

Role of Internet in English Learning and Teaching

Dr. E. V. Ramkumar and R. Vani, M.A., M.Phil.

=====

Abstract

The current information delineates that the most broadly utilized language on the web is English, which is utilized on the greater part of the considerable number of pages on the web. Those pages cover each style of English – business, conversational, logical reports, news, sports, talks about, neighborhood lingos and that's just the beginning – which makes the web a perfect asset for interactive learning. While access to current English books or newspapers may not be easy, you can always use the internet to find content on almost any topic. Practice your English language learning by reading books or newspaper articles, listening to the radio or podcasts and by watching streaming videos of tv and film.

Keywords: Business English, Logical reports, web, interacting learning.

Introduction

The current information delineates that the most broadly utilized language on the web is English, which is utilized on the greater part of the considerable number of pages on the web. Those pages cover each style of English – business, conversational, logical reports, news, sports, talks about, neighborhood lingos and that's just the beginning – which makes the web a perfect asset for interactive learning.

The access to current English books or newspapers may not be easy, you can always use the internet to find content on almost any topic. Practice your English language learning by reading books or newspaper articles, listening to the radio or podcasts and by watching streaming videos of TV and film.

A Classroom without Walls

One can use the internet to shape your language studies. If you're learning English to go on holiday, for example, you can look up detailed information about the place that you'll be visiting. Or if you're learning English for your career, you can find out more about the sector you work in, including common words and phrases, and industry-specific terminology.

One of the biggest advantages of using the internet to support your language learning is how much it can help you understand the culture of another country. This is especially true when it comes to watching video online. Watching the news, including sports coverage, or popular TV

shows can help you see the world through the eyes of another country and give you an insight into how its culture differs from your own.

Real-time Communication

The most exciting opportunity that the internet presents English language learners is the ability to communicate in real-time with native speakers. Using video calling, instant messaging and online forums means you can join in live conversations and debate – a superb way to practice your spoken and written English. While an error is made when posting a comment on a blog will tell you that you are wrong in a particular place, there are always lots of people willing to help you correct your grammar.

The number of teachers using Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL) has increased markedly and numerous articles have been written about the role of technology in education in the 21st century.

In teacher's perspective Internet has brought a revolution by offering teaching tools through net is gradually becoming more reliable. Internet is gaining more popularity in foreign language teaching and educators and learners are embracing it.

Usage of CALL

The Internet has tremendous potential as a tool for teaching EFL. Sayers (1993) mentioned that network-based technology can contribute significantly to:

- **Experiential Learning.** The World Wide Web makes it possible for students to tackle a huge amount of human experience. In such a way, they can learn by doing things themselves. They become the creators not just the receivers of knowledge. Information is presented in a non-linear way and users develop more flexible thinking skills and choose what to explore.
- **Motivation.** Computers are most popular among students as they are often associated with fun and games. Student motivation is therefore increased, especially whenever a variety of activities are offered. This in turn makes students feel more independent.
- **Enhanced student achievement.** Network-based instruction can help pupils strengthen their linguistic skills by positively affecting their attitude towards learning and by helping them build self-instruction strategies and promote their self-confidence.
- **Authentic materials for study.** All students can use various resources of authentic reading materials either at school or from their home. Those materials can be accessed 24 hours a day at a relatively low cost.
- **Greater Interaction.** Random access to Web pages breaks the linear flow of instruction. By sending E-mail and joining newsgroups, EFL students can communicate with people they have never met. They can also interact with their own classmates. Furthermore, some Internet activities give students positive and negative feedback by automatically correcting their on-line exercises.

- **Individualization.** Shy or inhibited students can be greatly benefited by individualized, student-centered collaborative learning. High fliers can also realize their full potential without preventing their peers from working at their own pace.
- **Independence from a single source of information.** Although students can still use their books, they are presented with opportunities to escape from canned knowledge and discover thousands of information sources. As a result, their education fulfils the need for interdisciplinary learning in a multicultural world.
- **Global Understanding.** A foreign language is studied in a cultural context. In a world where the use of the Internet becomes more and more widespread, an English Language teacher's duty is to facilitate students' access to the web and make them feel like citizens of a global classroom, practicing communication on a global level.

Some other advantages of computer and internet assisted language learning according to Gündüz, Nazlı are:

Individualization in a large class

Pair or small group work on projects

The fun factor

Exploratory learning with large amounts of language data

Real-life skill-building in computer use (Warschauer and Healey, 1998).

Internet also facilitates students of English learners to

Correspond in English by e-mail with other classes in other parts of the world

Communicate in real-time chat rooms

Share opinions and ideas across cultures on sports, music, food, hobbies, etc.

Conduct international surveys for class work

Read and listen to up to date news.

A Powerful Tool

Internet is considered as one of the most powerful tools for teachers to help students, but as the wealth of available resources is infinite, students face problems to handle large information in an effective way. The most unavoidable problem is the unfamiliarity of the resources with the applications and handling of internet. By having little or no experience on the internet is an anxiety source for both language learners and teachers. In this way it takes time to connect to the internet, it might break down in the middle of communication and it might be expensive.

The internet does not mean the end of the blackboard, whiteboard, the course book, the tape-recorder or the OHP; but it does provide tremendous opportunities, stimuli and resources for not only teachers but also students. Since the internet offers all types of topics, varied sources in all aspects for language learning and teaching.

Multiple Choice of Fill In Exercises

=====

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 18:4 April 2018

D. Nagarathinam, Ph.D. and R. Vani, M.A., M.Phil. (Eds.) *New Perspectives in ELT – 2018*

Dr. E. V. Ramkumar and R. Vani, M.A., M.Phil.

Role of Internet in English Learning and Teaching

The multiple-choice or fill-in program exercise with a cassette recorder or the latest multimedia containing a recorder can be used for developing listening comprehension. In addition to the normal feedback given after a wrong answer, the computer also lets the learner to hear the relevant part of the tape again. Another simple technique is to use a tape with a test-reconstruction program which enables learners to reconstruct a summary of a recorded anecdote on screen with the help of the tape. Such audio files can be listened to a number of times unless and until one has fully comprehended the file. Some grammar activities that can be done on the computer might be: matching, multiple choice, fill in the gaps or complete the following (Blackie: 1999; Sperling: 1998).

Conclusion

This paper brings out the internet being the most available, flexible, practical way and a treasure of vast knowledge, can be utilized for the purpose of developing good communication skills. The internet application can be better utilized in sharing real life experiences and situations within a healthy learning environment. It is advisable to take internet and use of technology as an aid for language learning as it allows a great number of opportunities in the target language

Works Cited

Blackie, D. (1999). What use in the internet for classroom teachers? English Teaching Professional, p.18.

Gündüz, Nazlı “Computer Assisted Language Learning” (CALL) Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies Vol.1, No.2, October 2005.

Jackson, L.A., Eye, A.V., Biocca, F.A., Barbatsis, G., Zhao, Y. and Fitzgerald, H.E. (2006). “Does home internet use influence the academic performance low-income children?” Development Psychology, 42(3), 1-7.

Lawson, D., D.S. White, & S. Dimitriadis (1998). International business education and technology-based active learning: Student-reported benefit evaluations. Journal of Marketing Education, 20(2), 141-148.

Lee, [Johnny](#). “The Internet for English Language Teaching” The Reading Matrix Vol. 1, No. 2, September 2001

Prensky Marc (2009) “H.Sapiens Digital: From Digital Immigrants and Digital Natives to Digital Wisdom,” Innovate: Journal of online Education: Vol 5: Iss. 3.

Dr. E. V. Ramkumar

R. Vani

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 18:4 April 2018

D. Nagarathinam, Ph.D. and R. Vani, M.A., M.Phil. (Eds.) *New Perspectives in ELT – 2018*

Dr. E. V. Ramkumar and R. Vani, M.A., M.Phil.

Role of Internet in English Learning and Teaching

150

Associate Professor
Kalasalingam University
Krishnankoil
ramkumar.v@klu.ac.in

Assistant Professor
TKSCT
Theni
ramkumarvaani@gmail.com