

Information Explosion An Asset for Computer Assisted English Language Learning (Caell)

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ABSTRACT

The term 'Information Explosion' is bombastic in itself. It literally refers to the excessive data flow through internet or other social media tools. Creative contributions are born when a man or woman comes in contact with the light of education. Increased literacy is a prime factor for information explosion because individuals produce new information as he becomes more and more acquainted with knowledge. The increase in research activities is also one of the factors of the exponential growth of 'information explosion'. Now a days the scale and level of research funding have changed significantly as the research has become mission-oriented, multi disciplinary and assumed a matrix managed character. Earlier information sources were only published media and hand written manuscripts but today the sources of information are diversified from databases, microforms, online journals, CD-ROM, DVD, optical disk or hypermedia and hypertext. Advancement in the field of communication and technology network has brought down the distances between the person, states, countries and continents throughout the world. Computer and telecommunication are converging very rapidly and its highest impact is felt in the information explosion. English is one of the most important languages which have played role in the process of globalization and knowledge explosion. Even though the English language has found its way into the curricula of schools around the world, another powerful force is driving the increase in the number of English language speakers. It's the Internet, the place where video clips of kittens and puppies coexist with a number of tools that enable everyone to learn what is arguably the most important language of today. In this way, information explosion can be defined as an asset for english language learners. The present paper analyses various techniques and tools to manifest the edge of information explosion for students.

INTRODUCTION

The modern age is termed as the era of knowledge explosion. The use of science and technology in the field of communication has revolutionized the whole world. Use of modern technological tools has led to the rise of ICT (Information and Communication technology.) Now ICT is being used in a number of fields like, health, entertainment, games and sports, transportation, education, industries, fashion designing, textiles, agriculture etc. With a single click, we can exchange a lot of information of the world with the help of ICT. The field of education, too, is not left untouched by ICT. Now we cannot imagine education without the use of Information and communication Technology. It has made exchange of thoughts, ideas, experiences and feelings easier. Use of computers, Internet, television, radio, projectors and mobile phones, e-mail facility, online audio and video conferencing as well as new applications have made the Teaching-Learning Process and Training attractive and convenient. It is also beneficial in saving time, energy and money. It has proved its stupendous role in language learning, especially English Language Learning. ICT has a lot of things to offer to both teachers and students for the enhancement of their vocabulary and improvement of English language skills. Some of these tools are CAL (Computer Assisted Learning), CALA (Computer Assisted Language Assessment), CALI (Computer Assisted Language Instruction), CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning), MALL (Mobile Assisted Language Learning), TELL (Technology Enhanced Language Learning), Blogs, e-mail facility, Digital libraries, multimedia, mobile learning, free and open source software and

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social media, MOOC, Virtual classrooms, documentaries, Digital storytelling, Mobile Applications, iPads, Digital Notebooks, Tablets, Smart Phones, Recorded audio- video materials, Online spoken tutorials, Digital pronunciation dictionaries etc. These facilities have paved the way of individualized learning and provided freedom of learning anytime, anywhere according to needs and convenience of the learner.

It's no secret that technology has become more central in our everyday lives than ever before. It helps us in every aspect of our lives, from health and fitness to creativity and social communication. An estimated 22 million students are benefiting from the online distance learning industry, which is worth around \$70 billion. Individuals can benefit from today's technological advancements in the four skill areas to make their English language learning as well rounded as possible.

READING

With the rise of iPads, tablets and e-readers like the Kindle, we've come accustomed to a more interactive reading experience, which is a wonderful feature for English learners. Functions like click-to-define, vocabulary builders, and downloading whole texts at the touch of a button are all beneficial to a learner looking for a fun and effective way to improve their reading and writing in particular. It can help to expand vocabulary and expose one to different sentence structures.

WRITING

One of the most well-known technological advancements for writing is the unassuming word processor. Simple tools such as a dictionary and a thesaurus help writers expand their vocabulary, while spelling- and grammar-checkers are helpful to find and correct errors. Moving forward to the internet age and online forums are a widely used channel for learners to communicate and learn from one another using the written word. This is also a great alternative for those who don't have the opportunity to converse with a native speaker face to face.

LISTENING

It began as simple audio on a cassette tape and today's audiobooks have taken over the literary world. According to a global survey of 6000 English language learners, 44% of respondents said speaking was the most difficult aspect of learning English. When it comes to improving both comprehension and speaking skills, extensive listening is highly recommended. Listening to and reading text at the same time is a great way to start and Kindle's Whispersync for Voice technology is designed for just this purpose. It includes audio with selected books, so one can listen and follow the text as one reads.

Podcasts are also becoming more popular with English learners, with the ability to listen anytime, anywhere, and English language podcasts are a great way to improve your listening skills. Here are some popular podcasts to try: Listen to English by Peter Carter, Elementary Podcasts by the British Council and Luke's English Podcast.

SPEAKING

Giving learners the advantage of communicating in real-time conversations with English speakers, probably the most exciting (and futuristic) technological advancement has come in the form of Skype and FaceTime. Tools such as video-conferencing also offer teachers the opportunity to link other classes around the world, and in this way, gaining support from other teachers and students.

There are many new apps on the market for speaking with other learners, such as CoffeeTalk and Hello Talk where you can converse with native speakers right from your phone. No webcam is required anymore. These technological advancements can help you advance in your English learning; you just need to take advantage of them and they're right at your fingertips.

Some of the latest ICT tools and applications used in the field of English Language Teaching are following -

FLUENT U

It is an innovative language learning tool that uses transcription of videos to help you learn a language in the most entertaining, diverse and engaging ways. FluentU is currently offered to those learning French, Spanish, German, Italian, English, Chinese, and Japanese.

LINGUA PHONE

This tool is very important in language training of the students. A number of students are

practice speaking and hearing drills with the help of lingua phone. It is especially useful in the training of English language listening and speaking skills.

LESSONS AND PODCASTS

You can go to YouTube, search for the term "learn English," and find plenty of videos that might be useful to you. However, you should also be aware that there are established institutions that offer English language lessons and podcasts on their websites. For example, there's the British Broadcasting Corporation—the BBC, or the Beeb as it's sometimes called in the UK. BBC's Learning English web page offers a wealth of content every English language learner should check out, from English lessons and short dramas to the news and pronunciation tips. The British Council has more than fifty podcasts that aim to teach everyday English. Their website also hosts plenty of "how to" videos that deal with the English language.

GRAMMAR RESOURCES

While podcasts and lessons are great, especially when they are followed by a grammar and vocabulary review, English language learners can benefit from a more focused study of grammar. In fact, a lot of native speakers could benefit from a grammar refresher from time to time. Even people who write in English for a living need to look up grammar issues occasionally. Again, the British Council website is one of the best places to start. From lessons to quick tips, it contains most of the things an English language learner will need to learn proper grammar. This website, the one you're currently on, is named Grammarly.com for a good reason. Yes, it does help writers proofread their work and enhance their style, but it also has the Grammarly Handbook, a great tool that can help English language learners understand grammar rules and learn how to implement them in writing.

VOCABULARY AND TRANSLATION

It would be hard to write about English translation without mentioning Google Translate. As an English language learner, you might not need the translate feature of Google Chrome to translate whole web pages from English into your own language. But for the words you know nothing about, Google Translate is one of the best tools on the web. Project Gutenberg offers over 50,000 free books, many of which are in English. There's no better way of expanding your vocabulary than reading a lot, and on this website you can find English literary classics. Words by Grammarly is an online dictionary-thesaurus hybrid, which offers definitions of words as well as synonym suggestions.

TESTS AND QUIZZES

You'll need a way to test your progress, and more importantly, you'll also need a way to learn and play at the same time. Activities for ESL students is a website for grammar and vocabulary quizzes, bilingual quizzes, and crossword puzzles. British Council, again, has a number of English-language games on their website, as well as IELTS practices. The Cambridge English website has both tests and games that will help you measure your advancement and have some fun.

Social media has become an important tool of communication. It provides a platform for sharing thoughts and ideas. You can create your blogs and share your views with others and get comments, too. Students can add themselves with the English language learning groups and take advantage of sharing information. A number of social sites like, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc are very helpful in learning situational language. Online language related courses are available on internet. Some of them offer free registration. Students can enroll themselves in these courses and get education and training while sitting in every nook and corner of the world. Some agencies which providing online courses, are MOOC, Future Learn, NPTEL, and Concordia University etc. Students can watch online and offline videos of language learning for the enhancement of their language skills.

We cannot think of better educational environment without a better teacher. Earlier, the teacher was the focal point of education, but now the role of teachers has changed a lot. To teach better a teacher need to be updated with the changes. For this ICT helps a lot. It is helpful in the professional development of the teachers. A teacher can learn various language skills with the help of information and communication technologies. He can do various certification programmes in English language

teaching. A teacher can increase his domain of knowledge of English language with the help of journals, e-magazines and e-library. He can also participate in discussions and conferences with experts of English language to improve his knowledge and skills through audio and video conferencing. ICT also helps him framing curriculum of English language learning.

CONCLUSION

Language education is an area where open-access resources, online courses, virtual classroom and social networks based on information and communication technology (ICT) are being increasingly used to give learners access to information, promote interaction and communication, and enhance digital literacy skills. However, the rapid development of tools and resources presents both opportunities and challenges. In order to maximize the potential of ICT in language teaching, it is crucial that it is used in a pedagogically sound way that corresponds to the individual needs of the learners. It is also important that the use of ICT is introduced and supported in a sustainable way and in a range of pedagogical approaches that promote lifelong learning. According to Pete Sharma and Barney Barrow (2007), there are several reasons for using technology in language teaching. In addition to the fact that technology can be motivating, it offers the possibility to work autonomously or interact and collaborate with others. Technology also provides instant feedback on language performance in various tasks and exercises. Technology can also be an extension of the classroom and can be time saving. Finally, technology can promote language learning with fresh authentic and motivating materials directly used from the Internet.

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