The Essence of Modern Technologies in Teaching Vocabulary in EFL Classes

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Abstract

Learning a language requires a good grasp of Vocabulary, which is crucial for effective communication. However, improving Vocabulary skills in the classroom has been a challenge. To address this issue, innovative technologies are being introduced to enhance vocabulary skills in students. Technology plays an important role in today's educational sector and offers use of effective tools for teaching Vocabulary skills such as the Internet, podcasts, video conferencing, videos and speech recognition software. This article explores innovative methods of Vocabulary activities and the use of technology to improve Vocabulary skills.

Keywords: approach, method, lexicology, podcasts, pronunciation.

Introduction

The English language is becoming more and more popular worldwide, and is widely recognized as a language of communication, science, diplomacy, media, and information. Knowing English can open up numerous opportunities for success in life and career. In Uzbekistan, there has been a significant increase in the demand for English language education in recent years, with many parents wanting their children to learn at even younger ages. Ministries of education have responded by expanding foreign language teaching programs at primary levels. Vocabulary can be seen in people daily activities and business activities. Vocabulary is an interactive task and it happens under real time processing constraints. It means that they will be able to use words and phrases fluently without very much conscious thought. As skill that enables people to produce utterances, when genuinely communicative, Vocabulary is desire and purpose driven, in other words they genuinely want to communicate something to achieve particular end.

The truth is that every child learns to speak naturally and unaware of the fact that it is actually learning something. People talk to them, sing the songs or read fairy-tales, in other words, they expose children to as much mother tongue as possible. Regarding teaching Vocabulary foreign languages as the second language, Harmer sees exposure to the „new language‟ among four basic things that pupils need to be present and clear before they are able to master the language. The other three are to understand its meaning, understand its form and practice the language. The most important aspect of learning foreign languages is obviously Vocabulary skills.

Literature review

Teaching vocabulary is an indispensable part of teaching a language and on this issue numerous scientists and researchers claimed their own standpoints. This case took a different trend at the beginning of the 1990 and 2000s, when different viewpoints were put forward. For instance, Brown (1994) explained his approach to teaching in his book called "Teaching by principles to Language Pedagogy". Other linguists such as Chaney, A.L., and T.L. Burk (1998), Harmer, J. (2001), Celle-Murcia, M. (1991) conducted researches on the issue.

Methods

Technology can enhance the learning experience by creating a fun and interactive environment for learners. It allows them to take control of their own learning, interact with others, and work in a comfortable and safe space where mistakes are corrected and feedback is provided. Machine feedback is particularly useful as it can track errors and provide tailored exercises to help learners focus on specific areas of improvement. Studies are emerging that show the significance of qualitative feedback in software. When connections are provided to find explanations, extra help, and reference, the importance of technology is further improved.

Research and results

Language learning is a complex process and it is essential to learn language consistently rather than intensively. As it is clear that human capacity to learn language can be different and commonly this is a considerable hurdle for many. A step by step approach to teaching language interactively is more applicable since it helps novice teacher to become more confident in directing interactive, student-centered and cooperative classrooms.[1]

Nowadays, all educational institutions are provided with all cutting-edge devices and education tools to enhance education standards. Especially, it is implausible to envision English classes without using monitors or computers. Therefore, language learners have an astonishing opportunity to utilize computers to hone their Vocabulary skills. By linking suitable software through computer, the students can play it over and over with their own interest and attempt to enhance their Vocabulary skills, which are most significant in this modern IT world. The usage of headphones in the lab makes the students interested in the subject and motivates them to repeat again and again avoiding boring lesson.

Speech recognition software is also worthwhile in improvement of the students' Vocabulary, this can convert spoken words to machine-readable input. The device finds out the accurate grasp of what was read and then gives a positive feedback like "You speak greatly!" or gives the user a chance to try again, in this way the learner can know if he is reading well or not. As the user's skill enhances, the technology does not read material much in order that the learner reads more. This software also assesses and gives scores of grammar, pronunciation, understanding, vocabulary and gives the accurate forms, for examples if a student mispronounces a word, the learning tool can immediately find it and help rectify it. This device can be very handy for distance learners because they cannot rely on a teacher who corrects their speech and this device can help enhance their Vocabulary skills.

Internet is a commonly accepted term and broadly utilized by people over the world. Students have widely been utilizing Internet in the class to learn English. First of all, Internet is unlimited source of English materials that are really efficacious in learning and teaching Vocabulary. Online teaching inside the classroom also seems to be interesting and urges the students to find out the appropriate materials for them. Students are instructed to do the grammar and Vocabulary exercises which are available online.[8]

Language learners can also rely on Telegram, Facebook, Zoom and Google talk and other applications where students can connect with friends, other students, teacher and even native speakers, these ways of learning have been observed to enhance verbal proficiency in students and assists for the lack of native speakers in the areas where students live and moreover, online lessons and video materials are of utmost importance.

Podcasts are also very helpful for the improvement of the Vocabulary. There is an acknowledged view that listening is an essential and effective way of improving Vocabulary. Podcasts can be uploaded or downloaded on the Internet and these audio podcasts get the learner to familiarize with the foreign language and instructors can use them as important and useful audio material that can be used in class for activities like discussions, besides, in the web, there are even particular podcasts that are for ESL learners and these can include accurate pronunciation of various words.[7] Podcast undoubtedly assists learners in Vocabulary. Pod casting is the

combination of audio files with which we can increase our own materials and use it inside and outside of the classroom. Podcasting allows students to use their technology-based learning and it gives entertainment to language learners in educational process. The function of multimedia assistance in teaching cannot be superseded by various other technological instruments, which does not prove that multimedia can be replacement any other form of instrument.

Some teachers feel to be entirely dependent on multimedia teaching. While, it should be noticed that although multimedia has its unique merits in teaching, the features of other forms of teaching instruments are still irreplaceable.[5] For example, the recorder still plays a role in broadcasting listening material. Therefore, teachers are thought to choose appropriate media and instrument based on the requirements of teaching and link multimedia instrument with traditional one and fully perform their merits, rather than merely pursue contemporary methods.

Some teachers may have the inappropriate concept that they would entirely apply multimedia technology in their teaching. It is also deemed that the more use of multimedia technology makes the better class atmosphere, it also makes students get involved in class participation more actively. Apparently, the students are more interested in learning, but in fact, they feel that they are looked down on.

Conclusion

In conclusion, using technology in learning a second language has become a real necessity nowadays. This paper has studied briefly how technology can be used in improving the Vocabulary skill of the language learners. Different approaches for using technology in developing Vocabulary skill were elucidated deeply. As technology has developed the integrity of this technology into the language learning process become necessary. The computer is being viewed more as an integral part of the learning activity, and as a means by which skills are delivered to learners.

Contemporary technological tools are much more intriguing, and bring fun and enjoyable learning to the classes, it also motivates the students, and help them to improve their language learning in an effective way, furthermore, these tools help students learn at their own pace and promote learners' independence.

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