

MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IN DEVELOPING SPEAKING SKILL

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Abstract

Technology is the tool to get access with this modernized world. More than the process of communication, trade and transactions, today technology is widely used in educational sectors. Technological tools have been regarded as ways of helping students improve language skills such as speaking skill. Internet, podcasts, video conferencing, videos and speech recognition software are considered the best tools for teaching speaking skill. This paper aims to discuss some modern technologies available for teachers of English today to enhance speaking skill of second or foreign language learners.

Keywords: Modern technologies, Enhancing speaking skill.

Introduction

Technology can stimulate the playfulness of learners and immerse them in a variety of scenarios. Technology gives learners a chance to engage in self-directed actions, opportunities for self-paced interactions, privacy, and a safe environment in which errors get corrected and specific feedback is given. Feedback by a machine offers additional value by its ability to track mistakes and link the student immediately to exercises that focus on specific errors. Bonk' s (2009) studies are emerging that show the importance of qualitative feedback in softwares. When links are provided to locate explanations, additional help, and reference, the value of technology is further augmented.

Modern technologies available in education today are:

- Communication lab
- Speech recognition software
- Internet
- TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning)
- Pod casting
- Quick Link Pen
- Quicktionary

Method:

Communication labs

Software's are available to develop speaking skills. Klassen and Milton (1999) argues that by incorporating suitable software through computers the students will play it again and again with their own interest and try to improve their speaking skills, which are most essential in this modernized IT world. The usage of headphones in the lab makes the students to have interest over the subject and induces them to repeat again and again instead of feeling boredom.

Speech recognition software

Speech recognition software also helps improving the students speaking, this can convert spoken words to machine-readable input. The device recognizes the accuracy of what was read and then provides a positive reinforcement like "You sound great!" or gives the user an opportunity to try again, in this way the learner can figure if he is reading well or not. As the user's skill improves, the technology reads less material so that the learner reads more. This software also evaluates and provides scores of grammar, pronunciation, comprehension and provided with the correct forms, for examples if a student mispronounces a word, the learning tool can immediately spot it and help correct it. This device can be a very useful device for distance learners because they don't have a teacher who corrects their speech and this device can help improving their speaking skills.

Internet

Internet is a commonly acknowledged term and widely used by people throughout the world. Students now use Internet in the class to learn English. Bates and Poole (2003) state that online teaching inside the classroom seems to be interesting and makes the students to find out the suitable materials for them. Brown (1994) states students are instructed to do the grammar exercises which are available online. Through Internet we can collect data from various sources for any instruction to improve speaking, students can use Skype, MSM Messenger, Google talk (used to have conferences on line) and other applications where students can connect with friends, other students, teacher and even native speakers, these ways of learning have been observed to improve oral proficiency in students and make up for the lack of native speakers in the areas where students live and what is more, on line conferences also enhance intercultural awareness, motivation and raise the level of interaction. Over the internet, students can find a lot of learning materials, for instance, audio, video, radio and TV shows, games, voice recordings, quizzes, podcasts and so on, in this way, students get exposed to a great amount of target language and this help them develop their speaking skills. As stated by Ur (1996), speaking included all other skills of knowing that language. Speaking is "the

process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols, in a variety of contexts".

TELL

TELL is the use of computer technology including hardware, software and the internet to enhance teaching and learning of languages. It allows the students to get access with all the technologies available for the enhancement of English learning. Students are allowed to use online dictionaries, chat, and to view the various happenings around the world.

Pod casting

Podcasts can be uploaded or downloaded, this audio help the learner familiarize with the target language and teachers can use them as useful audio material that can be used in class for activities like discussions, besides, in the web, there are even particular podcasts that are for ESL learners and these can include pronunciation for particular needs of students. Podcast undoubtedly help learners in speaking. Pod casting is the integration of audio files where we can feed our own materials and ply it inside and outside of the classroom. Students use i -pods to hear their favorite music files. In the same way they have their education in the form of entertainment.

Podcasting allows students to use their tech-based entertainment systems for educational purposes. With it we are able to move away from the traditional face-to-face training without losing the student-to-trainer relationship that is so effective in any learning process. Podcasts enables students and teachers to share information with anyone at anytime. An absent student can download the podcast of recorded lesson and is able to access the missed lectures. They could also access lectures of experts which may not otherwise be available because of geographical distance and other reasons.

Quick link pen

Quick Link Pen allows learners to copy and store printed text, Internet links. It helps to transfer the data to computers and enables the reader to get the meaning of the word from a built in dictionary. Accessing this type of machine seems to be a more convenient method.

Quicktionary

It is a pen-like device. It allows the reader to easily scan the word and get its definition and translation on its own LCD screen. Technology such as Enounce and Sound -Editor enable learners to adjust the speech rate of listening materials to assist their comprehension, and present spectrum of speech waves and visual depictions of mouth and tongue movement to ease the learning and refine pronunciation.

Conclusion

Using technology in learning a second language has become a real necessity nowadays.

This paper has reviewed briefly how technology can be utilized in developing the speaking skill of the learners. Different methods for using technology in improving speaking skill were discussed thoroughly. As a result, the following concluding remarks and recommendations can be recorded:

1. As technology has developed the incorporation of this medium into the instruction process become necessary.
2. The computer is being viewed more as an integral part of the learning activity, and as a means by which skills are transferred to learners.
3. Theory and practice in second language learning can be matched together by the use of modern technology.
4. Modern technical ways should be followed for effective learning and teaching of the speaking skill.
5. English language teachers should encourage their students to use technology in developing their speaking skill.
6. Educational institutions should modernize their technical instruction capabilities by using new equipments and laboratories for supporting the teaching process.
7. Modern technological tools are much more interesting and provide fun and enjoyable learning, motivating the students, and help them to enhance their language learning in a fruitful way, moreover, these tools help students learn at their own pace and promote autonomy in them.

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