



## **The role of multimedia in second language Teaching and learning**

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### **Abstract**

Did you know that English is not the original language of England? It was introduced to the Island in the mid- fifth century by three Germanic tribes. Earlier to this, Celtic was the spoken dialect. This language survives even today in the name of Gaelic languages of Scotland, Ireland and in Welsh. When the Germanic tribes entered the British Isles, they pushed the locals into Wales, Cornwall and Scotland. The invaders were: Jutes, Anglo Saxons. The Angels were named for “Engla”, their land of origin, and their language was called “Englisc”, from which the word ENGLISH is derived. They spoke an intelligible dialect, which slowly evolved into English or Old English. At this time, the Vikings from Scandinavia too influenced the language English. The English language is quite flexible and extends hospitality to all languages. This is the reason why foreign languages have greatly influenced the English language. (<http://www.hindu.com/yw/2007/02/16 stories/ 200702 1600100800.html>).

**Keywords:** multimedia, English, introduced, Germanic

### **Introduction**

The word “multi” means “many” and “media” is nothing but, where the information is conveyed either in the form of images, text, audio, video or in the form of content.

In this techno-world computers have become very popular in schools. Teachers are now using it for language teaching. This doesn't mean that multimedia is the alternate source for teachers. Teachers are always the facilitator of the class, either of multimedia classroom or in the traditional classroom. An efficient teacher might know how to arouse students' interest by the means of using Internet. Multimedia is used in different field, even in different subjects like: mathematics, Science, Chemistry, Foreign Language Learning etc., Today's generation are born with internet boon because in web pages the course materials can be stored and utilised in the classroom, which also cover all the educational field from primary to university level. This multimedia helps the students and teachers in multiple ways like: According to the students' age group all sorts of exercises, the web pages may offer different activities for students like grammar exercises, learning vocabulary through stories, reading comprehension exercises, writing letters both formal and informal, word games, free online test etc., can be used in the classroom, but also for teachers. In these ways students can practice their writing competency, these types of exercise learning will create and motivate the students to face many challenges while they take up the job. All the nine approaches to language teaching which were used through our field: grammar translation approach, direct approach, audio-lingualisms approach, reading approach, cognitive approach, situational approach, reading approach, affective-humanistic approach, communicative based approach, and comprehension based approach are all brought through in multimedia web page. Over the decades, the benefits related to the use of visual aids in the language classroom have been a topic of debate/ live discussion. In this techno-world we could not deny that our student community live in a media world, where most of

the information is provided by the visual input, through different technological devices. To make the teaching interesting and innovative teachers should bring the real world into their classroom. By this way of teaching, the acquisition of learning the language will be more effective, interesting and meaningful for the students. Through this way of teaching, the dropouts will be reduced from the schools and the students will love the language studies.

### **The Role of Technologies in Second Language Teaching / Learning**

The role of English plays a major role in this global world. It is quite important in developing countries like India. New technology and the influence of the internet have contributed to the major evolution in terms of education, business, Science & technology, sports, all of which demand high proficiency in the English language. English Language Teaching in India started with the famous Macaulay's Minute and its importance continues to develop, motivate by the recent technology like Internet. In the year 2000, there were billions of people learnt English but now the count has been increased. It was suggested by David Graddol's study. This shows the importance and necessity of the language. Most of the information is stored on the Internet in English language. Hence, the growth of technology has influenced the growth of English Language in every field.

When an infant born, the child listens to its parents by observing the lip movements later the child imitates the sounds it hears from the parents, or the others, this happened in the first language acquisition. All the children are born with an ability to learn the language they hear, where Chomsky terms this is Language Acquisition Device (LAD). Native speakers use the right words in proper order without thinking. Whereas in the process of learning the second language, the child has to memorize the particular words and learn its rules. Hence the second language might be difficult and many time it causes frustrated for the students. Realising this truth only the English teacher uses

many activity basis of teaching the child effectively through technologies like Internet.

In the language pedagogy multimedia is considered to be a rebellious, which is in the form of meaning. The audio and graphical images of the computer not only have improved the presentation but also made possible what conventional textbooks cannot do. Digitised audio helps the students to comprehend the pronunciation. Most of the students trust that the learning in the computer lab will improve the listening skills and made the class more interesting, motivating, involving and enjoying themselves regularly in the multimedia classroom. It also help the students to increase their learning potential in an effective mode.

### **Julika Matravers uses six kinds of strategies which are used in teaching Process**

1. Cognitive Apprenticeship: It deals about watching an expert in action and probing questions.
2. Successive Refinement : It talk about the learning material is explained in steps with continuing addition of details.
3. Practice : Here the presentation of problems which needs to be solved immediately.
4. Demonstration: It is about presenting the content with examples
5. Socratic Hinting : Placing the user in a specific frame of mind by providing short reminders or questions.
6. Analogue Reasoning: It is about expressing a different view point of a situation.

The Above strategies are selected according to the subject area and have to be sustained by the interface used in the classroom.

### **The Role of Multimedia in English Language Teaching in Theoretical Basis**

1. **Constructivism:** In the students perspective multimedia plays a major role. During their course of studies learners play active role as well as passive role. The Constructive plays a major part in it. Obviously it has been discussed in two views: Cognitive constructivism and Social constructivism. In the first constructivism generally the knowledge deals with restructuring and their experiences are organised. One's knowledge couldn't be transferred to others but can be acquired through one's experience. The Second Constructivism is Social Constructivism dealt about that the learning is the process of interacting and collaborating between the students and the teachers or among the student communities. The Education system is to create an ambiance where the learners can reconstruct their existing knowledge with their new updating. Hence the first constructivism helps the learners to learn through their experience or with the help of their teachers. Knowledge is not only acquired by teaching but by others help and suitable learning material from the constructivism way under a social cultural backgrounds and teacher should apply innovative and effective method into multimedia teaching.
2. **Cognitive Psychology:** Cognition deals about the acquisition, and the proper use of knowledge. Learners should not acquire their knowledge in a passive way it must be based on their attitude, background and

interest. From these lines it is understood that learning is not a passive task, hence multimedia plays a major role in teaching and learning a language in an effective way. Multimedia will sustain students' interest, involvement, participation by using the animation, graphics, images, sound to present the teaching-learning content in many dimensional ways.

In the view of cognitive psychology learners can receive the information through five senses: visually, auditorally, olfactory organ, tactile organ and taste organ.

- a. Information is obtained visually is about (83%)
- b. Information is obtained auditorally is about (11%)
- c. Information is acquired olfactory organ is about (3.5%)
- d. Information is obtained tactile organ is about (1.5%)
- e. Information is attained taste organ is about (1%).

These provide an essential role for the learners to acquire knowledge. In the traditional classroom the auditory might cause negative effect for students because student may find difficult in understanding the teacher's pronunciation but in the multimedia classroom teaching the students will not get distract over the pronunciation. They will receive the information both visually and auditorally.

### **3. Krashen's theory of second language acquisition:**

Krashen has postulated five main hypothesis :

- a. The Acquisition Learning Hypothesis.
- b. The Monitor Hypothesis
- c. The Input Hypothesis.
- d. Natural Order Hypothesis
- e. Affective Filter Hypothesis.

Among these five hypothesis, the fifth (ie) Affective Filter Hypothesis plays a major role in multimedia teaching in second language. The author's opinion on the fifth hypothesis is assumed to be a helping but regular role in the second language acquisition. These variables include: motivation, self-confidence, and anxiety. He claims that learners with high motivation, self-confidence, self-image, and a low level of anxiety are better equipped for success in the second language acquisition. Removing the students' anxiety, self-respect, less motivation may combine to increase the affective filter and form a Mental block which prevents comprehensible input from being used for language acquisition. Simultaneously positive affect is also essential but not much needed for first language acquisition. (S.P.Karshen)

### **Conclusion**

In this techno-world the traditional teaching methods were disappeared and there is no effective in second language learning. At present all the student communities are gifted in this modern techno-world with the help of animation effects, audio-visual effects. Most of the students are attracted, motivated and benefited in learning the second language effectively with innovative techniques. This multimedia technology benefits in many ways like : to develop students' communicative competence, to widen students' knowledge, to improve teaching and learning effectively, to create positive environment in language teaching classroom. Pictures and videos can serve as a connection between the first language and the second language. If the government provides ample computers to rural schools definitely the

rural school children will also get benefited like the other students. The multimedia teaching will reduce the drop outs from the many village areas. The government should make arrangement to modernize the school with technical instruction capabilities by using new equipments and laboratories for supporting the teaching learning process effectively. Hence, the technology will improve the teaching learning process by enhancing the quality of learning achievement in a successful manner.

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