E LEARNING AND EFFECTIVE LANGUAGE TEACHING

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While distance education is growing more and more popular by the year in a variety of fields, eLearning a foreign language is still, foreign, in many ways, especially when it comes to research, data, and teaching methodology. Online second language courses differ radically from other subjects in which students interact and communicate in their own language in order to learn new material.E-Learning is an education innovation that has transformed the use of traditional way of learning to the use of modern technology such as video, computer, CD ROM, internet, intranet, satellite, etc. to deliver content of learning through electronic equipment in various learning environment ranging from learning with the teacher in the classroom using computer, web-based learning and distant learning.

Language teaching in general and English Language Teaching (ELT) in particular has tremendously changed over the centuries. When English entered in the curriculum of the students as a compulsory subject, it was a challenge for the English language teachers to teach to the foreign learners but they taught English as a 'Know-ledge' subject not as a 'Skill' subject because their main aim was to teach them to pass the examinations only. So they adopted 'Grammar-Translation Method' in which the teacher used to explain every word to students in the native language to make them understand and learn English. Despite the fact that this method ignores the development of oral proficiency of the learners, it is still popular with majority teachers in the modified form. So many other methods were also used such as bilingual method, direct method, audio-lingual method, the structural approach and the situational teaching, communicative language teaching etc. but no method was said to be a perfect method. Since then ELT seems to be swinging like a pendulum between the extremes of method as language teachers have ever been in search of better and more effective method of teaching. Moreover, the ELT trends that were very popular in the past have vanished today and have been substituted by innovative ELT methods. Present Trends in Teaching English The 21st century confronts its citizenship with new choices, opportunities and challenges due to the all-pervading technology into all spheres of life. In this era, the educational institutions cannot remain mere venues for the transmission of a prescribed set of information from teacher to student over a fixed period of time rather the educational institutions must promote "learning to learn" i.e. the acquisition of knowledge and skills that make possible continuous learning over the lifetime. So it becomes the responsibility of the teachers to shape up accordingly to meet the demands of the day. The need of the day is to equip people with proficiency in the English language and this is possible only with a proper blend of edification and e-learning tools (modern technologies). Traditional teaching and learning paradigms have been shaken by the impact of the integration of e-learning tools into educational practices. E-learning is a diverse range of technological tools and systems

that can be utilized by capable and creative teachers to enhance teaching and learning situations. These are used to make learning more interesting, motivating, stimulating and meaningful to the students. These tools have been touted as potentially powerful enabling tools for educational change and reform as they are making marked inroads into the combination of digital technologies and English language learning.

"Technology is not a panacea or a magic bullet that suddenly transforms all learning. The effectiveness of educational technology depends on how it is employed to meet educational goals for particular kinds of students in specific language learning environment…"

The development of computer and information technology offers a favorable external environment for English teaching. There are 300 million learners of English all over the world. Information technology furnishes them with abundant teaching materials of English, which also provides an opportunity for teachers to change their pedagogical strategies so as to improve the efficiency of teaching and learning. In recent years, computer and Internet are widely used. Accordingly, teachers should adjust their pedagogical strategies to improve teaching efficiency. They should be able to explore the application and advantages of e-learning in English teaching, analyse appropriate pedagogical strategies so as to improve students' learning efficiency, so that more students can master English as a second language.

When e-learning is applied to English teaching, the pedagogical strategies will be fundamentally changed. In the past 30 years, English teaching has been dominated by teacher-centered strategies, focusing on teaching grammar and reciting words. The result is that students got only a score or a certificate. Most of them could not speak or write in English properly. E-learning can turn the pedagogical strategies to student-centered, focusing on fostering linguistic sensitivity and improving listening comprehension and ability of expression so as to enable students to master English as soon as possible. Language acquisition does not depend on grammar and invalid exercises, but on student's own constant practice. That is the E-learning Pedagogical Strategy. A diverse range of technological tools that can be used by capable teachers to enhance learning and teaching situations. These tools make learning more interesting, interactive, meaningful and stimulating for the students. These tools are powerful as they are capable of bringing a change and reform traditional forms of learning. Studies show time and again that e-learning courses can have a positive and direct impact on an organisation's profitability by making it easy to learn and digest information.

Studies on e-learning have made it increasingly clear that e-learning has the following positive benefits for learners:

- better attitude toward the e-learning format and training in general
- improved scores on tests, certifications or other evaluations
- increase in number of learners who achieve 'mastery' level and / or 'pass' exams
- greater ability to apply the new knowledge or processes on the job

- better long-term retention of information

Internet, YouTube, Skype, Twitter, Smart-boards, Blogs and Podcasting are some of the successful tools that have changed the way language is taught. Due to the ubiquitous presence of technology the pedagogy of teaching methodology has also undergone a sea-change. The phrase "e-Learning" or "Technology in Education" has become the buzz word in every educational environment. Infusing technology into education is really important as it caters the needs of the contemporary learners. The classroom environment, today, is completely different from the traditional classroom. The traditional methods which are mainly based on lecturing and rote learning reduce English language learning to mechanical memorization and miserably fail in developing English language as a skill among the learners. As English has turned into a universal language, its presence and value in the world has expanded enormously in the past decades. But if language teachers teach as they taught earlier, then the required goals of learning English Language may not be achieved in the present global scenario. We are living in the 21st century and it is the age of technological advancement. Thus the recent trend in teaching English is the use of modern technological tools as English language teaching has been affected a lot with the availability of these tools.

As there are two sides to a coin this e learning also has its own barriers like a)**Technology dependence wherein** learners will need access to a machine of minimum specification as dictated by the e-learning supplier or access to a service with a high bandwidth to transfer the course materials in a timely way. b)**Material Incompatibility ,**where some materials designed for one particular system will not function properly on another (for example, the Apple Macintosh and the Windows PC). Standards will help in the area. c)**Unsuitable for Certain Types of Training:** any skill that relies heavily on inter-personal contact although these courses could be supplemented by e-learning. d)**Unsuitable for Certain Types of Learners:** e-learning requires a high-level of self-discipline and personal time management. E-Learners need to be highly self-motivated to take full advantage of the medium as often the online learning experience can be impersonal. Working through 'packaged' programmes can be irritating. e)**Reliant of the Quality of the Content:** it is too easy for some institutions to defer the photocopying costs onto the learner by placing all lecture notes and course handouts online. Such practices often mean that the course materials are in an inappropriate format for online learning. Course providers need to develop new technical skills and course design skills to suit the new medium. f)**Expensive:** start-up cost of an e-learning service is expensive and the cost of production of online training materials is very high. Teachers must be confident that the extra costs are balance with the benefits of delivering a course online. Significant time needs to be invested in course set-up and in ongoing maintenance (checking links, updating course content etc. g)**Reliant on Human Support:** e-learning is still dependent on help on either the course materials or the software. h)**Social/economic disadvantage:** can limit or prevent access by some student groups (for example, cost of equipment, online access and printing).

Given the speed of change and the resulting need for continual reinforcement and enhancement of learning skills, the importance of effective e-Learning can't be overstated. As teachers discover more about the advantages of self-directed, just-in-time learning and better understand how students learn online, their ability to use e-Learning as a cost-effective, highly flexible training option will grow. Undoubtedly, certain types of training will always be more effective face-to-face. By embracing e-Learning for routine, skills-based training, teachers can offer more focused and impactful experiential learning opportunities to the future generation.

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