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THE ROLE OF ICT IN ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

The present paper deals with the different uses of ICT in the process of understanding of ELL and literature in classroom situations. Today's age is the age of Information Technology. It has become a valuable tool to enhance our understanding of English language and literature. ICT provides opportunities to gain linguistic competence for the better understanding of literature. It is extremely useful for researching, composing, responding, and viewing varieties of English. The Internet has given a new dimension to ICT and proved to be a very dominant and useful technological device in the process of understanding English language and literature. Internet provides various sorts of reference material and sources, which are extremely useful for understanding English language and literature. The various websites, PPT's, online classes, grammar, innovative teaching methodologies and use of sound music and clips performs extremely vital role in understanding English language and literature. The various basic terms, updated information about recent happenings and trends can be studies with the help of ICT. The new literary and linguistic approaches can be viewed, studied and taught in an interesting way. The use of ICT makes the teaching and learning of literature and language effective and students comprehend and enjoy the understanding of language and literature.

The present paper deals with the different uses of ICT in the process of understanding of ELL and literature in classroom situations. Today's age is the age of Information Technology. It has become a valuable tool to enhance our understanding of English language and literature. ICT provides opportunities to gain linguistic competence for the better understanding of literature. It is extremely useful for researching, composing, responding, and viewing varieties of English. The Internet has given a new dimension to ICT and proved to be a very dominant and useful technological device in the process of understanding English language and literature. Internet provides various sorts of reference material and sources, which are extremely useful for understanding English language and literature. The various websites, PPT's, online classes, grammar, innovative teaching methodologies and use of sound music and clips performs extremely vital role in understanding English language and literature. The various basic terms, updated information about recent happenings and trends can be studies with the help of ICT. The new literary and linguistic approaches can be viewed, studied and taught in an interesting way. The use of ICT makes the teaching and learning of literature and

language effective and students comprehend and enjoy the understanding of language and literature.

English dominates the world as no language ever has, and some linguists are of the opinion that English cannot be dethroned as the king of languages. 'English is now the dominant or official language in over 60 countries and is represented in every continent' (Crystal, 1997:106). It shows that English language is a vital means for communicating with the world. English has become the language of intellectual makeup. Everyone wants to acquire English as it is the sign of development. English is used as the language of education. The English medium schools are rising rapidly. Almost the whole world wants to educate their new generation in English. The present scenario shows that English is used as the medium of instruction right from the primary education to higher education. At all the levels, efforts are being made to enlighten the coming generations with the help of English. This growing tendency of using English has given it power and status. English plays vital role in this cyber age.

IT has accorded a special status to English Language. Internet has given a new dimension to our modern digital world. Internet has proved to be a very powerful and useful technological device to access information and communicate with the world. Internet and English are inseparable from each other. Internet provides various types of reference material and sources, which are extremely useful for the teaching of English at undergraduate level. The knowledge of English has become essential for using internet rapidly and effectively. The cyber age has an immense impact on the life style of the people. The world has become a small village with the expansion of the information technology and cyber revolution. English is still a 'window to the world' and will continue to be the language of opportunity, employment, science, technology, and electronics and so on. 'Most of the scientific, technological and academic information in the world is expressed in English and over 80% of all the information stored in electronic retrieval systems is in English'(Crystal,1997:106).This global status of English is appreciated and accepted in most of the countries. English has become a tool of international communication. The present multilingual scenario has increased the users of English and the non-native speakers of English are more than the native-speakers, who use English fluently and effectively .English is now no more possession of British or American people but it is the possession of intelligent people in the world who want to rule the world of knowledge. 'The development of English concerns the emergence of a number of activities, movements and subjects, that are carried out predominantly in English across the world' (Kachru, 1992:30).

According to Warschauer and Healey(1998:63): "It is the rise of the computer mediated communication and internet, more than anything else ,which has reshaped the uses of computers for language learning at the end of 20th century. With the advent of the internet, the computer-both in society and in the classroom-has been transformed from a tool for information processing and display to a tool for information processing and communication. For the first time, learners of a language can now communicate inexpensively and quickly with other learners of speakers of the target language all over the world."

The use of internet in understanding and teaching of English has proved to be very useful for the students, teachers and the whole community. Internet proves to be very useful for the

students from their online admission procedure up to appearing for the examinations. English can be learned and taught very efficiently, quickly and accurately to the slow and advanced learners in the college. Despite of certain limitations, internet has proved to be an ideal English teacher for the students.

Most of the students' have problems in understanding and communicating in English. They can be motivated with the help of internet to gain confidence and to master the basic skills .Teaching of grammar in a simple and effective way is a great challenge for the teachers of English. In this regard, internet is the best solution. Internet provides various websites to learn grammar effectively. The following are some of the important websites for the understanding English grammar:

http://www.englishgrammar.org/

http://www.englishbee.net/

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_grammar

http://www.english-grammar-lessons.com/

http://www.englishgrammarsecrets.com/

http://www.chompchomp.com/exercises.htm

http://classroom.jc-schools.net/basic/la-grammar.html

The use of effective writing skills always helps the students to score well in the examination. The websites on the sentence writing, paragraph writing, summarizing, letter writing, essay writing, dialogue writing help the students to master their writing skills. To improve the writing skills, internet provides various useful websites. Some of them are as follows:

http://www.buowl.boun.edu.tr/students/Paragraph

http://lrs.ed.uiuc.edu/students/fwalters/para.html

http://www.paragraphorganizer.com/inner /how to write

http://www.pppst.com/themes.html

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/composition.htm

Many students are unable to speak effectively. They are not confident about the sentence construction and appropriate usages of words. Inappropriate tone, style, stress, pronunciation, and intonation create problems for the students. Internet provides countless websites of experts, which can help the students to know uses of tone, style, stress, pronunciation and intonation. Some websites are extremely useful to overcome these difficulties of the students. These websites are as follows:

www.communicationskills.co.in

http://www.englishlanguageguide.com/

http://www.real-english.com/reo/index.html

http://www.bmconsultantsindia.com/

http://youtubeenglish.blogspot.in

Listening and reading, though passive skills, create interest among the readers. The practice of listening and reading help to speak and spell well. Therefore, listening and reading play a special role to master the basic skills. The internet provides ample practice for reading and listening to the online learners. The following websites are useful for the practice of listening:

www.youtube.com/watch?

http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english

http://www.eslcafe.com/

Reference material and original texts are available on internet, which helps the students to get the required and useful material. The critical summary, notes, comments, analysis, pictures, video clips, maps, photos and reference material available on the internet proves to be extremely useful for the students in understanding of their syllabus effectively. The following are some of the useful websites, which provide reference material:

www.sparknotes.com/

www.youtube.com/watch

www.classic-enotes.com/

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools

Understanding literature with the help of internet has become very interesting and meaningful. There are various websites which provide online lessons on literature. E-books, videos clips, power point presentations are extremely useful for understanding literature. Many websites provide critical comments and summary which helps the learners to get exact idea and the literary peace which they are refereeing too.

The cyber age has given many sources to the students and teachers for updating and increasing their knowledge. The availability of e books and reference material has given readymade solution to the students.

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