from the one used in the Collins COBUILD English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (CCED), which tries to represent both British and American English with one transcription. The transcriptions in the CCED use mostly British phoneme symbols and the dictionary gives rules for “converting” these symbols into American sounds. For example, it explains that all ɒ symbols are really ɑː in American English.

**Learning English through Electronic Dictionary**

Electronic dictionaries are the best choice for ESL students. Most of them contain native-language equivalents and explanations, as well as definitions and example sentences in English. They can speak and learn the English word to you, and they are easy to carry around. The following are some of the useful dictionaries for the teachers and learners through which one can master the language absolutely.

A dictionary is a very important tool for anyone who is learning a new language. With a good dictionary you can do the following:

- Look up the meaning of an English word you see or hear
- Find the English translation of a word in your language
- Check the spelling of a word
- Check the plural of a noun or past tense of a verb
- Find out other grammatical information about a word
- Find the synonym or antonym of a word
- Look up the collocations of a word
- Check the part of speech of a word
- Find out how to say a word
- Find out about the register of a word
- Find examples of the use of a word in natural language

**Learning English through Websites**

The good thing about learning through websites is that the students learn at their own pace. All that they need is the internet connection. It is the bosom friend of the teacher and the
taught. It keeps abreast of the latest happenings, and different websites through which one can learn back home without having to take time out from school or from work. The following websites are of utmost importance for learning and teaching English language for effective communication.

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**Learning English through Movies**

Learning through media (movies, music, etc.) has always been the interesting and more effective to learn a new language. The accumulated clips below will better and improve the listening comprehension skills and help in learning and practicing English as spoken by normal people every day.

By watching these and several other videos, learners will be able to:

- **The Great Gatsby NEW!  Moonrise Kingdom  Silver Linings Playbook  Away We Go**

  a) Learn real English vocabulary, as spoken by real native speakers. You will learn English words and phrases that are used in real-life situations
  
  b) Practice and improve your listening skills and comprehension skills
  
  c) Learn proper pronunciation
  
  d) Learn useful English language expressions as well as phrases for conversation
  
  e) Feel that learning English can be fun!
Learning English through software and books
Learning how to learn and speak English today has been made easier with the innovation of interactive audio CD’s, software and books. One of the better known and successful learning CD’s of the mentioned in the market today is the Rosetta Stone. This has received the most number of approvals and the most number of learners who are content with the software. It is friendly and is very simple to follow, and learners find themselves learning how to speak a language not only fluently but understanding the subtle nuances that make any language different from the other. If one likes learning by reading, then one had better buy books which can teach one to speak English. Latterly, most of the learning CD’s for English or any other language usually come as a package: a book, an eBook, an interactive listening CD and a test booklet. The following software and books are of immense use for mastering language skills:

Suggested Software

1. Mastering English -Vocabulary, Grammar, Punctuation and Composition.
2. Dorling Kindersley Series of Grammar, Punctuation, Composition etc.
3. Language in use. Foundation Books pvt Ltd. With CD.
5. English in mind, Herbert Puchta and Jeff Stranks with Meredith levy, Cambridge.
7. Speech Solutions
9. Centronix, Phonetics
10. Rosetta Stone 1 and 2
11. Regional Institute of English South India, Let’s Talk English

Learning English through Books


Conclusion
To conclude, teachers and learners of the day cannot proceed further without integrating technology or multimedia approaches in teaching and learning English language for effective communication. For technology plays a pivotal role in one’s everyday professional lives, in which they need digital and electronic literacy skills to communicate internationally across the globe using different media, and thereby becoming autonomous learners where one can successfully keep up with the fast-paced professional world.

References
2. David Graddol, The future of English, Page 2