

TECHNOLOGY-BASED FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Abstract: *Technology has become a significant part of education procedure in and out of the class. Nowadays, the majority of language classes are taught by some means of technologies. Technology is being used to assist as well as increase language learning. It allows educators to adjust classroom activities in order to enhance the language learning practice. As different gadgets facilitate language learning process it remains growing in prominence. This article focuses on the importance of using new technologies in ESL/EFL classrooms. It discusses various attitudes which support English language learners to increase their learning skills through using technologies. The article defines the term technology and technology integration, explains the use of technology in language classroom and improving language skills through modern technology, as well as states certain recommendations for the better use of these technologies.*

Key words: *Technology, internet, teaching, classroom, computer, electronic, software, IT skills, communication, effective education.*

One of the highly actual ways of advancing the foreign language learning process is the use of computer and Internet technologies in the education system. Technology based education is a transitional stage from a system of traditional teaching methods to a contemporary system of open education Information Society. Computer technology can be applied in followings: computer-generated libraries, educational software means (electronic libraries, electronic textbooks, dictionaries), information records of universities and schools, multimedia programs, virtual debate clubs, counseling centers, teaching information environments of universities and schools, manuals comprising complete courses for different types of educational institutions. The introduction of computer and information teaching methods considerably has increased the level of information competence, more precisely, it has developed IT skills such as the use of Internet to find the essential didactic information; use of reference electronic publications and application information resources in teaching. Moreover, it has improved the use of expansive potential of information and computer technology for advice.

Technology is a great facilitating tool that both teacher and student simultaneously can benefit from. Nowadays, foreign language teachers should learn how to take the advantage of the modern technology and how to integrate them during classes. Gadgets, such as computers, smart phones, tablets, smart boards are common among the learners as they provide variety of powerful opportunities to acquire languages. One of

the highly effective tools in language classrooms is smartboard. It engages and motivates learners as many educational videos created by native speakers can be shown with the help of it. In the countries where languages are taught as a foreign language, teaching pronunciation can be the most challenging. Today, video-based YouTube channels like Oxford Online English, Go Natural English, You 2 Repeat, English Fun and some social media channels can be supportive to acquire British, American, Australian and other English accent or dialects. Teachers who introduce technology to their students may get a great deal of satisfaction when they accomplish better. Technology does not constitute methodology, but teachers use technology to complement it. Different technological instruments offer different advantages therefore teachers are demanded to be equipped with today's technology and be aware of how to use them. When applying technology in class, teachers should consider student's current language skills and needs. While bringing authentic materials to classroom teachers should consider different factors including learners' age, purpose and interests as well as some specifics of computer-information model such as forming the basis of personality learner, able to act appropriately in a real situation, communicative and socio-cultural orientation.

In our modern society we may come across with the term computer literacy which can be defined as having a good knowledge of using computer software. There are two types of computer literacy: Domestic and Professional. For teachers of foreign languages professional computer literacy may refer to:

- *Understanding of the technical and educational potentials of computers and existing software;

- *The ability to progress educational software scripts;

- *The ability to correct poses the problem as a software engineer;

- *The ability to use the application programs (training and maintenance).

At the present stage of development in the process of teaching foreign languages a lot of attention is paid to the development of computer technology — multimedia technologies, hypermedia technology, communication technologies (videoconferencing, teleconferencing, forums, etc.), and construction of virtual reality technology.

In the process of learning a foreign language, the computer can perform functions that must ensure the formation of linguistic or communicative competence:

- *to provide training and testing in a dialogue mode;

- *to simulate real speech situations with the help of charts, animation and video, creating the effect of contact with the language environment;

- *to depict the speech situation, use it as an incentive, support in the process of educational dialogue;

- *to ensure communication in the target language using computer lines

Current computer tools not only allow you to deliver or perceive ready-made authentic materials, but also they can allow you to create something new and educational. In foreign language classrooms teachers usually ask students to write reviews, reports, articles, paragraphs and essays. In order to do these assignments one

have to know how to work in rudimentary programs such as Word (Microsoft office). Besides them, learners can be encouraged to do some more creative works and projects in Power Point (presentation), Publisher (postcard, menu, prescription or recipe, shopping list and etc.) or Outlook.

Technology is developing so fast that both student and teacher should be aware of the new alternatives of these foundational skills of information technologies (IT). There are plenty of new advanced and multifunctional programs that are popular today among young generation:

*Custom Show (presentation software) - This software allows companies and organizations to build better custom branded presentations and thus it is appropriate for marketing and sales teams

*SlideRocket (Marketing Software) - it can upload files from Keynote, Powerpoint, PDF, Excel and other formats. Even though it has good metrics and online delivery, its interface is complex and limited for creating better looking presentations

*Prezi (personal)- it is an alternative of powerpoint that holds the concept of zooming and transitions to new spaces on a slide without moving to a new slide. It provides people with creating better style and effect in their presentations.

*Slideshark - is an application used by sales professionals and other presenters worldwide to present and share PowerPoints via their chosen devices. Its features comprise cloud storage integration, sharing and tracking views, broadcasting or presenting over the web and creating annotations on the slides.

*Haiku Deck - is a template-based platform that allows people to generate well-designed presentations.

Furthermore, it is easy to use and has fast onboarding process.

*SlideDog - mainly takes all of your documents, presentations, pictures, or video and places them into a play list that can be moved around and presented in a seamless way. The advantage of this software is that it makes transitioning smooth and can share across multiple devices.

*Powtoon (Animation Presentation Software) is probably one of the leaders among other software programs because it allows consumers to create presentations and videos that are animated, stimulating and appealing.

*Knowledge Vision - Knowledge Vision is one of the newest players on the block when it comes to creating better looking presentations that are customizable. However it has many tools so that it can be difficult to learn and use.

* Windows Movie Maker is free video editing software by Microsoft. Being a part of Windows Essentials software suite, it offers the ability to create and edit videos as well as to publish them on OneDrive, Facebook, YouTube and etc.

*Projeqt - provides with the ability to weave together stories dripping with style and personality from Flickr photos, tweets, YouTube or Vimeo videos, and any media stored on your own personal computer.

There are some more software programs that are widely used for self-study and self-improvement by individuals in educational institutions and workplace. Modern

schedules in foreign language teaching institutions include the subject ICT (information communication technologies) on which students can learn how to use technology from A to Z. Due to several project works and group assignments, students usually come across with technological challenge; they can be asked to make presentations about some topics, to take a video of an interview or talk, to create their own blog or website and etc. If students master foreign languages through computer skills during the completion of these assignments later they can apply their IT skills in workplace.

There is a good quantity of computer training programs to master English language classes: “Triple play plus in English”, “English on holidays”, “English Gold”, “Tutor”, “English Discoveries”, “Professor Higgins”, “Reward”, “Talk to Me!”. “Learn to Speak English”, “Hello, America!”, “Bridge to English”, “English for communication”, “Talking Oxford Dictionary”, “English Puzzle”, “English in three steps” and others. With the introduction and testing of thematic vocabulary, such as shopping, food, clothing and others, you can use the computer program “Triple play plus in English”, “English on holidays”, “English Gold”.

Many applications on mobile phones made the acquisition of foreign languages easier today. Language courses as Busuu, Duolingo, Babble; flashcards as Tinycards, AnkiApp, Memrise; game Mindsnack; chat and social applications as HelloTalk, HiNative are the most popular among language learners in current days. Language learners can find standardised courses based on popular textbooks or vocabulary frequency lists as well as less expected vocabulary collections in these applications. They can improve their language skills through chatting and sharing knowledge with other people who are learning target language.

Modern technology acts as a simulator, which helps students master language aspects by means of training exercises as a tool to function text editor that allows you to easily create and discover printed texts as a channel of communication and a source of information various databases as a means of audiovisual presentations information. They increase the effectiveness of independent work, efficiency in receiving outcome, as well as increase the objectivity of the assessment. Technologies are progressively starting to be realized by many educators as a tool for understanding the world. They are powerful tools changing forms and methods of teaching and delivering new ideology of global thinking. Therefore, ICT in the language classroom helps make lessons much richer and thought-provoking. It helps to elevate students' interest in the subject and inspires teachers to develop teaching skills.

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