

Quill as an Effective and Enjoyable Online Tool for Enhancing Writing Skills

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ABSTRACT

Life of people of today's world is dry without technology. At every step of their, they require technology therefore it is difficult to survive without technology in the present world. In the last decade revolution of use of internet has been witnessed in Technology or Computer Aided Language Teaching and Learning and a new generation including child, or young has taken interest in technology and its tools.

Hence, being the English tutor or the English teacher of a language, they can utilize or facilitate the advantages of technology in teaching and learning a language. Therefore, technology can create a chance and environment for teachers and learners to teach and to learn a language respectively.

Thus, the paper entitled *Quill as an Effective and Enjoyable Online Tool for Enhancing Writing Skills* talks about how a free online tool Quill can be used in enhancing writing skills of the learners. It also talks about aim of Quill, history of Quill, different learning tools of Quill, how to enhance writing skills using Quill and benefits of Quill.

1. Introduction

English language teaching professionals have promoted the internet worldwide as a tool for language teaching, learning and practicing among numerous creativities of combining IT. Language experts and applied linguists have been taking a shot at perceiving how the capability of the Internet and technology can be ideally used for upgrading the procedure of language learning.

Chapelle (as cited in Hiradhar, 2003) suggests that for teaching and learning English, numerous options have been expanded dramatically by changes in information and communication technologies, hence, increasing the need for teachers to assess the learning opportunities through technology.

Therefore, with the ever-heightening development of technology in language learning environments, it becomes very important to study the following:

- a) The needs, purposes and factors for the acceptance of technology,
- b) The effect of the use of technology on conservative educational approaches of language teaching,
- c) The different types of technological tools and their capability for language improvement purposes, and
- d) Learners approaches towards the technology-aided second language or foreign language enhancement

On the other side, the number of internet users has increased in numbers in the last few years. Although Warschauer (2001) asks whether computers should be used to teach English, or whether English should be taught in order to use computers, thereby moving language from an internal status to one where learners have genuine influence on their environment, the fact remains that the language of the Internet is still English and the importance of English for communication purposes cannot be ignored. In Hong Kong, English is taught as a second language in schools and students comprise a

quarter of Hong Kong's population. In accordance with these factors and in light of several education reforms taking place, it would be interesting to investigate the kinds of changes that electronic collaboration, globalization, and ICT would bring to English teaching and education reform in Hong Kong (Lee, Jor and Lai, 2005).

2. Review of Related Literature

Aim of Quill

Quill as an effective and enjoyable online tools offers a help to poor family students to become sharp writers. The aim of it is to assistance the students who struggle with writing (Mission, 2014).

Currently four writing tools that aids students to shape grammar, writing and proofreading skills, by quill, and new tools will be launched continuously by teachers that improve students' writing and thinking. With our tools, students advance the capability to express, with simplicity and accuracy, difficult thoughts in writing. However some of the stages might seem simple, each activity assistances teachers increasingly shape the skills students need to read extremely and think critically about the globe around them (Mission, 2014).

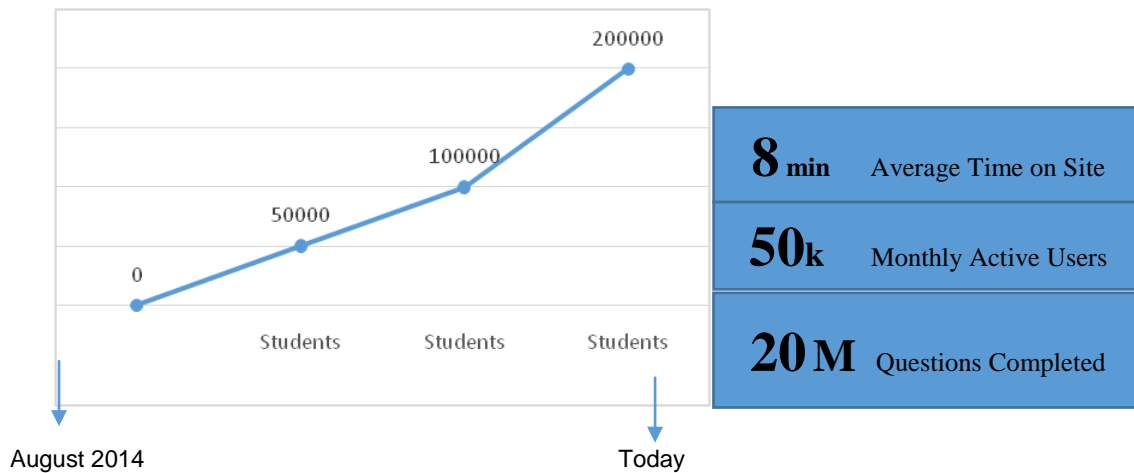
History of Quill

In the month of September of 2014, one of the quill's tool was launched that is Quill Proofreading. It is an online tool that assistances teachers classify which students' necessity support in fundamental grammar. Lessons are then supplied by teachers to improve those skills. These lessons assistance students with basic concepts like possessive nouns and subject-verb agreement. Students get immediate feedback on their work and modified pathways for advancing through the program. Curriculum of Quill now offers over 40 hours of tutoring covering 42 Common Core standards (Mission, 2014).

Effect of Quill

Over 2,00,000 students have replied 20 million queries that means an average of 100 questions per student since it was launched in the month of September of 2014. Once students have finished these queries, they master 6 to 12 Common Core writing standards (Mission, 2014).

Quill is used by more than 2000 schools, and 62% of our students attend low-income schools. Rapid growth of Quill is mostly attributable to word-of-mouth traffic, with many teachers discovering Quill through media and then sharing it with their coworkers. Authors publicly issue our effect metrics at Quill.org/stats (Mission, 2014).



3. Objectives

- To make aware about the use of Quill to the ESL teachers.
- To make aware about the use of Quill for developing writing skills of the ESL students.

4. Learning Tools of Quill

A brief online survey of quill reveals the following learning tools:

Quill Connect

First tool of Quill is Quill Connect which assistances students to learn how to combine sentences. This tool helps students in making simple complex sentences. It also helps how to combine multiple ideas into a single sentence. They receive immediate feedback to assistance them to improve the lucidity and accuracy of their sentences (Quill Connect, 2014).

Quill Lessons

The second learning tool of Quill is Quill Lessons which aids teachers to lead whole class and small group writing instruction. Teachers shift collaborative slides that contain writing prompts, and the entire class responds to each prompt. Each Quill Lessons activity provides writing prompts, a lesson plan, a follow up independent practice activity, and discussion topics (Quill Lessons, 2014).

- Class-Wide Interactive Activities
- Lead the Lesson
- Discuss Student Answers
- Identify Students for Small Group

Quill Diagnostic

The third learning tool of Quill is Quill Diagnostic which helps teachers to identify learning gaps of students. In short, it aids teachers to rapidly limit which skills your students need to work on with our 22 questions diagnostic. The diagnostic covers vital sentence construction skills and generates a

personalized learning plan based on the student’s performance (Quill Diagnostic, 2014).

What's Being Tested

ELL Diagnostic

Student Responses Analyzed

Evidence Based

Quill Proofreader

The forth learning tool of Quill is Quill Proofreader. Proofreader teaches your students editing skills by having those proofread passages. Passages are edited by the students and receive modified exercises based on their results. With over 100 expository passages, Proofreader provides students the exercise they need to plug common grammatical errors (Quill Proofreader, 2014).

Quill Grammar

The fifth learning tool of Quill is Quill Grammar. It has over 150 sentence writing activities to assistance students drill basic grammar skills, from comma placement to similar structure. Activities are designed to be finished in 10 minutes so you have the liberty to use them in the way that works best for your classroom (Quill Grammar, 2014).

5. Using Quill to enhance ESL learners’ writing skills

Quill as a free online tool was designed to assistance K-12 students to enhance writing skills by offering exercises and immediate feedback as they improve through a variety of activities. I its current state, the tool was designed to assistance students to begin constructing complex sentences, but in the future the team has ideas on increasing that to cover essay writing and thesis. It is an outstanding tool, and it is believed that it could be extremely useful for the classroom (Karlin, 2017).

Karlin, (2017) said that the aim of Quill connect is to assistance students how to combine sentences in a logical way and also represent complex ideas. At the end of Quill’s

exercise packs, the goal is to have students able to write a twenty to thirty word complex sentence having multiple ideas covering commas correctly, and enunciating complex ideas through their writing.

Karlin (2017) mentioned that for every grade level, examples are provided, but the sample activity will start you out at the elementary level. It is recommended by the team to try out some wrong answers first, so an idea of the type of differentiated feedback can be got by you that is offered depending on how you answer the question. That's the main idea of the types of exercises they will be functioning, and the struggle and feedback improvements as students move through various levels.

Diagnostic Report is the next place to check out in Quill. 22 questions can be sent by the teachers to diagnostic out to see the level of students in terms of sentence construction. On the basis of their performance, it can be decided by you which exercise packs you want to allocate to them (Karlin, 2017).

After checking out the Diagnostic Report, quill.org/demo takes next place. From here, as a teacher example of the type of diagnostics and reports can be seen by you. A premium plan is offered by Quill, where your reports aligned to the CCSS can be got by you, but even at the free level, these reports are really useful in defining where your students are at in terms of grammar and writing (Karlin, 2017).

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Lastly, the Quill Proofreader and Quill Grammar activities have been got by you. Students are given a space by these activities to practice their proofreading by finding punctuation, punctuation, grammatical errors and throughout a range of reading passages. You can also offer these as a try on the homepage by clicking *Try a Sample Activity* under either of the sections (Karlin, 2017).

6. Benefits of Quill

- Anybody from any corner of the world can create and do the tasks
- It is free tool
- Improves students' writing skills
- Helpful for writing essay and thesis
- Shows students' progress
- Allows teacher to have constant surveillance on students' tasks or activities
- Helpful for ESL learners
- Autonomous learning

7. Conclusion

It can be said that learning a new language is not quite easy but learning a new language using new technological tools, apps etc. is quite easy and if we look at the present age, we come to know that new generation is more interested in using these technology so they must be exposed to this different online and offline tools so that these tools can help these ESL learners to learn language rapidly.