The Exigency of the Day Multi-Media in English Classes

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Abstract - The usage of Multimedia is the exigency of the day in every English class whether it is for Primary students, Secondary students or Graduate students.The present generation is anyways techno geeks. Since childhood exposed to mobile, television, radio, tape recorders/ VCR etc., The multimedia which in general sense is something that one can watch and listen. It is graphic arts, audio, sound, text, animation and many. This is usually recorded and played, accessed or displayed by some computerized and electronic devices. I definitely don't mean an English class should be a like a demonstrating hall of computers. An English class needn't get away from the traditional way of teaching completely but however where ever there is a need of technology, it has to be used.

The teaching of English based on network circumstance brings the advantage of network into full phase, and its main aim is to impart the knowledge of 'language'. Yes, the study methods and application skills might differ. Ultimately the students' interest of self-study should increase, strengthening their ability of speaking, listening and writing.

Pupils are the main body and teachers are mentors. The reason why an excellent teacher differs from a mediocre teacher is only that apart from teaching he does inspire the students and make them to achieve their respective goals.

In this paper I am going to analyze the necessity of multimedia technology in language teaching for different kind of students, the role of English teachers in its usage, the responsibility of the students, the role of school or college management and also the difficulties faced in the usage of these technologies.

Keywords – Multimedia, Teacher, English language, technology.

I. INTRODUCTION

The term multi-media is nothing new, it has become a part of educational system from two to three decades in Medicine and Science. Next in the form of Smart classes it has stepped into Educational system in both Colleges and Schools. But coming to the teaching of English Language it is not used in a full-fledged way.

Whatever the reason might be, English language has got a new status and face and it is understood that English language is not just a theory but practical application is also very much possible. Just in order to prevent the traditional method of teaching, some teachers put up great efforts to design flowery and fancy courseware, but they neglect the cognitive laws. They don't consider the major factors such as teaching aim, teaching object, teaching content and teaching measures. Students roam about in the courseware, and teachers press the mouse on the platform incessantly. There is no vital distinction between such kind of class and traditional teaching; sometimes the former is proved better than the latter.

Need of Multimedia Technology in Language Teaching:

Multimedia is defined as the integration of two or more media elements with computing technology to communicate information i.e., an integration of sound, animation, still image, hypertext and video through a computer Programme. The 21st century is an information age as well as knowledge economy age. The speedy development of information technology provides us with sophisticated teaching means— multimedia. It is true that multimedia has many advantages in English teaching, such as offering more information, saving more time, stimulating students' imagination and creativity, and so on. In teaching and learning of English language, the latest technologies such as Computers, Internet, Email, Electronic Dictionary, Blogs, mobile phones etc., play a very

effectual role. Next to its commercial importance, it is seen as the didactic tool for the independent research and academics. The last two decades have observered a revolutionary change due to the onset of technology, in the teaching and learning process. This rapid rising and development of information technology has offered a better example to explore the new teaching model. The multimedia is used in different forms such as:

Text: It is the fundamental element in all multimedia applications. It conveys most information. In order to catch the reader's attention, teachers can use different font sizes, colors and styles to present information; emphasizing certain word or phrase.

Graphics: It refers to images and pictures, such as chart, diagram, and photograph, which is motion less. Graphics can stimulate interest and motivate, improve understanding and ability of language.

Animation: Animation is the quick display of a sequence of images of 2-D or 3-D artwork or model positions in order to generate an illusion of movement. Assisted by the use of animation, teachers can bring to light key knowledge points and enhance students' motivation.

Computers: It is speech, music, or any other sound that is stored and produced by computers. It has more advantages than tape recorder. In multimedia, teacher can use more vibrant and fruitful sounds to help students' to learn English.

Video: It is the visible part of a television transmission and televises visual images of stationary or moving objects. Compared with animation, video can offer more colorful information.

The role of English teachers in its usage:

Teachers depending on multimedia teaching method excessively should realize that multimedia teaching method is only an auxiliary one, and it is not the whole of English teaching.

- Influenced by the traditional habits and ideas, some teachers are using the old bottles for new wine and putting all the study material into the courseware. So their courses are lacking persuasion and the quality is also not up to the mark.

- The essential difference is that a good teacher synchronizes his teaching into the students' study. So we can draw a conclusion that the change of a teacher's idea is far more important than a kind of teaching method used.

- The success of this system of education largely depends upon the dedication and patience of the teachers towards their service. Specially the teachers for physically

challenged are struggling and also not satisfied with traditional mode of communications, so they surely should well advanced in the usage of multimedia.

The role of School or College Management:

The Management of every school and college should be able to understand the need of the Multimedia Classrooms for the English Language Teaching , just not only to impart the knowledge of English to the students but also to make them suit to the competitive world basically for placements in Colleges. The concept of multimedia technology is broad & it has infinite usage fields, it is an intense element as an educational technology in addition to its use in medical & statistical domains & in establishing databases.

According to researchers, multimedia is one of the best educational techniques because it addresses more than one sense simultaneously, as it discourses the senses of sight & hearing. Multimedia programs provide different stimuli in their presentations which include a number of elements such as Interaction, effective listening, speaking skills and vocabulary.

- The Multimedia Class Room should consist of (a) MPC—Multimedia Personal Computer; (b) VCD/DVD player—Video Compound Disk/Digital Video Disk; (c) Amplifier and Hi-Fi Acoustic System; (d) Overhead/Slide projector; (e) Screen (f) Projecting Apparatus; (g) The Internet access; (8) Cassette Tape Recorder etc ., are fundamental and necessary**.**

- It also should aim to make English teachers aware of the strategies to use it in an effective manner, thus while at the time of Interview itself should select right people or at least should train English faculty members and should also conduct workshops to update with new technologies.

- In order to apply this new teaching mode to serve the English language teaching more effectively, one should make good use of the advantages and evade the disadvantages to achieve better results. The new method of English teaching will surely motivate the learners' interest and create a better English communicative environment for students and increase the teaching competence of the language teachers.

Through the usage of multimedia one can easily align instructional goals and empower instruction through using appropriate multimedia tools. It's understood it takes some planning, time, and expenditures, but in the long run the students will reap many benefits, such as taking more responsibility for their learning, becoming aware of their learning and how to document it, and realizing their own creative potential.

Benefits to the Student Community:

Multimedia is a boon to both quick learners as well as slow learners. It even proved to be tapping undiscovered strengths and talents that enable students with disabilities to fully participate in the learning process. Multimedia proved to be very interesting and improving the results of those, who experience repeated failures with mono media – pencil and paper. It can engage students' prior knowledge and help them to form mental images and hence to deepen their conceptual understanding.

Multimedia encourage hearing impaired students to use all of their senses and reflect on the ways they learn best. Surely, a good pedagogy coupled with multimedia can yield success in the teaching of these special students. The integration of various technologies including electronic media, has changed the learning environment from a teacher-centered method to a learner-centered one.

The Constraints/ difficulties faced in the usage of these technologies:

- The technological skills, for both the students and teacher.
- The technological resources, both hardware and software.
- Time required for planning, designing, developing and evaluating multimedia activities.

Effects of Multimedia usage on Teaching and Student community:

Presently it's great to see many English faculty members well versed with computer application skills and making the computer-controlled integration of text, graphics, drawings, still and moving images (Video), animation, audio, and any other media where every type of information can be represented, stored, processed and transmitted digitally. Teachers have become more efficient. In student community according to the reviews its been noted, that there is : a)Increased Motivation and Self Esteem, (b)Development in Technical skills, (c)Triumph of more complex tasks, (d) Increase in collaboration with Peers, (e)Improvement in the percentage of English speakers and (f) Improvement in the level of confidence.

II. CONCLUSION

Multimedia is very essential in English Language Teaching as the student should be able to meet the competitive world and also for conducting Group Discussions, Interview Skills, Jam sessions to prepare every type of student for placements as well as to enhance the confidence and quality language.

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