Impact of Technology in learning English Spelling

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Abstract : Technology makes a lot of changes in our day to day life. It shows impact not only our lives but also in various aspects like learning process of English language. It adds both advantages and disadvantages in the learning process. Through internet, learners find more information and it opens wide variety of opportunities to practice and to enhance their English language skills. At the same time, it leads to the negligence of some of the important areas in language learning like practicing spelling. Apart from the Receptive skills and the Productive skills, Vocabulary and Grammar, learning spelling also occupies a crucial role in the learning process of English language. The aim of this paper is to present the impact of technology in practicing spelling in English language and how technology constructs or destructs an opportunity of learning.

Key words: constructs, destructs, English spelling, Productive skills, Receptive skills.

The process of learning second language is depend on the interest, need, exposure and sources availability around the learners. With the development of technology, Learners have got wide range of opportunities in the learning of English language. In olden days, regional languages may enough to lead their personal and professional life but in the present society people are giving preference to migrate from one place to another to find better opportunities in their academics, profession or business. In this process English language skills plays a vital role. To communicate with other language people or other country people, English language skills acts as a bridge.

Learning English language is different from learning academic subjects. Learning a language involves getting command in four language skills like Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Apart from the above skills, Vocabulary and Grammar also takes a vital role. In this process, we can also add one more important skill that is learning spelling to avoid obstacles in the learning process. Replacing of a letter in a word may lead to confusion or complete change of the context by altering words. For example, effect and affect. It shows impact in pronunciation of the words and understanding meaning in the given context. There is no chance to practice a skill in alone, it is possible in an integrated manner. Learner

need to practice in both contexts like formal and informal through various activities to get enough exposure. Formal contexts like listening to lectures, presentations and group discussions and etc.,. informal contexts like taking online exercises, participating in competitions, watching movies and listening to music etc.

In the process of practicing language skills knowing spell of the word is very important to understand the context to avoid miscommunication. In general the learners are giving more priority to the skills of language but not to the spelling practice. That impact clearly exhibits at the time of examinations. Enough practice will avoid errors in presentation. Giving less practice to the spelling leads to many errors in writing like 'Collage' instead of 'College'. It shows how the learners are unequipped with the spell of simple words. The problem may arise due to the negligence or dependence on computers to correct the errors or giving least preference to present in their own hand writing. When we write on a paper then we need to think and present ideas without any spell and grammar errors. In the process of preparing content in computer, learner depend on computers for spell correction and grammar correction, if any. This provides less chance to the learner to learn or think.

With the advent of technology, the equipments like mobiles, computes, calculators make learners to expose various issues and helps them to enhance their knowledge. At the same time, it makes their task very easy. The learner can find number of useful websites to enhance their language skills through activities or online courses. The same technology makes their learners as slaves and more dependents. Spending more time to find information with the help of search engines like Google and social networks leads to wasting of time and less importance to ones thinking. It affects learners' critical understanding and thinking abilities.

Another obstacle in the process of learning is while sending a message in informal context students prefers their regional language. For example: "Elavunnaru" instead of 'how are you?' So, typing in (Telugu language) regional language instead of using English. This kind of exercise also effected learning process. Dependency on technology gives benefit as well draw back that the result is depending on the user. How they are going to utilize it? At kinder garden, the learners have been given enough practice to train spell of the word but the same practice may not happened in the case of upper intermediate level. The reasons may vary from one to another like not interest to know or shy to ask simple spell or less writing practice or confuse with syllables or many other. The consequence of this problem may results in poor performance in writing.

To enhance the skill of spelling needs the attention of the language teacher and learner. The teacher needs to identify their learners' mistakes and correct those errors in a constructive manner. Another important aspect is requirement of learners' involvement to practice various supportive activities in the classroom with the help of teacher and with the support of different language websites. Through infotainment, the learner can give enough practice in spelling and also enjoy with activities or games. Activities like spell bee, cross words, dictation, fills the gaps and many other activities help the teacher to give enough practice. Spell bee is an activity or competition which is used to check the spell of the word. Through this the learners not only get how to spell a word whether a simple one or difficult one but also helps to

enhance vocabulary. A Cross is a puzzle activity. In this activity, the learner needs to fill white squares with letters by using the given clues. In this process, learners improve their critical thinking ability, vocabulary and spell of the words. Through dictation, teacher can enhance the learners' memory power and spell of the words.

Apart from the above the learner can individually practice or spend enough time in doing exercises in online. It helps learners to enhance their knowledge but also help to practice certain qualities like self directing, self discipline and analyzing ones strengths. Some of the supported websites are http://www.spellingtraining.com/, https://www.homespellingwords.com/, https://www.spellingstars.com/ and many more.

CONCLUSION

Getting proficiency in English language is possible when the learner gives equal priority to all the required skills not in one. In that process the following are the major productive skills, receptive skills, vocabulary, and grammar. Practicing spelling is also a part of learning a language. By using technology the learner can get proficiency in spelling. More dependency on technology leads to poor performance in spells, critical thinking and memorizing.

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