

Role of Language Lab in Learning English for School Students

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Abstract

English is an International Language due to the globalisation. Today, everyone have communicate in English but there are people with difficulties to speak in English. We have to focus mainly on the school students so that they can improve in their communication skills. In this modern era, technology has become a part of our lives. So english can be taught using language lab for the school students which will be a great benefit for them. Through this way the students fluency in communication will increase.

Keywords: Communication, Language lab, Fluency, LSRW Skills.

Introduction

English language has occupied a great position in our society. Nowadays, without english nothing can be done. In our educational system, English has become a communicative language and a medium of instruction. According to university grants commission “English is a language which is rich in literature, humanistic, scientific and technical. If under sentimental urges we should give up English, we would cut ourselves off from the living stream of ever-growing knowledge” (qtd. in Sharma 37). Through English language lot of knowledge can be imported to students because English is a global language. Today, English plays a important role in India.

Now, English has become a medium of instruction and all the competitive exam are asked in English. Due to that reason the students have to focus on learning English. Students communication should be fluent and clear that the people can understand clearly what they speak. In this digital era, the teaching and the learning method also have to change according to the development.

Traditional versus Modern Methods

For learning English there are lot of methods from past to present. In traditional method the central focus is on the teacher and the students will accept what the teacher

says. The teacher used to write and teach the students from the material or the notes which the teacher have collected. In the modern method, the central focus is on the students. The students used to collect information from various sources on their own due to the technological development.

Influence of Audio – Visual Method on Students

Students are interested in learning practically through listening and seeing. While learning English through this method the students will listen to the conversation carefully and try to converse in the way which they have listened. By this practical way of learning the students are influenced to speak better. One main drawback is that the aids which are need for this method and the teacher should be well known of the application. The best audio-visual method is the Language Lab. Lado says “ as the centre of language teaching, with the teacher assisting the lab operation and adjusting to it”(173).

Language Lab

Language Lab is one of the modern methodology which is used now for learning English for the students. Underwood explains “the lab was seen as a sort of tireless teacher’s aid that could drill the mechanical aspects of language, freeing the teacher for more creative activities”(34). The lab is full of computers, headphones and so on. Through this way the students will be imparted with the skills and will also help the students to acquire the English language . It helps in enrich the English language for the students. When the students are given courses according to their levels the students will involve themselves and acquire their English learning proficiency. Through this method the students are motivated to learn and speak fluently so that everyone can be appreciated.

Importance of Language Lab

In the Language Lab, the students are given step by step guidance by the teacher. The students can relate the conversation which they have learned from the programmed software to the real situation. The Language Lab creates a stress free environment when compared to the traditional classroom where they have to learn from the book only no practical knowledge. The students get lot of new thoughts and idea which are emerged in the Lab. W.M.Rivers says

With just a minute or two of this sort of simple conversation, you can break up the artificially of the drill situation, reminding your students and yourself that

the real reason why people use a language is not to produce right answers, or even to increase their competence in it, but simply to say things to one another. (99)

How Lab Helps the Students

It is user friendly and provides a rich environment to learn English. It motivates the students and helps in interaction with everyone. When they listen to the audios they would listen keenly and try to reciprocate in English. Their fluency in speaking English also increases and their grammar knowledge is developed. While listening to the audios the students will listen to the stress, intonation, and pronunciation which will be helpful in speaking English fluently in conversation. According to Bygate, “when tape recorder and language laboratories gradually came into existence in the 1950s, they were mainly used for pronunciation, grammar and translation practice, often in the context of courses named as such” (qtd in Carter 15). From the audios the students can note each and every detail very minutely that will be useful in conversation. The students can record what they have spoken and can find out their level and how much they have to improve in their fluency to tackle in this competitive world.

Role of the School Students

The fluency of English should be started and tested from the school students because when they get early training means it will be easy for the students communication. As early as the students get coaching in the Language lab their speaking in English would be better so that they can face any problem and situation as they undergo in their lives. The situations which they learned in the lab would be similar in the reality. So the students will know how to speak and to give response to others.

Role of Teacher in Language Lab

English is a foreign language so the students need some guidance to learn and speak fluently. For guiding the students the teacher is needed. The teacher monitors the students and analyzes them what are their weaknesses and the strengths according to that the students are guided to interact with their friends. The mistakes made by the students are corrected by the teacher. In the lab, the teacher can give individual attention to the students without disturbing others and the relationship between the student and the teacher is established. According to Lado

Language labs should never be seen as a substitute for the instructor, on the contrary, language labs require better-prepared teachers who can put the new equipment and techniques to good use as well as conduct the class. When used

properly, labs can greatly increase the effectiveness of good teachers, whether or not they are native speakers of the target language. (174)

Development of language skills

The skills are developed while learning English language in the Language Lab. The skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. These skills are imparted in the lab to the students. Mainly, listening and speaking skills are focused and the reading and writing are focused with little importance. “The question of whether the language lab can be adapted to communicative methods remains to be answered” (Underwood 37).

The students have to listen to the speaker in the audio very minutely to understand the conversation and the student have to speak the conversation which they have listened. In the software their will be tasks given to be completed by the students which will test the understanding of the students which will be read and completed by them accordingly they will be scored. Through the scores awarded, the teacher can understand the level of the students and can help them.

Conclusion

Language Lab is a modern method of learning English for the school students mainly because to develop their fluency in speaking English at the early stage. So the students can tackle anything in their life. Through the lab the students get practical experience and the mistake are corrected by the teacher. The teacher gives individual attention to the students and guides them. For the students going to Language Lab would be refreshment from their regular way of studying the books. So the students should be allotted a session for the Language Lab so that they can improve their English speaking fluency.

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