
Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL)

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ABSTRACT:

Language is acquired through Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. No doubt we are learning it generation to generation in the same way. In the course of time amazing devices have been added to flourish language. In Indian context, language changes every ten kilometers. This is what the years have contributed to the development of language. Man has invented various methods to sustain his culture through language with the help of available equipment. The invention of paper and ink-pen, first of all, paved the way for language enrichment. Invention of printing press then widened the scope. Eventually, electronic gadgets – mobile and various applications in it; computer and various software solutions – culminated of all. Present research article focuses on the successful assistance of computer to cater learning of English language to its users.

Keywords: Whatsapp, Facebook, twitter, online shopping, e-mail, upload, download.

INTRODUCTION:

Today is the age of technology. It has gone beyond the imagination of man. Dreams have come true through it. It has reached now on the palms of every child today. Not only the technocrats but also the children have learned how to use its various functions and play games and watch rhymes in mobile phones. Obviously, the shape of words, sound of words, meaning and result of it has given them practice of how to use language for desired results. They find it very easy and user-friendly. Similarly, technology has made them to share their experience of this particular learning with their friends and others. Consequently, it crossed its limits and now has overcome the world at large. It has turned the large world into a tiny place of communication with the use of language and technology. Man has invented various sources to bring close his lovable ones through the devices of communication. Even the devices have their own features to prove their capacity, up to the mark. It has turned the world as if a local place i.e. glocal for all. Let's now see how it works.

Computer:

As if we write in our note-book, word is a processor where one can type whatever he/she likes. It is a good practice for a language learner as the auto-correct option in it helps to correct a misspelt word automatically. By default settings in it help even to correct sentences if they have some grammatical mistakes. Similarly, it also suggests to the user to learn some new suggestions through the options when a word is right clicked.

Power Point is one more wonderful slide show presentation program that helps to understand some topic in an effective and interesting way! Various designs, effects, fonts, shapes, sounds, pictures and videos can also be added into it! In a classroom if a teacher wants to succeed in his teaching, he can prepare a presentation. It mesmerizes each student towards the topic being taught in the class. It is psychologically proved that visual memory is stronger than that of listening memory only. There is great scope for a language learner. Means, while preparing a slide show of anything one has to deal with so many linguistic skills.

Computer is nowadays equipped with very useful and quick mediums of communication if it is attached with internet connection. They are E-mail, Facebook, twitters, blogs, Videos, downloading data and uploading data as well. Language used through these devices is indirectly practiced by the users. It is not necessary that one should be born in England or America like countries. The users start learning English with the very use of keyboard, short-cut keys and various commands which are very simple to operate. Following are the ways through which we learn language properly.

- 1) **E-mail:** It is a best medium of communication across the world. It is a method of exchanging digital messages from one author to one or more recipients at a time! It is supposed to be a faster way of communication next to phone. Since it is a type of written communication, the sender keeps himself alert while using language in it. It is useful to send graph, charts, images and other official documents. It has legal importance too as it automatically stores day, date, time, sender, receiver, size of the document etc.
- 2) **Facebook:** Facebook is an effective tool in the hands of computer users. It makes people to think, express, share, and exchange their thoughts, feelings,

ideas to each other. The feedback that the sender waits while chatting on Facebook makes to use language more effectively and quickly. It indirectly provides practice of writing to the sender of both ends. Similarly, the information about anything is shared through this medium which may be quite new for its receiver or user. User can give i.e. type his responses in favour or against the topic shared. Hence, reading, of both sender and receiver, can be improved of the language indirectly. It remains permanent in the memory of the user for a long time.

- 3) **Twitter:** Next to Facebook is a recently born Twitter. It is an online social networking service that enables users to send and read short 140-character messages called "tweets". Twitter has its own importance in case of learning language. Connotative language is considered as a rich language. It is its depth which is loved by its users. As William Shakespeare says, '*Brevity is the soul of wit*'. The limited characters make the reader or writer to use his/her talent to compose or to analyze the language they are dealing with. It makes the homesick people to take part in social activities by sharing their opinion through it. It brings people from across the world come together and share.
- 4) **Blog:** If we give search on Google search engine for the word 'Blog' it supplies us with further information about it. A blog is a discussion or informational site published on the World Wide Web. It consists of discrete entries ("posts") typically displayed in reverse chronological order i.e. the most recent post appears first. Until 2009 blogs were usually the work of a single individual occasionally of a small group, and often covered a single subject. More recently "multi-author blogs" (MABs) have developed, with posts written by large numbers of authors and professionally edited.

A majority of groups on blog is interactive. Blog allows visitors to leave comments and even message each other. It is this interactivity that distinguishes them from other static websites. In that sense, blogging can be seen as a form of social networking service. Indeed, bloggers do not only produce content to post on their blogs, but also build social relations with their readers and other bloggers. Thus, interaction with one-another is the best way to practice language one wants to improve in.

- 5) **Videos:** Projection of video is an outstanding invention and creativity of man to feel proud. It makes its viewer to understand audio-visual effects through it. E.g. one can understand the shape, colour, sound of Nightingale by watching its video. Footnotes make to read, sound makes to listen properly. Television, prior to computer, made it easy for the businessmen to advertise their products. It proved a boon for them and the customers were able to watch, listen, and read product name, information etc. On computer, running footnotes, blinking and flashing pop-ups made its user to practice skills of listening and reading language.
- 6) **Downloading and Uploading:** To download means to receive data to a local system from a remote system, or to initiate such a data transfer while a computer is equipped with internet connection. The procedure to download any kind of data has some steps that the computer guides its user. It is again an opportunity for the user to develop language. Whereas, to "upload" something generally means putting something on the internet for example, uploading photographs to email or Facebook. Contributions to online-archives may also be referred to as 'uploads', for example books, audit reports, fax transmission reports, etc. It also has the same steps as in downloading but in reverse manner.

Thus, language learning has now become very easy through computer. The advanced software uploaded in computers nowadays is very user-friendly. One can fell in love with working on computer with great accuracy. The advanced android mobile phones are, in a way, mini computers! It has all those operations as in a computer. Moreover, modern technology has embellished it with fastest internet facility. All the above mentioned issues can be dealt with anywhere anytime! They are also easily available sources to learn language. Numbers of FREE applications are available to practice English language such as, Spoken English, Tongue Twisters, and Free Dictionaries and so on! Really we, as Indians, are ready to make our country a Digital India. We are proud to say that *we are keeping pace with the world around.*

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