
Advantages of Computer Information Systems/Multimedia Technology in English Language Teaching

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Abstract

Upon the progress of science and technology, the usage of multimedia has become very popular in every aspect, especially in teaching English. English class is no longer boring as technology provides so many options and makes teaching interesting and productive. It attracts the language learners and creates a favourable context for reforming and exploring English language in the new age. English is one of the most important mediums of communication in the world, so it has to be learnt with the rapid growth of science and technology. The new technologies have been discovered and spread so rapidly that no one can avoid their attraction. The multimedia-assisted English teaching can improve students' ability of listening or interpreting, speaking, and reading skills. It enhances the interaction between students and teachers by creating a conducive teaching environment in the classrooms.

Keywords: Multimedia, Science and Technology, English Teaching

Introduction

There has been the use of technology in terms of films, radio, TV and tape-recording for a long time. As the popularity of English is expanding time to time even the teachers of English feel the need of change in their medium of instruction. The use of an audio visual and animations has a positive effect in English language teaching classroom. It helps the students to take initiatives in improving activities. The process of learning by doing can be fulfilled if the classroom becomes more interactive.

Characteristics in Multimedia

The multimedia refers to the combination of multiple types of media (pictures, video, animations, etc.). It includes diversity, integration and interaction. Among them, interaction is the most essential one.

Students can convey their message in a creative way by giving Multimedia presentations using graphics, sound clip, video clips and text. All they need is a multimedia authoring program and computer in order to create a presentation.

Moreover, the utilization of multimedia technology has been increased in economy, science, technology, education, health, culture, media, entertainment, music and other fields. Multimedia technology has formerly become one of the effective technologies in the information society.

Teacher's Task in Multimedia Assisted Language Learning Classroom

The teacher's main task must be to help children acquire practical command of English so that it may be useful to them in everyday life. By using multimedia technology in the language learning classroom, teaching tasks has become much easier and the teachers need to discover and create a good atmosphere for their students. They should transfer their emotional factors to the students and promote students to learn actively. The teacher should create an environment of learning where learners can work together and support each other while using different tools and information resources in their guided pursuit of learning goals and problem-solving activities.

The teacher should support the learner in four fundamental characteristics of learning in language classroom:

- Active involvement
- Participation in groups
- Frequent interactions and giving feedback
- Connections to real-world contexts

Visualization

One of the important characteristics of multimedia-assisted English teaching is Visualization which is closely associated with cognitive activities. Visualization is a visual means of processing the information. It can be used for speaking practice as it creates a natural information gap. The use of multimedia can provide a new method of teaching to overcome the drawbacks of traditional teaching. The activities in the class room add variety to the teaching methods and provide real communicative situations where students communicate with each other in a foreign language. It brings the classroom to life and makes them more memorable and interactive. Language and imagination helps in combining left and right-brain functions. It also helps the students to develop their ability to create different sensory images. The boring and abstract content will become more interesting and vivid.

The multimedia-assisted English teaching is able to develop the interest of learning English and provide some vivid scenes for students. The teachers can play the audio or visual clips of native speaking situations to enrich the sharing of information effectively and teach the students on how to pronounce certain words, to comprehend the sentences, to improve thought patterns and to express what they have learned. So, the students can understand their pronunciation clearly. The multimedia technology is flexible as it can be used outside the classroom context, which is usually carried out by using asynchronous tools for example, e-mail, conferencing systems or by sending text messages. The students can take the advantage of multimedia technology for contacting their teachers through internet and having their problems resolved.

The multimedia-assisted English teaching may not always fully replace spoken words but it can be focused on:

- The concentration and attention of the students on the essence of the presentation
- It can be used for attracting students
- It reduces the burden of teachers
- It helps in the orientation of the audience
- It facilitates the understanding of presentation
- It provides an access to the substance of presented content

- It supports remembering of the presented contents

These modern methods of teaching not only help the students to learn and understand all the other subjects effectively but also it helps them to pursue their careers in multinational companies. Only the basic knowledge of English is not enough to open the career doors. One must aim to be an eloquent speaker to persuade and create a powerful impression. The world has gotten smaller due to Internet and smart technology, and globalization has encouraged companies in all the parts of the world. These companies hire the candidates who have good communication skills, and who can express them self in spoken and written form. The interactive classroom helps the students to work in team and team work is vital in multinational companies.

Conclusion

English language teaching has become one of fastest growing sector in the world and multimedia has positive significance in effective teaching. By using the modern methods students are able to read, speak, write and understand English. Multimedia system will offer a sensory and real learning expertise. If the students have a good command over English, it not only solely broadens their career opportunities but also it conjointly helps them getting paid more at a selected job. English unveils new potentialities with that one will advance in their career.

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