



REVIEW OF RESEARCH

ISSN: 2249-894X

IMPACT FACTOR : 5.7631 (UIF)

UGC APPROVED JOURNAL NO. 48514

VOLUME - 8 | ISSUE - 9 | JUNE - 2019



LANGUAGE LAB: AN INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY IN LEARNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Birajdar Laxmi M.

Lecturer in English, A.G. Patil Polytechnic Institute, Solapur

ABSTRACT

With the rapid rise of technology in the 21st century, technology vista is widening its horizons in the field of education. The definition of literacy is redefined as a Digital Literacy. Every sunrise is bringing new technology, innovative mean and tools of teaching and learning the English language. The thirst of English language learning given birth to The Language Laboratories. Many private & public universities have made use of language lab mandatory for students. The ICT tools enhanced English language teaching and removed the limitations of time, space of traditional teaching. It is time for us to cope with it and embrace technology in our teaching methods. We should accept, appreciate and implement new learning methods such as using language laboratories for students. The language lab is a technological break for imparting skills in English. It offers exclusive result oriented efficient ways to enrich English language learning process through multimedia-based language lab which helps to master the listening & speaking skills. This kind of learning will help us to reach and teach the students more efficiently and effectively. Using of Language Lab in teaching English is highly needed in today's education.



KEYWORDS: Technology vista, Digital Literacy, Multimedia based Language Lab, ICT tools.

INTRODUCTION :

In the present century English has gained an outstanding position. English language teachers are continually searching for better ways of accessing authentic materials which can improve their students' knowledge & skills in the targeted areas. As the technology of the internet has transformed communication around the world, it is natural that it plays a major role in a multimedia language laboratory for developing English Language skills. Integrating ICT tools in

teaching can lead to increased learning competencies & boost opportunities for communication.

LANGUAGE LAB:

Language must be learnt and not taught. Teaching second language is quite challenging for the teachers as they do not have enough time to prepare lessons, the teacher-student ratio is too high hence students do not get an opportunity to get their queries solved in the class. The Materials provided is

not updated and not appropriate to address heterogeneous class as a result students fail to stay connected and attached to the class, also result oriented assessment is difficult when the number of students is more than 60 in a class. Hence it is observed teaching happening in the language class, but unfortunately, the learning is found missing in such classes. The first experiment of Language Laboratory was located at the University of Grenoble, French in 1908. Russia and Germany also

attempted Language laboratories in 1975, but they did not have good reputation due to the frequent breakdowns and limitations of technology. However current language labs are well equipped and advanced in terms of technology. Multimedia-based language lab helps to learn and enhance language proficiency by sharing course materials within seconds. These labs are developed on the methodology of LSRW skills (V.Deepika & M. Kalaiarasan, 2012). The language laboratory is very useful tool for practicing and assessing one's speech, testing four skills, learning at their own pace, raising motivation, reducing fear, and it makes the students feel comfortable. According to Pratixa Parmar & Dr. Deepak Mashru 'Language Lab software, in this 21st century, is one of the essential tools used in teaching and learning Communicative English to the students'.

Language Lab is a practical approach which needs adequate investment & well structured training to faculty in order to achieve the objective set by the education body. It functions as complementary to the classroom teaching through which students can reinforce the material learned in the class by putting them into practice. It is a great help to teachers in monitoring & evaluating the progress of the students & mentor them about their weakness. It is observed students learn much faster in the Language Lab compared to the traditional classroom. Language Lab allows the teachers to bring more diversified activities in order to keep the classroom interesting. They also offer a great tool to foster the communication in the classroom as it allows to chat, send a message & interact in the group. Most of the software companies with the experience in teaching software, providing pure software based language lab solution with function oriented design concept, user-friendly interface, professional sound technology with video broadcasting function. The digital language lab motivates students learning attitude, providing an interactive learning environment.

ADVANTAGES OF LANGUAGE LAB SOFTWARE:

Multiple options for Communication:

There are various inbuilt features which makes communication one to one either through audio, video or text. Intercom feature allows sending text messages. There are unique tools in the software the teacher can communicate with the individual student, selected student in a group or to a whole class.

Incognito Monitoring:

The teacher can monitor student activity in real-time discreetly. Incognito supervision takes place through the supervisor feature.

Customized e-lesson creation:

There are various inbuilt applications like Lesson studio, e-Reader, Billboard, e-Writer, Net Flick, X-play, Video Streaming, Conferencing, Live Classroom, e-Assignments to create customized lesson creation and implementation.

Instant Evaluation and Feedback:

Assessment of speaking, listening and all other assignments addressed to the students can be evaluated and feedback will be given instantly at a single click of button.

Listening Comprehension practice:

It gives stress on listening practice. The technology provides various comprehension modules for different levels and helps the students gradually move to the tough lessons successfully.

Pronunciation Practice:

Language Laboratory lay stress on pronunciation, stree, intonation and expression in the guided mode where student can monitor their progress report on each stage. This helps to fill the loopholes in the ability to understand a particular word or the expression.

Personalized, Interactive Video Quiz:

It develops self learning and enables the students to reach the expected progress for the module quickly. The students can record their own voice and playback the recordings, interact with each other and teacher. Visual aids play a vital role in bringing out the best in the students that make the learning exciting and fun.

Assignments and progress Tracking:

Each student is continuously monitored through his completed tasks. The notifications are set in the software to remind students to expedite the backlogs quickly. Progress report for each assignment is available to the teacher, he can set deadlines for particular assignment and offer help based on his progress chart.

Students' engagement & involvement:

Collaborative learning and interaction enhances the students active involvement in the lessons and stays concentrated on completing the given assignments.

Significance and Need for a Language Laboratory:

The significance of language laboratory is much realized in the era of communication. We live in multilingual & multicultural world where communication is inseparable part of life. We communicate 24 and 7hrs. Communication is an integral part of our life. Every professional organization also expects effective communication skills in their employees; hence a learner requires good command over the language for effective communication with clarity & accuracy. This proficiency can be achieved through the process & method of learning the language. The language laboratory exists to help one to use technology effectively to communicate. To acquire a sensibility for the sounds & rhythm of a language one has to hear the best sample of a spoken language (Richards,2001). Language Lab provides technical tools to get the best samples of the pronunciation of the language. The electronic devices used in the laboratory will stimulate the eyes & ears of the learner to acquire the language quickly and easily. It offers broadcasting, television programmes, web-assisted materials, videotaped off-air recordings. In short a learner can get the experience of having interaction with native speakers through the laboratory. Hence the language lab becomes the need of the hour in language learning process for communication.

The Language Laboratory is very useful for assessing students' speech. The content that is now used in the new language labs is much richer and self authored or free, with audio video, flash card games, internet etc are added. The speed and variety of delivery of media from teacher to student, student to teacher is much quicker and therefore much more engaging for both teacher and student. Student feels different when they learn in different atmosphere. The basic proficiency in spoken English is imparted to students through the language lab.

Language Lab Software:

Language learning has always remained a common stratum for each and every person as per one's own need, and requirement. Today many software and applications are available for learners of different age groups, starting with school children to adult learners. One can find and filter the Language lab software as per the needs and wants from the list of available options for language lab software. Very few have been given here for reference:

1. ODLL/ORELL
2. ETNL Language Software
3. Lingua phone
4. Fluent U
5. K Van Solutions
6. Smart English Lab
7. Sanako

8. Language Lab India (Comp-Point)
9. CaLabo EX
10. i-LOTUS
11. Zybro
12. Words Worth
13. Digital Language Lab
14. SANSSpace
15. OpenSim
16. DiLL
17. Repeat After Us
18. Global Arena

CONCLUSION:

The goal of using Language Lab in learning English language is to promote student-centered learning, which is possible when the online and traditional methods complement each other. When the teachers shift their focus on learning, then only they can push and pull the students from the traditional approach i.e. to pass the examination. Language Laboratories represent the single largest investment with computers. Language Lab with advanced software is the solution and need of hour to learn English Language. We need to invest adequately for Labs as well as teacher training. As awakened educators, we should always try to be open and be ready to take initiatives towards the latest teaching. Making the shift from teacher as expert to facilitator is sometimes seen as diminishing a teacher's power and authority, but this should not be the case, in fact facilitating learning is empowering for both the learner and the Teacher.

REFERENCE:

1. V.Deepika & M.Kalaiarasan. "THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE LAB IN LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE." Journal of Technology for ELT (April 2012).
2. Hafiz, Kazi Dawood. "An Investigation into CALL in English Language Teaching through Language Laboratory." IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) (ISSN: 2279-0837) (2013)
3. Pratixa Parmar &Dr. Deepak Mashru. "Effective Use of Language Lab Software in teaching Communication Skills: A Case study of Globarena Software." (UGC Approved No.47772) (2018/1).
4. Serkan Lokmacolua, Yasin Küçüky İmaza, Fevzi Baldede. "Language labs: Dying or evolving?"GlobeLT: An International Conference on Teaching and Learning English as an Additional Language.
5. Richards J. (2001),Approaches and methods in Language Teaching, Cambridge:CUP.