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ENRICHMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE THROUGH COMPUTER ASSISTED LANGUAGE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

In this rapidly changing environment, it is hard to imagine a life without multi-media products and computer that are affecting the human life and thinking a lot. These systems should be used in education system also. Really learning has become very easy and effective by it. English Language can be learnt and improved by the various methods of CALL. It is beneficial for both the student and the teacher as well. Now the students can come out from the monotonous and boring lecture-halls and can learn a lot by their self-engagement exercises on computer and their teachers too can transfer their knowledge easily and effectively by following a lot of strategies on computer.

***Key Words:** Fascinated, Behaviorist theories, broadcast, implicate, courseware, terminals, vocabulary drills.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is that kind of tool which makes a difference between a human being and an animal, educated and uneducated, wise and fool. It is a phenomenon to understand the feelings, thinking of others. It is a method of transmission of views and ideas from one individual to others. And now a day's English has become as a global lingua franc and it will not be wrong to say that due to modernism, globalization, industrialization and colonization, English language has become the first and common language of global community. In the fast growing competitive environment the knowledge of English language is not sufficient rather there is needed to be updated with advanced communication technologies and in this regard Computer- assisted Language learning (CALL) plays an important role to enrich the English Language.

MEANING AND DEFINATION OF CALL

The meaning of the term, 'Computer assisted Language Learning', is to learn language with the help of computers. It is a kind of software that can run on mainframe computers and it provides learners a very comfortable environment to learn language. CALL can be defined in such manner:

CALL, an abbreviated from for Computer Assisted Language Learning, is an interactive method of Instruction that helps learners to achieve their goals of learning, at their own pace and ability. In this Method, computer technology is used in teaching /learning procedures at all stages such as procedures at all stages such as presentation, practice and feedback. (English Language Laboratories, E. Suresh Kumar, page no. 3)

REQUIREMENT OF CALL IN CHANGING SANARIO

Now-a –days everything is changing, class- rooms have been changed, teaching methods have been changed. It would not be wrong to say that teachers have also changed. Computers have taken the place of teachers but technology always plays the part of slave not as the master. Now the teachers should come ahead to make themselves smart and updated so that they can play with technology and they can use the technology in their teaching- method. In such manner, they can be more innovative, comprehensive, smart- workers and effective and in it, CALL is very helpful for teachers.

EFFECTIVE TEACHING-LEARNING METHOD

CALL helps the teachers to make their lesson-plan. Now with the help of computer programming, they can divide their whole syllabus into some units, then units into sub- units, sub-units into some lectures, and lectures into some points. Afterward, those points can be prepared with audio- visual aids and a teacher can explain those points in an effective manner with the help of computers. The teacher can make slides and with the help of those slides, he can explain those points in more effective manner and it will not be wrong to say that visual is more effective than hearing so the students can understand and learn the things easily with the help of it. And besides it, the teacher can prepare on line assessments and mail his students and can receive their solved assessment on line then with the help of programmers, he can evaluate all those assessments very easily. This process is helpful for both- the teacher as well as the students.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

The teaching which is based on Computer Assisted Language Learning, promotes collaborative learning because it not only enables the learners to learn the things, to understand the things but it provides the background information and ablest to explain the matter in the most elaborated manner. It facilitates the process of continuous interactions among the learner and the learned. No doubt, it is the best method of exchanging the ideas. It gives a lot of solutions of any particular problem. With the help of this process, the teacher can create interest related to the topic and can develop a healthy environment in the lecture helps that's why, it has been written by M.S. Singh,

Fascinated by the new technology in the early days of CALL, many teachers focused on technological issues, neglecting pedagogical and methodological questions and not realizing that innovative pedagogy and methodology were required to integrate satisfactorily the use of computers into the foreign languages curriculum. (Teaching of English, Page no. 183)

INNOVATIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES

In present high- tech- environment, teaching has become a challenging job. It is really a tuff job to handle the students because they are also very innovative. They themselves have a lot of sources of learning and they do not have any interest in reading books and listening the lectures that's why they don't pay attention in lecture-hall, they do not want to listen the things, thought by their teachers rather they want to see, to visualize the things and it really becomes easy for them to understand and to remember the things for a long period by CALL.

There are a lot of advanced software as Basic Audio- Recorder, advanced MP3 Audio Recorder, advanced Multimedia Player and etc by which the teacher can create interest in the mind of the student and it will be very easy for him to repeat the lecture again and again with the help of any software if it is needed for the students because all the fingers are not same in the same way, there are many students of different I.Q. levels and they have different grasping power to understand the things. So it will help the weak students to repeat the things and without any hesitation and stress, they can learn the lesson with the help of computers. In the case of CALL, it is very easy for the teacher to change the strategy at once and according to the interest of the students. And very easily he can get the feedback by the responses of the students. It has been rightly written, "Teacher has the facility to create or develop their own materials with the help of these utilities. Teacher can create audio, video and script attached audio files and can broadcast to the students." (Teaching ESL through CALL, page- 10)

PHASES OF CALL

BEHAVIORIST THEORIES

To understand CALL, it is very necessary to know about the phases of CALL. The word 'phase' means the gradual development of CALL with the time. The first and the foremost phase of CALL is Behaviorist in which different behaviorist theories of learning, repetitive language drills programmes are applied. It has been written,

Based on these notions, a number of CALL tutoring systems were developed for the mainframe computers which were developed for the mainframe computers which were used at that time. One of the most sophisticated of these was the PLATO system, which ran on its own special PLATO hardware, including central computers and terminals. The PLATO system included vocabulary drills, brief grammar explanations and drills and translations tests at various intervals. (Teaching of English, page no. 188)

COMMUNICATIVE APPROACH

The second phase of CALL was based on communicative approach in which students were motivated by several language programmes to learn and improve their language. By this process, a natural learning environment has been created. The learner has felt flexible by this implicated method. According to it,

During this the phase of communicative CALLS, first, there were a variety of programmes to provide skill practice, but in a non- drill format. Examples of these types of programmed include courseware for paced reading, text reconstruction and language games. In these programmes, like the drill and practice programmes mentioned above, the computer remains the "knower- of- the- right- answer", thus this represents an extension of the computer as tutor model. (Page- no. 189-190)

MULTI-MEDIA APPROACH

From the first phase of learning, children are learnt by smart classes in which with the help of multi- media equipment and projectors, students learn how to speak and write. Students take interest in learning counting and tables with the help of visual- aids. A lot of rhyming and stories are there by which they can learn a lot without any manual support and when these small kids enter into the schools, they have to engage in a lot of on line



programmes, project work and in a lot of activities. “New information technologies such as computers and electronic networks are now being used in all facets of teaching the English Language.” (By B.C. Bruce in Technical Report) This process is useful for all types of personalities. The students who are of shy nature and feel hesitation to put their thoughts and views in front of others, with the help of various individual text chatting, communication acts can learn a lot. These kinds of software help them to strengthen their basic skills and they can remove their short-comings also. With the help of on-line dictionary, Audio and Script, Pronunciation by getting feedback by sound waves. In such manner, they can groom their sparking skills and communication skill without any stress and tension. It has been rightly written,

Language learners should feel comfortable enough to take risks with the target language but they should not be put to sleep by overly simple-minded tasks and exercise. Educators can create optimal stress by matching the degree of difficulty of challenge, to the students' skills, giving them enough difficulty to keep their attention while providing them with tasks that are possible to complete. (Teaching of English, page no. 186)

WORLD-WIDE WEB

With the help of World Wide Web (www) the students can get links one document to others. They can easily move from one document to another according to their convenient. By using several applications named Web Browsers, they can search a lot of files within few seconds and can collect a lot of materials according to their demand. In such manner a lot of applications as Hypertext, News reader, new server are there to gather and to collect information.

CONCLUSION

Thus it can be concluded by this quotation,

Effective learning is possible with a combination of both the classroom and multimedia element. Multimedia computers provide the necessary optimal input and practice activities and the classroom provides the human element where the language models come to life and are extended in social context. Without the social environment of classroom, learning becomes tedious, un motivating and too restrictive to meet the needs of the learners. The blended

approach allows more effective use of the teacher and offers ample opportunity for effective practice. (Teaching of English New Dimensions, page no. 11)

The role of teacher cannot be ignored at all, the effect of class-rooms cannot be neglected at all, the group learning cannot be ignored but the element of multimedia and computer- assisted learning programmes is mixed with conventional resources of learning, the result will be effective, unexpected and outstanding.

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