

INSIGHTS

Trends in English Language
& Literatures in English

Editor
Rajesh S Gore



Insights

Emerging Trends in English Language and Literatures in
English

Editor

RAJESH S GORE



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The Role of ICT and MOOCs in Teaching-Learning

Vasant Satpute

Today English has been the most influential language in world scenario. As a result of the colonialism and globalization, it has deeply rooted in the Indian psyche. Earlier it had been the language of rulers, but today it has been the language of bread and butter not only of the Indians but also most of the citizens of globe. It is said that a well versed person in English language can survive in any part of the world. Britishers introduced this language in India not to make Indians wise but to take their assistance for smooth functioning of the government. Today English has been the language that connects people not only within India but also from other parts of the world. Presently English has been used in India in offices, profession, personal and academic circles. In the most part of India, English has been treated as mother tongue and not as a foreign language. Even the uneducated people in India use English words and understand its meaning without knowing that this particular word belongs to English language. Now English has been the prominent language of mobile and computers and hence we are very much accustomed with it. The youths are getting attracted towards the learning English language because they are searching for bright careers in the form of new openings for them. The place of English language in our life is unavoidable since it empowers our life.

India is a developing country and it has been establishing social, political and economic relationships with other nations. For this professional growth, the young generation has to be skilled in English language. Use of modern electronic devices and internet can only be possible with the well versed knowledge of English. It is not only the language of prose, poetry, fiction and drama but it is the language of scientific and technological knowledge. It is the need of the hour that by keeping some good things from traditional teaching techniques, we must

adopt the technological innovations in this field so that our generation may compete with the world. This paper attempts to examine how the new trends i.e. use of ICT, and MOOCs are helping the teachers and learners in the acquisition of basic skills in English language and making the youths competent and eligible to be employed.

Why to Adopt Technological Innovations:

In this scenario, it is essential that our youths must master the basic skills of English language which will open the avenues of employment to them. The traditional methods of teaching language have their drawbacks. Grammar translation and bilingual method have its own limitations. Moreover classroom teaching is unable to include people at large extent. The available infrastructure is unable to satisfy the increasing demand of the education. In order to increase the GER of our country, it is necessary to adopt the new ways of imparting the knowledge to majority of people. Developing the four basic language skills among students had always been the concern of many educators in India. Along with some traditional methods of language learning, some new methods have to be adopted in order to develop the linguistic and communicative skills of the students. We have to reorient the syllabus which has now been outdated and no more providing jobs for the generations to come. Even the traditional teaching is no more attracting students towards the classrooms. Obsolete syllabus and traditional tiresome methods of teaching are some of the reasons that students have turned their backs to the classrooms. The traditional teachers, generally computer illiterate, are repeatedly serving the same menu to our students i.e. memorize the verbs, answer the worksheets, take the dictation and the same is repeated for days together. The old method is examination oriented and doesn't focus on the skill development which helps us to survive in a real life situation. This situation is leading students towards the private institutions where they are getting something new in a new way. Youths are naturally getting attracted towards the courses which are relevant to present day situation and providing jobs for them. It is the need of the hour that we should go away for new teaching and learning techniques that help our students to make their careers.

Use of ICT in Teaching-Learning:

Technological innovations have helped to impart the education at great extent. It has been helping the learners to master the basic skills of

language. Introduction of ICT in education prompted the teaching-learning process at great extent. The increasing use of emails in daily communication help students to express themselves and get improved their writing skills. They learn how to structure the messages and maintain brevity in communication. Blog is another ICT tool which is interactive in nature and helps blogger to express them on a particular topic. Language learners can use a personal blog linked to a particular language learning course and review its development. Chat rooms also help learners to improve their communication skill. It helps us to learn language with fun which is missing in the regular classrooms. We must aware chaters that chat box can become weapon instead of tool when not being used rationally. Students can also learn language through audio visual and printed advertisements. We learn various structures of grammar, prepositions, articles etc. TV channels like, Tata Sky and others are providing the learning apps like Byjus etc. So watching the programmes on TV has been beneficial for students. Listening to radio in English, playing video games in English and studying grammar and vocabulary online, play a crucial role in learning the language skills.

ICT Enabled Teaching Techniques:

Technological innovations are playing a crucial role in imparting the knowledge of English language. Following are some of the recently developed teaching techniques to be followed by teachers in the classroom. Blended Learning is a model in which the student uses both online and face to face instruction and collaboration with tutors. Mobile Learning: Online resources are more accessible with a mobile app. Students build vocabulary with fun and can play competitive games with their friends. The Gamification as the name suggests, is an educational where students learn by using video game design and game elements in learning environments. The objective is to engage the students and increase their interest in learning. Embodied Learning is an educational method that has been around in primary education. In this method, along with intellectual way of teaching, physical involvement is expected. One can think of doing mathematics while throwing small bags of sand to each other. It is a fun way of learning too. We do have tools to create and share our content. Some apps enable learners to produce their own

content and share with others. Websites like Canva allow teachers and learners to express their creativity through posters, social media and banners. These tools allow learners to use language creatively. Use of Smart Phones in the Classroom has always been questioned in Indian atmosphere. We don't permit school boys to bring it to classroom. Many teachers consider it to be the distraction in learning. In fact, smart phones are part of modern life. It provides many useful tools for students such as dictionary, translator and grammar reference apps. Students need to understand; rather they have to be awaked, that their phones aren't for play or personal use, but to be used as learning tools. Students can record their own performance and see it later on to get the feedback on specific tasks and activities.

The Role of MOOC platforms in Teaching-Learning:

The massive online open courses (MOOCs) opened new vistas for the youths. The concept of MOOC was coined to refer to a course developed by Stephen Downes and George Siemens entitled 'Connectivism and Connectivity Knowledge' in 2008. Their purpose was to exploit the possibility for interactions between wide varieties of participants made possible by online tools so as to provide a richer learning environment than traditional tools would allow. A MOOC is an online course that has open access and interactive participation by means of web. It is an ICT enabled platform which offers self paced study, allowing students to complete coursework and take tests on their schedule. Following are some of the MOOC platforms available that empower the students with basic skills of English language: edx, British Council MOOCs, Coursera, Khan Academy, Udemy, Canvas, American English MOOCs, NPTEL, SWAYAM etc. These are free online platforms available for anyone to enroll. After completing the course, student can get certificate online by subsequently paying the desired fees. It provides an affordable and flexible way to learn new skills. The following online courses are offered to acquire language skills: 1. English for career development. 2. Diploma in Basic English Grammar. 3. English for Business and Entrepreneurship. 4. English for Tourism-Restaurant Service. 5. Skills for Speaking English Effectively. 6. Introduction to Business and Travel English Language. 7. English Writing Skills.



The popularity of MOOCs has been growing since it is satisfying the thrust of knowledge of youths. MOOCs have been providing the audio video lectures, study materials and platform for interaction. The learners are prompted to initiate the discussion on the forum which helps to clear many doubts in the learning process. Following are some of the courses devoted to the cause of learning English language and literature. Edx offers free online course for language and literature. Language learning courses empower the learners with grammar, writing composition and overall competence of the English language. It offers the following courses: 1. Using emails for networking in English 2. English at work: Job Interviews 3. English Grammar and Style 4. Literature courses such as, Shakespeare Matters, Othello's Story, How to write a novel etc. These courses are taught by the instructors from best institutions throughout the world. Coursera offers the following language courses: 1. Improve your English Communication Skills, presented by Georgia Institute of Technology. 2. English for Career Development, offered by University of Pennsylvania.

British Council MOOC: These programmes will help the English language teachers to learn and create their lesson plans for their professional development. Teachers may serve their skills with other professors throughout the world. It offers the following courses: 1. teaching for Success 2. Language Assessment in the Classroom. 3. English in Early Childhood. It states that they assist teachers to improve their English teaching and language skills. American Council MOOC help students in effective communication and language support services to culturally and linguistically mixed individuals.

NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) is the product of seven Indian Institute of Technology for creating course contents in engineering, science and humanities. It offers the following courses to learn English Language: 1. Better Spoken English 2. Practical English: Learning and Teaching 3. English Language for Competitive Examinations 4. English Language and Literature 5. Technical English (WEB) 6. Technical English for Engineers. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is a programme of the human resource Development, Government of India that enables

professors to offer online courses to citizens of India. It offers the following courses to learn English language: It is India's national MOOC platform designed to achieve the three principals of India's Education Policy: access, equity and quality. In July 2019, SWAYAM's homepage and course catalogue were revamped, notably to include all courses offered by NPTEL. All these courses can be taken for free. Students can also choose to pay a small fee to earn a certificate of completion. It offers the following courses to learn English Language 1. Indian Fiction in English 2. History of English Language and Literature 3. Shakespeare across Cultures 4. The Victorian Gothic Short Story 5. Short Fiction in Indian Literature

Technological innovations are no doubt very important to use in all educational institutions. When compared to the traditional methods of teaching and learning the English language and literature, these innovations have really brought positive change. Indian classrooms have to travel a long way to reach the apex since it lack infrastructure. Technological innovations enabled us to use ICT in teaching learning process. We have to admit that traditional method is inadequate to satisfy the changing needs of the young generation. Today a techno Savoy teacher can only entertain the students. To a greater extent, students have been surpassing the teachers in the use of ICT tools. But it doesn't mean that new technology will completely replace the teachers. Instead it will assist the teachers in their profession because even in online courses there is an interactive forum where teacher is available for to guide and assist you. These innovations have profitably used to strengthen the basic skills of language and hence the competency of the students has been increased. The traditional way will no more be able to provide employment to youths and hence they will have to move towards these applications in having the knowledge of their own subjects. The application of these new tools is the only way for us to achieve the goal. We hope that politicians, educationists and the management of institutions will give thought over this and take positive steps to strengthen the youths by making them competent to face the new challenges.



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