

# The Impact of Technology on Language Teaching

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**Dr. Reena Mittal**

M.A. (Eng.).Ph.D., M.B.A. Department of English, DAK Degree College, Moradabad

E-mail id: - [mittal.reena23@gmail.com](mailto:mittal.reena23@gmail.com)

M.: 09412135835

## **Abstract:**

*The impact of technology on language is a two sided coin; Utopia or chaos? Over the past several decades, technology has become a fixture in almost all homes offices and institutions around the world, and its influence has permeated into all facets of our lives, including educational. But the question arise is to blame for the success or failure of technology? However, while technology has grown leaps and bounds, teachers' use of it often remains very limited to simple writing assignments and Internet searches, we must understand better how the Internet works ourselves. Teachers and students often remove websites from study lists. At the same time, there are times when internet and website really might not be working when we need them. Is it possible to extend our normal teaching far beyond simple but complex tasks at the computer? They will propel a long way to making technology and the Internet a more rewarding partner in the teaching and learning process. If teachers focus on simple basic ideas and actively support students in the process through in-service training, the impact of technology can be positive. In the field of language education, a great deal of emphasis now focuses on online learning and it is touted as the great liberator by freeing students and teachers to accomplish learning in new and exciting ways. A great deal of the success and failure of any technology rests in sound teaching practices The Internet is an almost measureless repository of great content, but it also contains an equal amount of junk, and sifting through this large*

*collection can be daunting. Students these days have been raised in an online world, and they often do not realize what careful research is all about, teachers should bear the responsibility of helping students combine both the massive and easily-accessible Internet with conventional research techniques.*

**Keywords:** - Technology; Pedagogy; Curriculum; Practice; Learning

## **The Impact of Technology on Language Teaching: Is it a silver spoon or a chaos?**

### **Introduction**

In the present era, the responsibility of a teacher is increased as number of students is rising day by day. Now a day, everybody is trying to give best education to their children. As a result we see a lot of struggle for admissions too. But that put more responsibilities for a teacher as the students are not coming with same background and same exposure to knowledge. Every teacher now is a reading teacher as he has to face new challenges with new sessions. Use of technology has completely changed the traditional look of classroom, where teacher speaks and students listen and after an hour they go out with lots of questions who have no or more than one answers. Over the past several years, technology has completely mastered our lives, personal and professional. We have technology in our household

gadgets, as well as it permeates our educational front too. There was a time when we teachers use blackboards and chalks which have been replaced by white boards/Green boards. But now we have virtual classes where we have facilities of nearly all technical devices as computers, a big screen followed by seeing and showing videos, conferencing with the help of Internet where we can chat and discuss with people all over the world. Uses of Internet, computers and other devices have made our classrooms drastically changed. Now they have become interactive classrooms breaking the monotony of teacher speaking and students listening. But all that really made us to think few questions about the use and impact of technology in classrooms. The article will discuss some use and misuse of technology in classroom and will also suggest some way out.

### **Is technology a silver spoon or a chaos?**

The topic is always a debatable issue for language teachers as some of them don't want technology to be a part of language teaching. In their opinion, the traditional way is the best as teacher and students' relationship can only be built with classroom teaching. In the field of language teaching and education, a great emphasis and concentration is given to online teaching and learning. In other words, we can say Internet is playing vital role in teaching language with technology. In this way, first we must understand the importance of Internet and online courses in language teaching and what is not suggestable for and against. Online courses, although offers 100% success rate and accuracy and fluency at its best, when we talk about learning English as second language. But, on the other hand, we are noticing that they have totally changed in

essence of English language. So, face to face teaching cannot be replaced by techno savvy teaching. After all, we need not forget importance of body language in teaching. As with all good teaching, teachers must develop a plan of action for using the Internet teaching and language-learning theory evolved during the past 50 years or so, our ability to adopt our teaching styles in line with new technologies has not progressed very quickly program administrators need to rethink specific, realistic goals for what the Internet can and cannot do to help students reach curricular objectives.

### **Use of ICT: An upcoming trend:**

Use of ICT is an upcoming trend which actually started in 1960 for the first time and now nearly after 55 years it has become an indispensable part of teaching. Nearly all good institutions have computer labs equipped with all modern gadgets, devices and apps which work with the help of Internet. Similarly language labs are also an upcoming trend which have become mandatory now for higher education. UGC and other bodies are bent upon for the establishment of language labs and giving large funds to institutions. These language labs are really worthwhile when we talk about technologically equipped learning. I have noticed students really find it easier and better to improve their pronunciation, accent and accuracy. This use of technology has given a remarkable direction to SLA.

### **Use of Internet in language teaching:**

One more aspect of ICT is use of internet and different apps for students and classes. There are some apps which offer different services as

1. **Grammarly**- offer cross checking of what students have written and point out their mistakes, similarly,

2. **Pronchart** – improves pronunciation from the ground levels.

3. **Language Verb Trainer** – An app by which we can learn verbs and its use.

4. **Guide to English Idioms** – An app by which we can learn Idioms.

5. **Fluent U, Rossetta**-course and many others which help in learning English and enhancing language.

Similarly there are apps by which students and teacher can connect with each other. Teacher can give assignments to students and they can ask their problems. There are some great apps such as:-

- **Edmodo**
- **Spell Phonics 2**
- **Shmoop**
- **Sparknotes**
- **socrative**

These apps offer really amazing connectivity for teachers and students. Teachers made groups of students and even give same link to their parents by whom parents can monitor their children and their progress.

### **Pedagogy of Teaching and Technology:**

As far as technology is advancing and we see drastic changes in pattern and pedagogy of teaching and students progression. Technology, no doubt, has given a new direction to conventional teaching. Long sittings in classrooms and students dependency over teacher's explanation. Today, students search a lot of things before coming to conclusions. Technology has become an integral part of language learning

by the time computers arrive. We take help of CD-ROM for teacher Grammar and Vocabulary but by the passing of time, they have been replaced by using Internet, Apps and Devices.

**“Teaching in the Internet age means we must teach tomorrow’s skills today.” –**

### **Jennifer Fleming**

Now, it is not the time of ‘technology’ but it actually is the time of Digital Technology. Recent studies and research show that digital learning and technology ideally work with teachers hand in hand with learners. Language Experts opine that Reading, writing, speaking and listening all four variants of language teaching can work well with Digital technology. So, introduction of Digital technology is bringing revolutionary changes in language teaching. The learner can practice as much as he/she want without any hesitation, record it, listen and improve as per his/her understanding, and consult his teacher as and when required. These days many students go for best coaching, teachings from experts through this digital technology. Recent studies and research show that digital learning and technology ideally work with teachers hand in hand with learners. Language Experts opine that Reading, writing, speaking and listening all four variants of language teaching can work well with Digital technology. So, introduction of Digital technology is bringing revolutionary changes in language teaching. The learner can practice as much as he/she want without any hesitation, record it, listen and improve as per his/her understanding, and consult his teacher as and when required. These days many students go for best coaching, teachings from experts through this digital technology. It has made everything

well within reach and students feel satisfied and happy.

### **Spoken Language and Technology:**

If we talk about spoken language classes, I think technology is a good option as trying to find ways for people to do really good spoken language practice in classroom is really challenging. In front of teacher and other peers, students become self-conscious and they lack confidence. Suppose we have students who can't pronounce sound of 'sh', will always become conscious whenever this situation will come. But using gadgets and tools like videos and audios can give a good result. I still remember my own experience as a student, when our teacher was not satisfied with our pronunciation of 'History' and career/carrier. In those days, there was no facility of videos. So, he takes help of Tape recorder and Radio. He made a recording of our speech and compose with his own and some stalwarts speech. This really gave an astonishing output to all of us. We as well as our teacher were satisfied over all this. Technology gives us really drastic results when we talk about group or project work. We can make a lot of presentations, do more work in less time, can co-ordinate with our peer group: all the time even if we are not physically present with each other.

### **Some points to ponder:**

This is the world in which we are living is completely driven by technology. Even our food is cooked with the help of technology. Daily science is giving us new inventions and we are playing with them. This is for sure, making us inquisitive and innovative. But teaching and learning process is something beyond that. On the one hand, it needs innovative practices but on the other hand it needs pedagogy and effective and

disciplined way of teaching. The world of research and innovation is beyond the needs of classrooms. When we talk about technology, we must remember that all the time we cannot rely on that as it may waste our time and opportunity. There are some or other controversies which are always attached with the use of ICT in teaching and learning. There are some suggestions which a teacher must keep in mind while blending technology with language teaching:-

- A teacher and his role are always important and technology can be an aid to a teacher but can never replace a teacher. A teacher can take its help, but need not make technology his master.
- Whenever some new innovation emerges, always make a plan with Plan 'B' to use it. It is not necessary that every new invention will always be fruitful but sometimes it can be useless.
- Technology always has to be used as a helping aid not as master aid of the class. The interactive blackboard Fearing is really the backbone which can be complemented by technological enhancement.
- A teacher can beautify his lectures and lesson plans with the help of technology and consider it as a complementary tool; he will always be worshipped among his students.
- The best way is to ask your students to see movies in target language with or without subtitles in their MT. This will give them fluency in their target language.

## Conclusion:

It is really rare to find a language class without the use of technology now a day. In recent years, technology is used to enhance learning and teaching methods. Some technological tools help teachers and students to complete their classroom and homework tasks. Particularly Distance education, Online and satellite classes are best examples of this. Technology is growing time to time and facilitating teachers and students to grow and bloom. Technology can play vital role in enhancing and supporting learning and teaching practices but the main success of technology depends on the expert teachers and their pedagogy. Schools, Institutions and colleges have established advanced language labs with ultra-modern technological facilities but lack of trained teachers make it matter of laughter. Our curriculum designers and policy makers have to design our curriculum in such a manner that it permit technology, to enter in language teaching. Not only should these language teachers also train themselves for innovative ideas and use of ICT in teaching. The future of language-learning by technological gadgets is already here, but many more improvements and changes are still in pipeline. Mark Liberman sums it up brilliantly: **“The vast and growing archives of digital text and speech, along with new analysis techniques and inexpensive computation, are a modern equivalent of the 17th-century invention of the telescope and microscope.”**

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