

Effectiveness of E-Strategies in Pronunciation of Degree College Students in Ambala District

Adit Gupta alias Aditi Goyal

Assistant professor in Chandigarh University (India)

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 16 Sep 2019

Keywords

E-strategies, Pronunciation, degree college.

*Corresponding Author

Email: goyaladiti1984[at]gmail.com

ABSTRACT

With proliferation of technologies, it has become easier to get access to different methods for teaching and learning. The growing technology has become very important in one's life as people totally rely on this advanced technology and cannot do without it. In present times, it has become a necessity as it is ubiquitous and has entered into man's daily life. India is a multi-lingual state where the second language like English seeks an effective way in teaching and learning. There Information and communication technology makes it easy for the person to acquire a second language. The investigator's endeavour is to find out the awareness of Information and Communication Technology amongst Degree College students of Ambala District. ICT comprises different set of technological tools and resources used for communication and to create, propagate, store and manage information, which is of great significance. Information and communication technology includes WWW, Internet, Computers, Broadcasting Technology (radio and television) and Telephony etc.

1. Introduction

Every era witnesses day to day development in the field of knowledge and learning. It starts with the solution to the problems raised in this field and later it is sought and implemented. Indeed every era has represented its impingement and trends on the coming times which leaves an indelible impression and paves the way to new ideas for the forthcoming generations. It has created landmarks especially in distance education, e-learning, communication technology and so on. India being a developing country needs a paradigm shift from old traditional model of education to the new emerging Information and Communication Technology in the tertiary sector of education.

Today, people are living in furtherance of technical age where students learn more in their classroom. As classroom teaching gives more knowledge by creating an environment where they can foster all the four skills required for the acquisition of language. As Krashen's model suggests:

The classroom is one of the few places where comprehensive input is available to the learner. Such input is facilitated by the use of foreigner talk, by focusing on meaning rather than form and by ensuring that the learners' affective filter is low. (Nunan 1996: 83)

In support of this view, teaching and learning both can be easily taught and learnt with more fun and activities through advanced Information and Communication Technology. It has been assumed that more the learners involve themselves in learning a second language; the better they acquire linguistic and comprehensive skills. David Nunan asserts, 'Acquisition studies suggest that classroom communication can foster language acquisition, particularly if learners are given opportunities for productive language use and negotiation of meaning in small group work.' (Nunan 1996:87)

It is truly said by Michael Swan that language teaching should be about teaching language. But in present times, this notion sometimes gets lost. As today's modern time is full of competition, where people are competing with others in every field. In such situation, good communication skill is the need of an hour. For some people languages are difficult to learn and for some people languages are difficult to teach. A great deal of experimentation and theories have taken place in the hope of improving Spoken English. For a teacher of second language, it is hard to pick her way through the mass of accumulated information as how to make use of all these theories in teaching Spoken English. But they have for decades been told to follow this method or that. In recent times, they have been urged to follow new technologies in their teaching. But they are not well trained and acquainted with the advanced communication techniques and thus they teach through old methods. However, one should not forget that teaching language does not mean to teach structure of language, rather teaching language completes its meaning when the students make full use of language outside the classroom. It seems to be redundant if one learns a lot of structure and form but unable to apply them in day to day life. But it will be equally wrong if students are made to focus on using language without being given proper knowledge of it. Language learning is not only confined to learning of skill and acquisition of knowledge. In fact, it refers to changes in behavior, acquisition of interests, social values and even changes in personality. In fact Tariq Rahman rightly supports this statement, 'In short, linguistics contributes towards the study of culture, behavior, and thinking.' (Rahman 2010: viii)

2. Review of the Related Literature

Through the study on 'ICT for Empowering Teachers: Technology Support for Quality Instruction' Jitender Kumar has thrown light on how ICT can be used as a tool for empowering teachers and concluded that Information and Communication

Technologies (ICT) exemplified by the internet and interactive multimedia are obviously of great significance for education. It needs to be effectively integrated into the formal classroom teaching and learning conditions. He has raised some issues regarding the uses of ICT in education for the future research which are as follows;

- Does ICT enhanced learning really works?
- How much it costs?
- Is there equity of access to ICT in education?
- Are ICT enhanced educational projects sustainable?
- Challenges in integrating ICT education
- Technical competency of teacher educator
- Modes of empowering teachers' educators.

Pooja Loomba and Kapil Loomba have studied the significance of E-learning with traditional methods in their study 'Blending Learning Approaches for Effective Teaching'. In addition to this, in a nutshell, they emphasize the innovative technological learning approaches for enhancing learning.

Nicky Hockly too explores the idea of new technology like digital literacy: what they are, why they are important, and how language teachers can start to include them in their English language labs.

3. Need and Justification

Information and Communication Technology is growing at a very fast speed and the use of E-strategies is seen frequently in educational sector these days. The need of E-Learning was felt because targeted or expected progress was not being achieved by the old conventional education method. Speaking skill is a natural part of any language. English being a global language has gained prestigious position in this world. This has increased competition among people not only within the country but even outside the country too. Speaking skill is a natural part of any language. English being a global language has gained prestigious position in this world. This has increased competition among people not only within the country but even outside the country too. In such a competitive world, pronunciation is the most indispensable component of speaking skill. It is possible to communicate one's intent without elegant pronunciation. However, such communication would be inadequate or could even lead to miscommunication. One should not forget that pronunciation lends accuracy to the message conveyed through spoken form.

Nowadays it is easy for a person to use e-strategies by using computer anywhere in the world. It is a common terminology in the field of tertiary sector, training and information processed by the computers. A positive and developmental role in the education sector in the context of teaching and learning has become possible only Because of internet availability across each corner of the world, . It focuses on the enhancement of accumulation of skills and knowledge. Taking e-learning as a tool to teach and learn Cysewski explains the concept of e-learning in the following words; e-learning is using the Internet to teach and learn, it includes communication, student submission of work, teacher to student and student to student communication, content delivery and enrichment, using the Internet as a research tool, and using the Internet as a publishing tool. E-Learning is a tool,

like writing and speaking, that is used to teach and learn. The Internet provides a huge array of evolving tools that can enhance the teaching process, selecting and using these tools is E-learning. (Cysewski :2010, p.iii)

4. Present Status of ICT and E-Strategies in Degree Colleges

An investigation was conducted on ICT Awareness Among Degree College Students makes apparent that students who have been studied through ICT have good command over language whereas students who have been studied through lecture method are unable to incorporate grammatical skills while speaking. An investigation was conducted in different colleges of Ambala district to know the present status of E-Strategies and to see the effectiveness of E-Strategies. The Present status of Information and Communication Technologies and E-strategies has been mentioned below:

- Most of the institutions still teach through lecture method with structural view.
- Some institutions have language labs but they do not have adequate resources for the proper implementation and integration.
- Some institutions have labs and teach through ICT with the functional and interactional view.
- Some of the institutions have language labs but they do not have expertise in teaching spoken English through Information and Communication Technology.
- The institution having language labs and skilled teachers but they have shortage of highly qualified teachers.

In fact, it has been found that spoken English can be easily taught through Krashen's theory of acquisition; it will not be difficult for Indian students to acquire it, as being a second language it has an environmental support too. It can be easily learnt if it is widely used within its environmental support. Stern has also supported this finding, 'By contrast, a second language is often learnt informally because of its wide spread use within the environment.' (Stern 1983: 16)

5. Various Types of E-Strategies and its Significance

ICT comprises of different sets of technological tools and resources used for communication and to create, propagate, store and manage information, which is of great significance. Information and Communication Technology includes WWW, Internet, Computers; Podcasts (is a type, Broadcasting Technology (radio and television) and Telephony. E-Strategies like Praat, Goldwave, Video-Voice, The Sky Pronunciation Suite, and English Grammar in Use, Issues in English, The History of English Language, and Connected Speech.

1. Praat- Praat is a Dutch word means to talk. Basically it is a free scientific programme for the analysis of speech sounds in phonetics. It is designed and developed by Paul Boersma and David Weenink of the University of Amsterdam. It can run a wide range of operating systems including various UNIX versions, MAC and Microsoft Windows (95,98, NT4, me,2000, XP and vista). This programme also supports synthesis of speech sounds including speech articulation.

2. Video-Voice- This software has variety of ways to illustrate sounds, words and connected speech. Each of the displays can be customized best to meet the needs of the learner in therapy caseload. In the original video voice display words and sounds are broken in first and second formant frequencies and plotted them in a matrix.
3. The Sky Pronunciation Suite- It has been designed to improve learner's pronunciation skills in English. It makes them aware of phonemic alphabets, sounds and words. It also helps in one's listening and comprehensive skills.
4. English Grammar In Use- This software is basically designed to teach functional grammar. This includes all the parts of speech and to add more this has a testing facility for learner which tells them about their progress report with date and time.
5. Issues In English- This software encompasses all the skills needed in any language. It focuses on listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Basically it enhances learner's vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar and comprehensive skills.
6. Connected Speech- It is speech recognition development software with video clips. It has three levels. Even a weak student can also easily comprehend its level 1. Level 2 and 3 features accordingly. It mentors learners as how to command over language through pitch change, stress, linking words, sounds and syllables.
7. The History of English Language- This is an E-course on the history of English Language. This helps students who do not have access to schools and colleges or who somehow missed their lecture on English language. The study of a language is the foundation of all learning. This is an easiest way to learn about the foundation, development and acquisition of language. In this learner learns about general principles of language enlightenment.
8. Gold Wave- it is a sound editor, player, recorder, analyzer and converter. Basically it is a professional digital audio editor used to create sound files for sound production on computers.
9. Podcasts- English Pronunciation Podcast is free English Pronunciation and Accent Reduction lessons. It provides important background information about standard pronunciation and an overview of what one will learn in using this podcast. It is hosted by reduction specialist Charles Becker. This is intended for the speakers of all languages. This is the key to success as it provides the learner with the knowledge and ability that he needed in order to speak English with a native accent. It facilitates them with clear instructions as how to articulate the sounds of English- how to move tongue, jaw and lips. Practice exercises are also designed to develop clear and accurate vowels and consonants. It also helps the learner by providing certain features like the rules of syllables, stress- how to determine which syllable of a word should be stressed, the rules of intonation, connected speech lessons- how to connect sounds

and words together smoothly- just like a native speaker.

The growing Information and Communication technology has entered in the tertiary sector and this can be one of the main reasons that, the educationists are planning to integrate in teaching second language. In any way, one cannot deny to extol the various benefits after using such advanced technology. Due to intrinsic characteristics of language, the in-depth knowledge of linguistics, communication, acquisition and pedagogy is the foremost requirement of teaching any language. One finds a radical change in the field of teaching and learning only because of advancement in Information and Communication Technology. As Ian Badger has also pointed out that the time available for learners in improving their language skills has always been limited and in such situation Information and Communication technology and E-Strategy not only motivate students in learning a second language but also make language learning more powerful, meaningful and memorable as well. It not only makes them familiar with English sounds but also teach them stress and intonation pattern. To add more to this, these strategies prepare them for the outside world and moreover, also develop an autonomous learning too. It helps people for the initial preparation by giving good teaching and training materials.

6. Conclusion

During the research, the investigator visited different degree colleges of Ambala and found that most of the degree colleges still teach through old traditional and structural method. Very few institutions teach through Information and Communication Technology with the functional view and interactional view which focus on the communicative dimension rather than the grammatical characteristics of language. The educational institutions still use the old traditional and structural method which includes grammatical units, phonological units, transformational elements or lexical items. Some colleges have language lab but they are not functional yet. But most of the colleges of the district have simple classrooms with only a blackboard. The curriculum designed for the students focuses on the structure rather than acquisition of second language. In addition to this, there was shortage of highly qualified faculty especially in rural areas. This is one of the main reasons why students are unable to foster the skills required for the acquisition of a language. A perennial danger in language teaching through traditional method is that most of the students become passive learner. The reason behind this is that they are unable to engage themselves in the process of acquisition.

During the last two years of research on ICT and E-Strategies the investigator has found that the students who are being taught with these new communication technologies are better in pronunciation than the students who are being taught with the old traditional method. A survey has been conducted on students reveals that if these students are taught through smart classes with highly equipped modern techniques they can overcome the problems of language inabilities and can acquire good knowledge with regard to the communication skills. It has been observed that the use of traditional method is confined to the classroom only and they are unable to incorporate good communication skills in practical life.

Information and Communication Technology and E-Strategies not only helps in supplementing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills but also helps them to keep in mind the pedagogical principles. In country like India, the atmosphere of the classroom is a crucial factor. In such circumstances, the use of E-Strategies with new communication technology becomes indispensable. Doing this systematically, the researcher hoped that the above mentioned software or techniques can give teachers as well as students' mental map

of spoken language and enable them to be fluent in it. In today's competitive world the existence of Information and Communication technology and E-Strategy is so important for people that they cannot even imagine their career without it. In a nutshell she observed that new Information and Communication Technology is a need of an hour for them. All the problems related to Spoken English can be resolved with the proper implementation and incorporation of Information and Communication Technology.

References

1. Abercrombie, D. 1965. *Phonetics and Linguistics*. London: Oxford University Press.
2. Ansari, K. Iqbal. 1978. *Uses of English*. New Delhi: New Publishing Company.
3. Aslam, Rekha. 1992. *Aspects of Language Teaching*. New Delhi: Northern Book Centre.
4. Bansal, R.K. 1967. *Spoken English in India*. Bulletin six. Hyderabad: CIE&FL.
5. Brown, Gillian and George Yule. 1983. *Teaching the Spoken Language: An Approach Based on Analysis of Conversational English*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
6. Bruce, Kenneth.C.1959. *Corrective English*. London: Longman.
7. Crystal, David 2002. *Language and the Internet*. UK: Cambridge University Press.
8. Gimson, A.C. 1962. *An Introduction to the pronunciation of English*, London: Edward Arnold Ltd.
9. Gimson, A.C. 1980, *A Practical course of English Pronunciation*, London: Edward Arnold Ltd.
10. Jones, D. 1962. *The Pronunciation of English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
11. Kachru, Braj. B.1983, *The Indianisation of English Language in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
12. Kumar, Jitender. 2010. ICT for Empowering Teachers: Technology Support for Quality Instruction. *The CTE National Journal* volume viii, no.2:
13. Naughton, John 1999. *A Brief History of the Future: Origin of the Internet*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.
14. Nunan, David 1996. *The Learner -Centred Curriculum*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
15. Roach, Peter. 1983. *English Phonetics and Phonology*. London: Cambridge University Press.
16. Sambrook. 1947. *The English Language*. London: Longman
17. Stern, H.H.1984. *Fundamental Concepts of Language Teaching*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.