



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MEDIA IN TEACHING ENGLISH AT JUNIOR COLLEGE LEVEL

Mr. Tukaram Babulal Salunkhe
M.A.B.Ed.M.Phil., Research Student ,
Institute of Advanced Studies in English.

ABSTRACT

The researcher intends to discuss here the significance of media in teaching English to junior college students in this paper. At present our education system has continuously been undergoing tremendous changes for different kinds of purposes. The most striking reason for this change is our education system must meet with our national objectives. To fulfill these objectives we strive to search and implement new principles, approaches and trends in our teaching and learning process. Our fundamental aim here is to make our present generation perfect. In this world of science and technology, we experience the increase in the use of media. It gives rise to a question that can we use media to make teaching and learning process powerful at junior college level? Secondly if we use media in the teaching and learning process, which objectives can be achieved? Can media complement traditional approaches in learning process? Can we guide the learner to use media to learn his subjects effectively with the help of media? Can traditional approaches and methods of teaching fulfill the needs of the learner? The present paper mainly focuses on to answer all these above question. All these facts force us to think on the question that can all these types of media enhance effectiveness of teaching and learning process.

KEYWORDS: *Fundamental, Objectives, Approach, Pronunciation, Competence, Communication*

INTRODUCTION

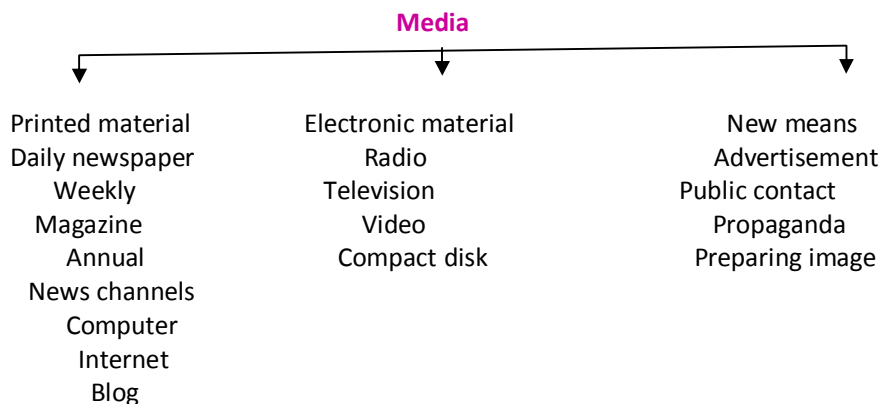
We are familiar with the fact that education is an influential means of reformation. Being a teacher in the subject of English, it has been observed that many students in junior college use cell phone for one or other reason. Playing games, sending text messages to their friends, chatting are the common activities junior college students are always involved in. So they neglect their study. Similarly in this age of computer, students hardly read daily newspapers or they are not interested in newspaper. This pointless use of cell phone may disrupt their concentration from the language study. As language is considered as a powerful means of communication, language is an essential part in human life. There are different strategies for different languages to be taught in the classroom. Each language has its own system of varied levels. English is also a language used to give expression of thoughts and feelings of a social group. But it is a foreign language for non-native people. Therefore, it is not easy to teach English in Indian schools and colleges. English has its own system and peculiarities. When English language is taught as a foreign language in non-English environment, the teaching and learning needs a lot of patience and competence. A number of factors like students, teachers, the methods, teaching aids and media contribute a lot to the success of the teaching and learning of English language. But with the help of technological media, this task of teaching and learning can be made easy with positive results. The thought here is that teaching process of



English language and technology need to be coordinated to achieve expected objectives.

NEED OF MEDIA:

Since a long period of time, the students from 11th and 12th class in non-English environment have been attempting board question paper with fear and stress. Observing the psychological condition of the students, it is necessary to make the subject of English student-friendly. The purpose here is that the students must enjoy the process of learning without fear. From the last academic year 2017-18, Maharashtra state board has replaced wh-questions with different kinds of activities to taste different abilities of the students from 11th class and from 2018-19, it may be implemented for the students from 12th class. The activity sheet is a substitute for Wh-question and will make the students active in the classroom. The activities like completing web, true or false, arrange the jumbled sentences in sequence, flowchart, finding proof, filling the gaps of summary, matching words with meaning etc. can be conducted extensively with the help of varied tools of media. The point here is that if the teacher at junior college level makes systematic use of social media like Newspaper, Computer, What's app, Facebook, Twitter, Blog, YouTube, Wikis etc., the students will be certainly benefited not only in the classroom but also outside the classroom. If the student has doubt about any activity, he can directly discuss it in what's app group of the students along with teacher. To remove fear and stress from the mind of junior college students, teaching and learning process of English language must be juxtaposed with different devices of media. It will definitely attract and interest the junior college students as far as subject of English is concerned. Moreover, varied skills like listening, reading, speech and conversation the text book offers will be assimilated with the help of media. Therefore, it is felt that various means of media can play vital role in teaching some topics and skills at junior college level. From the lecturing method only, the students need much time to comprehend the topics and consequently teacher-centered method of teaching seem to be boredom and uninterested to the students. The use of media may enhance the quality of teaching and learning process and will arouse the interest of students in the subject of English. Of course, every study has its own limitations. It only examines how different means of media can be utilized to facilitate the teaching-learning process from the students' point of view. As different factors contribute to the teaching-learning process, it could be made easier on the basis of media to certain extent. Today, media has become inseparable part of learning and teaching process as we are living in the world of information and technology. Technological media or devices play a very significant role in the teaching of any language. These devices are significant in a sense that not only few areas of learning but also every unit of learning can be explained in detail. These various tools of media provide informational learning, retention, thinking, reasoning, interest, imagination, assimilation and personal development. The devices of media play a role such as stimuli for learning 'why', 'how', 'when' and 'where'. Some hard topics in English language are made clear by the proper and skillful use of these devices. It has been unanimously agreed fact that the use of media in teaching and learning process will definitely bring about an 'educational revolution' in the country. Therefore, no one can deny the significance of media in teaching and learning process. The main objective of this paper is if the devices of media are guided properly by teacher, it can create a suitable situation for students in learning English language.

Different types of media:**TEACHING ENGLISH WITH MEDIA:**

As discussed above, various components of media in the form of printed and electronic such as newspaper, radio, television, computer, internet, video, text disc, educational films etc. and the social networking services like facebook, twitter, blog, what's app etc. can be used in teaching English at junior college students. All these tools of media help the teacher to overcome his limitations. As a human being it is possible that a teacher may have some lacks or limitations in some aspects of syllabus like pronunciation of certain words, spelling etc. But in such situation, the teacher can make the best use of all elements mentioned above.

Let us examine how these elements of media can be useful in teaching English to junior college students.

SOCIAL NETWORKING SERVICES:

Innovations in the field of technology have drastically altered traditional methods of teaching and learning process of English language at junior college level. There is no longer a four walled classroom. Teaching and learning now extends beyond that. Recent development such as social networking services and easy-to use video cameras have removed many of the limitations. It can involve now anything from facebook and twitter. The question is that should teacher try to evolve their teaching to fit with the latest demands of the students? The students communicate research, collaborate, create and publish online with or without teachers and parents. These students are seen using social media to promote, discuss, and share their thoughts with the world. The digital environment is offering them greatest learning opportunities. Social media has become the greatest educational tools of all time. Teachers might be more comfortable to use social media in the classroom, if there was more comprehensive training available in school districts and teacher preparation programme. The tools of social media like blogs, twitter and facebook can be used in teaching and learning of English language to certain extent. For example, a blog is self-published, web-based collection of writing where regular updates, exchange of comments and short posts are sent. Blogs offer a platform for learners to express themselves in a new language. Twitter functions as a microblogging site. Microblogging involves writing very short updates on what you are doing, your ideas, activities. Similarly we have other social networking sites like face-book through which learner can develop their writing skill in English language. It needs to create a class group on social networking site. If a group has a clearly defined purpose, which can be defined in class, this will encourage online activity. The teacher can act as an administrator, suggesting topics for discussion.

A creative teacher at junior college level is supposed to devise more innovative activities from the text-book. So the teacher must prepare a bank of various types activities like- If the teacher has formed a whats app group, he may set an activity as follows- Name and explain the figure of speech in the following line.

'Start where you stand'

In this activity, maximum students may respond to this activity and finally the teacher will interact with the students telling them correct or wrong. Such kinds of activities in whats app, facebook, twitter, blog, etc. may remove fear and stress from the mind of the learners and definitely will increase the interest in the subject of English. Similarly, the teacher may assign an activity like enabling students to prepare sequence of jumbled sentences, creating true/false type activities, enabling the students to think and match the words and their meanings etc. with the help of these social networking services.

In this process of teaching and learning English language at junior college level, a lot of information about grammar of English language can be shared and informed quickly online with the help of these different applications. Of course, it saves time of both teacher and students to large extend. The only problem here is that, in developing countries, the older teachers are less familiar with varied functions and applications of these social networking services. Moreover these applications go under continuous changes. Some of the older teachers, who know little bit about these functions, are always under the fear that something may go wrong. These teachers really find it difficult to operate these applications online on cell phone.

While implementing all these tools, teacher must be aware about the terms and conditions, rules and regulations in our country. He must be particularly careful and ensure no sensitive information is revealed online. The teacher must tell the students not to share addresses or location or contact details with people online whom they don't know. It is significant to stick to the aim that different devices of media should be strictly used only to make learning and teaching process of English language easier and interesting.

NEWSPAPER:

It is said that newspaper is the handiest and cheapest means of communication. It is easier to carry with us anywhere than other means of communication. Let it be at our home, or let it be anywhere. Every day begins with the reading of newspaper. Every page of newspaper is full with knowledge from different fields. From linguistic point of view, newspaper is the best source of learning English language for the students. As we know the fact that students are trained from the primary school to read something more than their textbook only. In the childhood they are very much interested to read stories, songs and poems. If this habit is continued, they can develop their skill of reading. Hence to develop the reading skill among the students, the habit of reading the newspaper should be nurtured. Reading English newspaper may help the students **from junior college students** to learn a lot of vocabulary, raise our reading skills such as easy to find the points, or increase reading speed. Similarly, students with the help of newspaper can develop their writing skill. The newspaper is full with headlines from varied fields. Continuous touch and contact with headlines may enable the students to frame attractive and catchy headlines. Moreover, continuous reading of the newspaper may train the students to develop the news with specific format if the headline is provided. In this way with the help of newspaper, students from junior college may adopt the skill of framing the headlines as they have the writing skill like news item. Moreover, English newspaper like Times of India we have the page on view and counter view section which is also one of the writing skills for junior college students. Since the content in any news is the presentation of a particular event or incident, it is combination of different kinds of sentences from past tense, present tense and future tense. While reading newspaper, students are well acquainted with different structures of the sentence. Teacher may carry different kinds of newspapers in the classroom and create a situation where students will do loud as well as silent reading of the newspaper. Teacher may point out some important constructions of the sentences from the newspaper in the classroom and explain how to use these in our day today life. In this way, reading of newspaper will certainly upgrade the students' language ability. As the students of junior college are expected to develop their reading skill for oral examination, continuous practice of loud reading of newspaper in the classroom may prove to be boon for them.

TELEVISION:

Television was invented in 1926. Basically it is meant to be a combination of picture and sound which are broadcast through satellite. Compared to newspaper and radio, it is more efficient and influential. The students are fascinated towards television as the programmes are framed on the basis of syllabus. It undermines the earlier method of monospeaker and promotes the interactions among a lot of characters. Its importance lies in the fact that its service can be made available to a large number of students in the class. Moreover, films based on literary lessons can also be helpful in the process of teaching English language. Television is an inexpensive aid and it appeals to both ears and eyes of the students. It has all the advantages of radio as well as the advantages of the visual pictures. The **students from junior college** can watch different English news channels and make a list of new vocabulary they come across. Different channels have their own system to present the same matter in different words and construction. Here, if the student listens to this news carefully, it may definitely help the students to achieve mastery over English language. Similarly many educational programmes based on 'learning English language' are broadcast for the students. These also improve students' language skills.

Finally, it could be said that it is learner centered and very exciting and easy to watch. It can reach many people at once for the same reason. Television engages the learner in a multi-sensory experience. Hence it is dynamic medium and therefore suits to stimulating learning of the students from 11th and 12th standard.

COMPUTER:

When we think of computer, it has been observed that in the course of time it has been changing rapidly in the form of its size, cost, capability to perform etc. If compared to first version of computer, today's is supreme in all capacity. The combination of computer and internet is nothing but great source of information for the students. Use of computer in teaching English language has become unavoidable in class as well as at home study. The computer itself has many facilities for enhancing language teaching. Latest version of computer has been designed in such way so that it can record and correct the students' speech. It helps the students to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Software companies have developed many systems where students can learn different aspects of English language without the help of teacher in classroom or at home. It nurtures the habit of learning independently. Similarly language instructional programme installed in computer helps students at **junior college level** to be more competent in language skills. Computer programmes can provide practice for the students to read at the sentence level, ordering words in sentence, ordering sentences in paragraph, etc. The students can employ the bilingual system in computer where he can take the help of dictionaries and check the spelling and grammar of sentences. There are some objective tests installed in computer where students can be immediately corrected and receive their results. Really use of computer in the process of teaching and learning English language has proven a boon for the students.

INTERNET:

The process through which all the computers all over the world are connected to exchange, share different kind of information is called internet. Internet has brought out tremendous change in our educational field. From the internet we can get any kind of information involved in the practice of English language. Teachers working in **junior college** can employ internet as medium to exchange information related to their teaching. It is possible for the non-native speakers to interact with native speakers around the world. From online communication, students from **junior college** can learn linguistic as well as paralinguistic features of English language. It produces optimal conditions for learning to write, since it provides an authentic audience for written communication. The students are highly motivated by use of internet. Hence from the use of internet in the practice of English language, it can be said that both the teachers and the students can be benefited. Today the use of internet is accountable for the new concepts like e-learning and e-teaching. Due to these concepts students can learn anytime, anywhere. It proves to be

boon for those students who are unable to attend the regular classes. It motivates the students for self-learning.

3.7 CONCLUSION:

From the above discussion, it follows that the collaborative task of teaching English at junior college level with the help of varied devices of media will definitely motivate the students and also will encourage more students' participation in learning of English language. Though few people are under the wrong impression that teachers will be replaced by these devices, but the teaching and learning process can be made fruitful if there is proper planning and the co-ordination between teachers, students and these devices. The fact, the use of media can impart a large amount of information within a short period of time, cannot be denied. Thus, for effective teaching these devices are considered as unavoidable elements. Therefore it has an immense significance in the process of language teaching.

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Mr. Tukaram Babulal Salunkhe

M.A.B.Ed.M.Phil., Research Student , Institute of Advanced Studies in English.