

Delving of Computer-Based Technologies in Enriching the Communication Skills

Research Proposal

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Recent years have shown an explosion of interest in using computers for language teaching and learning. A decade ago, the use of computers in the language classroom was concern only to a small group of experts. However, with the advent of multimedia computing and the internet, the role of computers in language instruction has now become an important issue confronting large numbers of language teachers throughout the world. In India, the Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESL) has passed through various phases and methods involving technologies, though outdated today, they were popular then. This shows that throughout the ages, there was a constant search or a new method to realize the needs of the learners of English as a Second Language (ESL).

Moreover, the concept of Second Language Acquisition has gained significance as the linguists try various methods, techniques, and approaches to minimize the difference between First Language Acquisition and Second Language Learning. With the advent of computer and internet, the role of the teacher has undergone lot of changes. Though a computer cannot replace a teacher, it serves as an effective tool in the hands of an efficient teacher to help the students acquire a language.

The expectation that teachers use Computer – Based Technologies in Teaching of English as a Second Language has heightened the expectations of the linguistics as the modern technology and scientific innovation can serve as magic wand in the hands of a technocrat language teacher. Teacher have responded to this challenge with varying degrees of enthusiasm and success as they meet the challenge of rethinking their understanding of what it is to be a language teacher and therefore their approach to providing language literacy learning opportunities in classrooms has also changed a lot.

This doctoral research entitled “Delving of Computer-Based Technologies in Enriching the Communication Skills” is an attempt to explore the possibilities of effective use of Computer –Based Technologies to develop the communication skills of the students of English as a Second Language. For an effective development of communication skills, the focus should be given to

all the four language skills, namely, Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Hence this research analyses the effectiveness of the existing software to teach English as a Second Language focusing on the four language skills.

Since the researcher is working in an Engineering College in Theni district, Tamilnadu, where most of the students are from rural or Semi – Urban area, the researcher proposes to focus on the communication problems typical of these students who study in the Engineering Colleges and Arts & Science Colleges in Theni district. An analysis of the problems of these sample respondents will yield an interesting study related to their exposure to English language but also will help the researcher to develop some strategies using Computer-Based Technologies to develop some strategies using Computer – Based Technologies to develop their communication skills.