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## English Language and the E-Learning

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### ABSTRACT

There is no denying of the fact that English has become a universal language. In the academic as well as in the professional world, English has been the basic medium of communication. In this globalized world, the job scenario involves many dimensions of assessment in the form of competitive examinations and personal interviews and for this English serves as the medium of communication. Hence there needs to be a change in the way of learning and teaching English language. As change is the law of nature, a trend is the general tendency or direction towards change. With various educational options available before the present generation, the newer trends and innovative techniques seem to have emerged in the field of education that have completely changed the facet of traditional system of education. Recent developments portray the vital role of education sector in general with the internalization of the education process, stress on quality above quantity, necessity for professional values etc. In the last decades, many books have been published in English about English language in general and teaching of English language in particular. Over the years, English language teaching has undergone tremendous changes. Nowadays, the need for graduates to merge successfully in the competition of survival in the global market is in great demand. Seasons change, attitudes of human beings change as well as fashion changes, therefore in the field of education too, a change is required. As for as ELT is concerned, the methods and techniques are constantly evolving in this field. E-learning has initiated new dimensions in the classroom. The present paper analyses the various innovative techniques like the role of E-learning in the English Language Teaching. E-learning is learning supported through the use of information and communication technology. The recent advancement in technology offers E-learning as an alternative to the traditional mode of lecture method followed in the teaching of English.

**Key words:** Globalised, Communication, Innovative, Technology, E-Learning

In today's world of globalization, language and communication play an important role. When it comes to have a career, proficiency in English is regarded as mandatory skill. An individual is evaluated and assessed in terms of the communication skill in English which is treated on par with the subject expertise of that particular profession. This shows that an individual is expected to meet the challenges confronting the career aspects through demonstration of strong English language skills. Hence, in this technological era, those who aspire to progress in life, have to gear up with such language skills that cater to the various needs of the employment and advancement. The global status which the English language achieved is witnessed in almost every field. The language has not left any area untouched, bringing about great changes in the educational and social contexts of the world. Further the development in all areas is interwoven with new techniques for which English language serves as the medium, thus necessitating a need to be well versed in the English language skills. With the advent of the internet, the need for English grew large and has facilitated easy access to world happenings.

Proficiency in English language is not an embellishment as in the older days. Nowadays educational institutions are working in the direction of making it mandatory to impart strong language skills to their students. It has to be accepted that the education system of a country has the responsibility to train its citizens in the needed skill to suit the changed scenario and send them out as fully equipped with the required skill. With regard to the Indian circumstances what is needed is a revamping all the general English courses and a highly graded and comprehensive syllabus from class one, so that the outgoing graduate shall be able to earn and retain a job that he aspires. According to Graham Stanley, "Technology can be a highly engaging and interactive tool, providing a source of real language, both written and spoken, in the classroom, and motivating learners to produce more language than they otherwise might have done".

Latest trends and innovative techniques in English language teaching have made language learning more easier. Today technology is frequently used by language teachers. This not only helps in improving the basic skills but also contributes to the development of high thinking skills. Technology offers various learning tools including multimedia and virtual learning environment to involve the learners for learning English language. The use of interactive white board and Power-Point is attracting the students in the classroom.

The recent advancements in multimedia technology offers E-Learning as an alternative to the traditional mode of the lecture method followed in the teaching of English. E-Learning environment offers the learners the opportunity to interact with the computer on one to one basis irrespective of their diversified needs. This gives an advantage to a weak or an average student; he feels attended to. The second advantage is that it allows learner autonomy. The learners enjoy a certain amount of freedom.

At a much deeper level, the impact of technology is encompassing all fields of study with its computerization. Learning through CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) has certain advantages over the huge classroom, controlled by the teacher. Carol Chapelle contends, "More than other resources CALL has the potential for

individualizing instruction. Accordingly, a CALL research agenda should seek concrete results concerning successes and failures of individual students with a variety of CALL activities.” E-Learning has various benefits. Some of them are:

- \*Technology provides one to one communication between the course material and the learner which allows the learner to have his or her space and time and thus accommodates his or her pace of learning, fast or slow.
- \*With the help of machinery and software, the learner can revert back for any clarification or reference.
- \*Technology provides flexible material so the learner can select it according to his standard.
- \*Different exercises are available to test the learners and even the evaluation can be done quickly with the help of computer.

Interactive whiteboards can also be used as they provide ways to present things in an interesting manner. To teach language arts SMART boards help the teachers to use a student centered approach. To improve reading and comprehension and teach writing and grammar language arts teachers can use SMART boards. With a SMART board, teachers can combine audio, video, web browsing and word processing to teach interactively to the students. Whatever the technology, however, learning is the basic element. Advantages of integrating technology into English curriculum are:

- \*To motivate learning.
- \*To expose learners to use language authentically.
- \*To consolidate learning.
- \*To prepare learners to face the real world.

Online learning is often delivered by Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which is also known as Learner Management System (LMS). VLE is a web-based platform on which content of the course can be stored and is accessed by the learners through internet and they can not only see the documents or attend video lectures but can also do activities such as tests and questionnaires. This facility makes the system a natural choice for acquiring the language skills. In language classroom, microcomputers can be used as they help in creating authentic material for language learning.

As a result of this innovation in teaching and learning of English, learners now a days sit before the computer in the language lab to acquire language skills. Since acquiring of language through multimedia language labs has now become a part of the day, the CALL activities also expanded their purview by enhancing research on methods of instruction and pedagogical theories. Learning of language skills in such an innovative environment expedites the process of cultivating communication skills among young aspirants. The technical education and other similar fields

are availing the benefit if teaching language with CALL pedagogy. Therefore language teaching can be imparted to the modern students at a faster speed as most of them are techno savvy learners.

To conclude, it can be said that methods and theories are constantly evolving in the ELT and it is imperative to understand different innovative techniques and evaluative methods of the English Language Teaching. E-Learning and ELT not only improves students' listening and speaking skills in English in both familiar and unfamiliar situations but also increases their reading comprehension and basic writing skills. It also makes them to speak English confidently both within and outside the classroom. It improves higher education performance, increases employment prospects and job performance and hence better life chances.

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