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**MULTIMEDIA DEVICES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING OF ENGLISH
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

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Abstract

English is a foreign language in India; British people have introduced English language during their colonial imperialism. In the Indian context, English language is learned as second or third language of communication. Indian people have problems in learning and teaching English language as well as understanding literature from other language particular English. Students and teachers of English literature do not have much knowledge of the English culture which is reflected in English language as well as in literature. While teaching English literature teacher has to compare and contrast the foreign culture with our own culture. The basic purpose of teaching English literature in Indian classroom is to improve the English language as an international language and also introduce the culture of other nation. Different pedagogies and techniques are invented and developed to teach English language and literature. There is difference between teaching and teaching literature because of its aspects. Teacher has to use different multimedia devices for effective teaching of English language and literature. Multimedia are a combination of multiple communication media like text, pictures, sound and video. The present paper tries to study how multimedia devices are used as a tool of teaching and learning of English language and literature and its effectiveness.

Key Words

Multimedia – it is form of communication which uses combination of different content such as text, picture, audio, video or animations etc.

Introduction

Today's age is the age of computer technology and multimedia technology. The multimedia technology occupies a very significant place in communication. This has now turned into a useful tool for communication of all trades and fields. These are also being profitably employed in the field of teaching and learning process. This has resulted into the improvement of the teaching and learning process. Multimedia are combinations of text, graphic art, sounds, animations and video delivered by computer or any other electronics means.

Multimedia is a combination of various audio-visual devices. It may be described as aids that facilitate the understanding of the written and spoken word in a teaching learning situation. They appeal to the senses which are sources of learning. What we learn through sense remain in our mind for longer time. The effectiveness of learning through sense or through multimedia devices is depending on its use. Multimedia devices can be sub-divided into audio aids, visual aids and audio-visual aids. Visual aids pertain to the sense of sight, audio aids to the sense of hearing and the audio-visual aids to both the senses of sight and hearing. Among them the sense of the sight is more important because most of the knowledge is acquired by it. These multimedia devices are of great value in the teaching learning of English language in India.

English language in India is taught as compulsory subject in Secondary, Higher Secondary classes and also in under graduate (UG) programs in many universities. Beside that English literature is also taught as part of the general English courses to graduate students who are specializing in humanities. The literary texts such as poems, plays, short stories, novel etc. are used as material to teach English language. Thus teaching of English language and literature go hand in hand.

The use of multimedia devices in the teaching of English language and literature is a major force today. There are many advantages of using these devices. It can provide sensory experience to the learners which create sensation. It excites the eyes and ears. It collects together all the sensual elements of multimedia such as pictures and animations, engaging sounds, compelling video clips and raw textual information. Direct experience is the best source of understanding and by using multimedia devices teacher can substitute and supplement

the direct experience. It can help to motivate the teacher as well as students. It is very effective device for the slow learner. Meaningful and more efficient learning took place by using multimedia devices. These multimedia devices are very useful for the development of the power of imagination and observation.

Multimedia devices include audio aids such as gramophone, tape recorder, radio and language laboratory. Audio resources appeals to our ears. All those materials which functions as aids by appealing to the early only are called audio aids. They are usually used to form speech habit. In actual teaching the audio aids will come first. Gramophone was once a blessing for the countries like India. It was inexpensive, easy to operate and suitable to maintain. It provides the first rate material and it is so cheap that any educational institute can buy it. Unlike the film, it can be stopped at any stage to repeat the item. It can work on battery too. It had some disadvantages such as it cannot record the voice or learner and its content and manner of presentations cannot be controlled by the teacher. To overcome tape recorders are used in teaching and learning of English. The tape recorder has all the advantages of the gramophone. The voice of the students and the teacher can be recorded for comparison. This comparison helps for self-criticism which leads to self-improvement. With the new inventions in technology, these gramophones and tape recorder have become out dated. But once it has played very crucial role in developing English language skills in India.

Radio becomes the popular means of mass media for communication. One of the advantages of the radio over the tape recorder and the gramophone is that of the wide coverage. The radio can cover the whole country and is not confined to the classroom only. In the country like India where there is dearth of good teachers of English, radio should prove to be very useful. With the emergence of national pattern of education, the radio with its coverage schools prove a boon. Radio has proved to be a very useful significant audio aid. The role played by the BBC in language teaching is most striking.

Language laboratory is a recent origin in the field of teaching and learning of English. A language laboratory is a separate room with several booths having taping and listening facilities with headphones which is controlled by a central monitor from which the teacher can direct the activities of all the booths. It helps to learn foreign language easily. English is a foreign

language in India. Language laboratory is essential for the teaching and learning of English language because language is skilled subject. If the skills of language can be acquired, proper materials are to be supplied. It has been found that the subject of English can be learnt easily and effectively with the help of language laboratory.

Television is one of the powerful multimedia devices and considered as audio-visual aids which appeal to both ears and eyes. Television with its simultaneous appeal to the sense of sight and the sense of hearing is most effective and the most sophisticated audio-visual aids available today. It is described as the queen of audio-visual aids and it is used for educational purpose in more than one hundred countries today. Educational programs of the television are a feast to the eye and the ear. These programs have powerful impact. If these programs are properly planned and organized, it will help learners to enlarge their general knowledge considerably. These programs help students put their leisure to good use. Television programs help to improve character and knowledge and the viewer's interest in science and fine arts.

Films are considered as one of the audio-visual aids which may be described as aids that facilitate the understanding of the written and spoken word in a teaching learning situation. They appeal to the senses such as eyes and ears which are sources of learning. What we learn through senses remain in our mind for longer time. The effectiveness of learning through senses or through this multimedia device is more effective. These devices are of great value in the teaching of English language and literature in India.

Films are a very common type of multimedia device. It can help the learner in a number of ways. By the use of films student's interest is heightened. More learning is accomplished and the retention of learnt material is more permanent. Films depict motion and motion implies continuity by seeing the English movies. Spoken English of the learner can be improved considerably. Moreover we can see the situation and also bear what is being said in that situation. It helps in the comprehension of language material. Thus, the films as one of the multimedia devices are definitely having great importance as far as teaching and learning of English language and literature in India is concerned.

Conclusion

Thus, there are number of multimedia devices in the process of teaching and learning of English language and literature. It is interesting technique which helps to keep attention of the students for longer time. Teacher's own film videos, YouTube videos as well as other videos from online sources are also used for teaching. They are very useful as far as teaching of English in India is concerned. Multimedia devices will definitely be of great importance.

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