



The Use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Teaching English Literature and Language for Enhancing the Learning Efficiency in Students

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Abstract: *The purpose of the present paper is to examine the role of Information and Communication and Technology in English language and literature. ICT can revolutionize the education sector in our country. Today in the fast pacing world where everything is digitalized, how can education sector lag behind? There are many challenges that a teacher faces while teaching traditional subjects like literature. But thanks to IT sector which has minimized the stress. Now a teacher can use multimedia CDs, educational videos, interactive games, flash and 3-D animation, slide-shows, and various search engines. Information and Communication Technology has turned our life upside down. The use of Information and Communication Technology is not only found in the field of engineering, medical science, accountancy, computer science, commerce, information technology, business administration, but also in the field of traditional subjects of literature, economics, history, political science etc.*

1. INTRODUCTION

We live in an era of information explosion where Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a great role in teaching and learning process of English language and literature. ICT can revolutionize the education sector. Education is not divorced from internet technology. In fact, it has helped the teacher as well as student. Information Technology has made our life easier and improved the efficiency and effectiveness of education at all the levels in both formal and non-formal setting.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has vast methodologies to provide in teaching English literature. Teaching and learning process is no more boring and monotonous but it has made teaching more interesting where students learn effectively. Information and Communication Technology has been helping in time management. Gone are the days when teachers had to speak in colleges or universities for hours to teach the students. English literature is a traditional subject which is taught through lecture method in every college and university. But this subject should be student oriented and students should be active participants. The teachers use traditional methods that they have been taught through so they end up nothing new. The use of Information and Communication Technology in teaching English literature can revamp the traditional perspective of the subject and can make it more interesting and happening when the things are seen, heard and thought of. Thus instead of delivering just lectures on English literature

and language the power point presentations and other devices can make teaching more convincing and interesting. It can inspire and motivate the students when they are kept engaged. Students get enough time and opportunities to hear, see, ponder, discuss, interact, read and learn. There are various methods and devices of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) that can make teaching English literature riveting.

English literature comprises major forms like poetry, drama, novel, criticism, literary theory. ICT can never replace a teacher but it can aid a teacher in teaching various forms in modern ways. Various methods can be utilized to teach English literature that can enhance the learning efficiency of students. The extensive use of web 2.0 components, e-groups, internet, SMSs, language labs, e-dictionaries, emails, e-encyclopedia, power point presentations, audio-video, online platforms, use of blogs, wikipedia etc are very useful in teaching and learning process. ICT works as a catalyst in education field. In postmodern era one can not think life without ICT. Information and Communication Technology is not a teaching method or theory but it is a tool that aids the teachers by improving access to different types of media already in use. The students are more receptive and more responsive in language classes of commerce or management as compared to the class of literature. The response of the student inspires the teacher to go beyond the horizons of experimenting new methods, innovative practices in the classroom. The use of projectors, power point presentations keeps the students in suspense and engages them to ponder. This inspires them to interact and ask more questions when they themselves see on screen and contemplate on what is shown and presented. Through the use of pictures of English writers, movies, on screen plays, they understand the concepts clearly and that retains in their memory for long term.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) provides tools to improve the students' ability to learn through techniques such as simulation and visualization in science as well as text analysis in literature. ICT provides software and applications that encourage reflection in language learning e.g. applications of quiz on English literature in mobile phones make them learn faster. Nowadays students are growing up in an advanced world that is technologically far changed from the world of their own parents. Now the focus has been shifted to the practical use of education so that students can get jobs in future and this can be possible when they are connected with technology. The internet is a system of computer networks that operates worldwide. Developed countries like America,

Canada are already using technology based education then how can India lag behind? Simhachalam Thamarana says in a paper that in internet, the World Wide Web presents various web pages with the help of HTML and HTTP with full of links to other documents or information systems. By selecting one of these web links any information can be accessed. There are famous search engines such as Google and Yahoo to help language students in finding useful information.

2. TEACHING ENGLISH LITERATURE THROUGH ICT TOOLS POETRY

Poetry is the subject the students are least interested in. when it is taught in traditional way like recitation method, translation method, or lecture method, students get bored and their learning ability declines. The students need motivation to learn poetry. ICT can aid the teacher to rejuvenate a literature class. A power point presentation on poetry can be made and it should be presented on screen, an audio can be played where poetry is recited in background. The teacher herself/himself can also recite the poem beautifully. If a teacher has to teach Keats' "Ode on the Grecian Urn" he/she can display the image of an urn which describes classical painting. This will make poem more interesting. In "Ode on the Grecian Urn" the bold lover can't kiss his beloved but will forever chase her as presented on the urn. If the whole image is presented on screen the students will easily grasp the poem. Similarly in a poem "To Autumn" by Keats as suggested by Manali Jain in her paper, an audio can be played on the particular subject. This will help making an impact on the minds of students. The picture of poets can be presented, or the picture of setting, his/her homeland can be shown and biographical details can be discussed by the teacher side by side. The integral impact of the visual and hearing would make students understand what is being taught. The images, symbols, themes and movements of the poem can be elaborated through different slides.

Fiction

Fiction for few students can be interesting. Reading novels, stories, from texts is not everybody's cup of tea. Those who have limited time or those who can't devote full time to text reading, they read the novels in nutshell and hence are deprived of full information. It depends on a teacher how to imbue interest in text books or novels. A teacher can play VCDs/DVDs/Audio books related to the texts. There are many movies based on novels like movies on *Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, *Jude the Obscure* by Hardy, *Mistress of Spices* by Chitra Banerjee Diwakaruni and many more. The themes, characterization, historical context, narration can be discussed through slide shows and presentations. You tube can be utilized for certain memorable scenes.

Instead of reading the dialogues himself/herself, a teacher can present drama on screen. Power point presentation can be used to display important scenes. Instead of watching a whole play at once we can cut the play into bits and pieces. Staged plays can be shown through ICT tools and the minute intricacies of a play can be discussed. With the use of light, stage setting, sound props, all will come live before the

students and it would have a long lasting impact on them. It will educate the students and will give them pleasure as well. You tube can provide various plays of Shakespeare and other playwrights which can be integrated in the library. If a teacher has to teach Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* he/she can show the movie on related topic. It is a play of inaction where absurdity of life is depicted. When students read the text they hardly get the pleasure and get bored in no time. But when it is presented on screen they grasp the dialogues, they watch the setting, they see the characters so it becomes easy for them to learn more effectively. Moreover ICT helps students find research articles, online journals, Google books, essays on related subjects or texts. They just have to click on Google or other search engines.

Criticism

Criticism is difficult subject for literature students. The philosophical and theoretical base of these theories makes it hard to understand the concept. Criticism can be made more interesting by the use of examples from literary texts and through practical uses. The best way to teach criticism is through "applied criticism". The students should be provided web resources. The students can learn the blogs of contemporary writers and can comment on various texts. The writers interact and reply the comments. This interaction often leaves a good impact on the students. The teachers can guide the students in criticism by suggesting suitable sites, journals, online magazine, Google books etc.

3. LITERARY THEORY

This is an area which most students dread. The theories can be shown on screen. The teachers can make the interviews, recorded lectures available for students. This is the technical portion of English literature. Teachers can show documentaries on post-colonialism and post-modernism.

American and other non-European writers

Indian writing in English, African literature, American literature, Canadian literature etc. can be taught through ICT. History of English literature can be shown in arranged form. Video conferencing can be facilitated so that interaction can take place among students, research scholars, and teachers not just within India but across the world. This will keep them up-to-date and enhance their knowledge. ICT combined with the traditional methods of teaching can make teaching and learning literature more effective.

ICT is not limited to the use of slides or projectors alone. The development of e-content would help students refer to relevant information on a topic. A portal can be developed solely for literature. Even e-books, can be uploaded, links to important journals, articles can be provided.

Teaching English language

Information Communication Technology helps in building vocabulary of students. Everyone can have dictionary apps installed in their mobile phones. Students can play quiz, games, learn new words everyday just in seconds. It is helpful in developing English language skills like learning, speaking, reading, writing (LSRW) through language labs. It helps the

students in Phonetics also. Students can learn the correct pronunciation of words with one click. CDs of Oxford Advanced Learner's Pronouncing Dictionary, Merriam Webster Dictionary can help develop the listening skills and can enrich their vocabulary.

4. CONCLUSION

ICT plays a pivotal role in teaching and learning process of English literature. Computer is made for the benefit of human being and it should be used properly. We should not become the slave of traditional as well as modern methods of teachings. A teacher has to be flexible in adopting different ways. One should not be adamant to use traditional methods. A good teacher adapts as the time changes. The college/university should have proper infrastructure because lack of resources will create problems in finding new dimensions of teaching. Teaching and learning are complementary to each other. A good teaching comes through effective learning. The learner's eagerness to learn doubles the pleasure of teaching. The use of ICT can aid teacher in

effective teaching and it will help the learning efficiency of students. ICT are just tools of teaching English literature. It is not supplement of a teacher because a machine can never replace its master. The man is a better teacher than machine. ICT is just a device to improve the proficiency level of students and help them understand language and literature.

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