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THE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN ENHANCING ESL LEARNERS' SPEAKING SKILLS

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ABSTRACT

In the present days, digital technology is a crucial resource for a number of activities. The usage of gadgets are developing process for educational, scientific or relaxation purposes. Technology gives an opportunity for the learners with fast access to any kind of data, rapid learning process and chances in order to gain enough knowledge. Creating a captivating learning process may have a positive effect on learners. While discussing traditional teaching styles to different digital technologies, extra choices for innovations, researches and an interactive learning experience are supported. Different digital technologies have been utilized in ESL teaching over the past decades. This publication aims to investigate the methods of different digital technologies in improving the speaking skills of learners and educators.

The results show that digital technology is a main factor to boost learners' speaking abilities by developing their enthusiasm and competence in educational setting, as well as enhancing their engagement as a stimulating teaching tool.

KEYWORDS

Digital technology, ESL Learners, Speaking Skills and Educators.

INTRODUCTION

Almost per day, a new device is launched in the industry market that contributes to modernizing our lifestyles in some manner and make daily life considerably better, as well as to progress an application or device. Moreover, approaching to digital technologies in the lesson process is very effective for learners in comprehending and involved in information which is being taught. There is a remarkable technology that may be utilized to increase the content of the syllabus. In fact, learners can approach to tasks, activities, projects, and research topics via different applications, which may offer them good opportunity to boost their knowledge and experience. The impact of innovative technology is significant, particularly on the educational system. It is commonly known, English is a common language in the world, its prominence has developed from primary school to higher education in our education system. Majority of the instructors rely on digital technologies to design their classes as well as enrich learners' skills in the educational setting.

That's to say, language is actually speech. Researchers state that a lot of languages around the world are with no written form but only oral. According to some experts of languages mention that even spoken versions more valuable than those with written forms. As it is known that language is gained by talking at first, following much more hearing sounds, syllables, words, and phrases in one's speech. Among the

abilities listening and speaking are much more essential and its basis is as solid as iron that means, the building built on it would survive forever. Children in their native language have an inborn ability to hear and respond in their surroundings. Furthermore, children attend schooling to obtain reading and writing skills. But, in the environment of communicative classroom, the learner's means of communication is their native language; in turn, the teachers should alter their instructional technique substantially too. Overall, there is a crucial need for a conceptual transition in learning and teaching speaking abilities via a switch in emphasis toward verbal inclination, teacher training, and the development of appropriate pedagogy.

Main Part

Learning a foreign language has been enriched and enhanced by the application of digital technologies. Many educators can develop teaching practices using digital technology, which enhances literacy development. Instructors present the opportunities for creating both autonomous and interactive learning settings in which students can obtain, engage, and practise a target language. Perhaps, learners can actively take part in personalised guidance constructed to fulfil one's particular needs and actively be involved in collaborative initiatives that would enable interaction with learners during the lesson process by utilizing the Online services, microsoft word, electronic

games, interactive media, multimedia and training programmes .

Moreover, digital technology may facilitate learners to collaborate together more effectively. Actually , collaboration is a vital strategy for classroom activities. Students work together on developing projects and learn from one another by reviewing their classmates' performance. The usage of digital technology enhances teachers' teaching and learners' learning in the educational settings . The usage of digital technology may enable to help educators in meeting the pedagogical demands of their learners. It would be reasonable to emphasize that the use of digital technology permits educators and learners to create regional and worldwide communities that link them with others and boost their learning experiences. In addition, the stable impact of digital technology is not inevitable; it depends on how educators use it in their English classroom. The conventional teaching method is not sufficient to educate English widely that's why , it high time fundamental shifts occurred in classrooms .Learners learn how to study productively in a well educational as well as innovative environment. In addition, educators should look for methods to use digital technology as a meaningful learning means for their students, even if they have not learned it. As we know, educators in conventional educational settings stand in front of learners and use a chalkboard or whiteboard to deliver lectures, explanations, and

instructions. By advancing of technology, these methods must be modernized. The use of electronic materials assists learners to gain new vocabulary and linguistic resources. Printed texts and the internet are all used in the application of multimedia to improve learners' verbal expertise . Plus, digital storytelling which includes 2 or 3 minutes storytelling video designing with pictures . The use of technology denotes a genuine educational experience that expands learners' capabilities. Technology allows learners to work independently and to develop appropriate attitudes. Learners may learn more effectively when technology is incorporated in the process of learning. When learners approach to technology to learn, it assists them cultivate higher order creative and critical thinking skills . It can be stated that an effective integration of various technologies and teaching techniques is significant for absorbing learners' interest for English language acquisition.

So far a lot of researchers have studied on teaching speaking via digital technology . One of them is Bahadorfar (2014) . He indicated that utilizing technology in the classroom to teach speaking enhances learners' communicative skills and cohesiveness, lexicon capacity, morphological variety, correctness, and articulation. Moreover, using digital technology to teach speaking enhances learners' speaking skills and has a significant effect on learners'

speaking skills, accuracy, and articulation. It facilitates students to eliminate their issues communicating. During the pandemic period demand for digital technologies raised rapidly especially for online lessons, multimedia, multiple tasks, including academic programs, leading in widespread school crisis emigration using virtual learning as the instructional tool. Shortly, the crisis has caused many education systems to alter traditional face-to-face teaching and learning lessons with online or distance learning.

It is possible to conclude that, with suitable techniques and methods, technology can be used as a stress-free teaching resource and an interactive educational platform that can grow learners' enthusiasm to enhance their speaking abilities. Digital technology is a bridge for students to explore new subjects' sea and deepen their comprehension of complicated concepts and perform speaking fluently and accurately. Moreover, technology is a learning tool that attracts absolutely young learners due to the new features as it gives a hand to create a stress free environment during the lessons. Best sides of all is that language learners gain speaking skills without any pressure as it is mostly learners centered. That's to say, digital technology provides an entertaining stress -free environment for the learners.

Anil (2016) points out that digital technology facilitates the educators to create a collaborative learning environment particularly during speaking lessons. The

students will be given a chance to work in groups as they will communicate with each other properly via technology in an interactive way. It deepens the relationship between the learners and the instructors. In turn, learners build their confidence through the opportunity presented them to interact with other people. Therefore, technology lets the learners to be actively involved in the speaking lesson as it creates an interactive learning environment.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the involvement of digital technology in teaching and learning is far beyond that of a traditional learning environment. In other words, approaching to digital technology in the educational settings is a great interactive medium or tool for ESL learners or any learners improving speaking skills in a fun way as well as bringing positive attitude towards the subject. These types of applications provide learning-based enjoyment and satisfaction as well as positive vibes which possibly change into motivation. Learners' learning spirit builds with motivation by using various applications in ESL learning. Without feeling anxious or blocks, educators may rely on digital technology in ESL teaching and learning that properly increase their confidence level in order to achieve proficiency in English Language.

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