

Chapter 69: Development of Computer Assisted Language Learning Digital Learning Opportunities in Secondary Schools

Melfi Alghobari

Alorbad high school /school in Saudi Arabia.

1 Introduction

Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) is a process in which language competence is improved and enhanced using technology. Learners not only use computers but also rely on smart phones, tablets, and the latest video players to engage in activities that build language proficiency and skills. CALL functions around authentic foreign language material that includes news items, articles, video clips, audio and animations etc. to provide learners higher level of linguistics knowledge and communication opportunities. The e-learning approach has internationally been deemed necessary to enable twenty-first century learners to adapt to global changes (Shraim & Khlaif, 2010). The distance learning courses are beneficial as students will be given tasks to improve language competence for a wide range of purposes. Technology would be used as a tool to promote language learning possibilities among secondary level learners.

The technology that is present in the world has changed the lifestyle of not only students but of teachers, too, globally. The new trends that have made human life easier did not exist earlier, thus human beings enjoy a better life that has numerous luxuries. The blending of technology with everyday tasks has led to a modern way of living where people use technology for communication, information and education. Technology has been integrated successfully into human lives and has revolutionized culture, customs and social norms. The world is now a “global village” due to technology and its impacts. People are connected into a large global community to share ideas, thoughts and information (Weber, 2016).

2 Literature Review

Lack of Technology

It is the need of time that educational practices should be revised and follow the current trends of the world (Harris, Al-Bataineh, & Al-Bataineh, 2016). The use of technology motivates the students towards achieving academic targets. It is, however, true that there are classrooms where technology has no access, and due to this limitation, there are a number of drawbacks that students face. One such drawback is disoriented students who are involved in taking notes from the conventional white board instead of learning new concepts.

The absence of technology in classroom teaching makes students dependent on the teacher’s instruction, and their self-learning is discouraged. A second disadvantage is the fact that the teacher’s lecture in the conventional classroom is based on the general discussion. There is no individual learning, and similarly, a large group of students is addressed

altogether. The individual needs of each student are not considered since the teacher only provides general information (Mirza, 2012).

Secondary Level Students

The students at secondary level are open to welcoming technology in their teachings as they are interested in new devices and technology-based learning (Shraim & Khlaif, 2010). E-learning offers a large number of possibilities of growth because students can access online libraries and e-books.

Students also obtain benefits from online communication and improve their language. They learn new words and improve their speaking and writing skills as they are involved in continuous discussions with their peers and teachers. The secondary level students are involved in learning activities online as they run their social media pages and are able to receive/send emails. Likewise, secondary level learners are able to search online libraries and can follow teachers' instructions through online media.

ICT in Education

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is being used in almost all fields of life. The education sector is not an exception, since a great deal of work has been done to develop better academic strategies. Similarly, the area of English language learning has adopted ICT for improved methods of teaching and designing activities that benefit learners far and wide. Likewise, ICT has also been adapted from preschool to university level for students and teachers both. Significantly, ICT has now been recognized and publicized as a tool for effective language teaching that can bring educational reforms. A rapid technological boom has brought a revolution in the education sector –teaching and learning are two parallel domains and are continuously developing due to technological application and innovations (Aydin, 2016). Communication patterns have improved globally as people exchange ideas across borders and come across different words and phrases, hence language learning is fast, easier and much more interesting.

Since ICT is highly engaging and provides ample opportunities to manage information, technological tools can be used in teacher-centered or learner-centered classroom for exploiting educational needs and prospects.

Technology in Classrooms

Students globally attempt to learn English in order to interact with people of other cultures and communities. Similarly, proficiency in English is also linked with academic excellence and overall self-development. Technology has played a vital role in developing classrooms to the next level of learning and teaching, as internet-based applications are used to develop reading and writing, speaking and listening comprehension to the next level (Blake, 2013).

The following image presents the unique features of CALL in classrooms:

THE TRIGGER OF COMPUTER AS AN ASSISTED LEARNING

- ◉ The development of technology has emerged many computer applications to help learning process, which is known as CAL
 - the purpose of CAL is to make a good use of computer as a medium for the sake of facilitating people in learning process.
 - Compare to books and any other common equipment; whiteboard and chalk, computer is more “interactive” and more flexible.
 - Computer would never tire it self to give a repetitive explanation to students.

Computers are the main aspect of technology in education. Computers provide a better layout of learning for students and the interaction is user-friendly. Students enjoy their time on computers as they use different software to learn new concepts and enhance their learning. Computers provide a flexible and interesting model to study and learn from.

Nowadays, laptops and mobile telephony has taken roots in learning. Students learn as they interact using their mobile phones and tablets. Learning becomes an engaging task as students do not have to follow the years’ old books (Sharma & Barrett, 2009).

3 Discussion – The Impact of Technology Globally

The role of technology in today’s world has emerged as one of the leading factors required for development. Technology has made it possible to transform the world into a more linked place where everyone has digital access (Satell, 2014). The effects of technology have reached to all walks of life including teaching and classroom practices. Technology in today’s world is used as a tool to enhance the knowledge base of learners. The everyday tasks are carried out easily by employing technology in one form or the other.

Like all professionals, students have also welcomed technology for learning new concepts and getting more of information. The students have become the apt users of technology, as they are quick in responding to the latest devices and tools (Goodman, 2018). Students have accepted technology wholeheartedly in their lives therefore they display signs

of development and modern style of living. Technology has made life simple. The data remain organized by using technological tools and students obtain benefits from it.

The technology that we now see has changed the work practices in different fields of life. Students now have easier access to data and information that is spread around them. They take advantage of digital classrooms where they have computers and software for learning.

The blending of technology in the education field has given it advanced features that are interesting for students.

Technology has been integrated successfully into classroom and teaching, thus it has revolutionized the education fields. The world is now a “Global village” due to technology and its impacts. Students are now connected to a larger global community where they share ideas and information with their peers (Weber, 2016)

Welcoming Technology

Technology has changed every walk of life. There are countless examples that we find around us where people have accepted technology with an open mind. The latest technology supports the activities carried out in different fields of life. The following areas and their working have been modified by technology: -

S. No	Field	Example
1.	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Online Libraries b. Dictionaries c. eBooks d. PDFs e. Writing Software
2.	Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Social Media networks b. Chat software c. Mobile applications
3.	Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Online Ticketing b. Ticketing and reservations c. Online Feedback and services
4.	Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Live streaming of News b. E-newspapers c. Digital Television

5.	Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. e-shops b. online shopping apps c. Social media marketing
6.	Banking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Online funds transactions b. Online security checks c. Bill Payment
7.	Health and Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Online pharmacy b. Online Doctor consultancy

Technology has therefore made enormous changes in daily life and activities that human beings perform. Students are also learning the new trends of society where they are exposed to technology from a very early stage of their lives. They conveniently use technology to watch their shows on television and stay connected with their friends and family online. The need is to bring a change in teaching and learning practices, too, where students are taking benefits of the limitless learning opportunities by using digital media.

A Few Drawbacks

Technology and its Drawbacks – Cons:

In spite the fact that technology has enormous benefits, it has also caused several disadvantages to human life. There are many cons that are paired with the use of technology, such as weakening of vision, body ache and poor human to human interaction. Students should take care of the hazards that technology can cause to their lives. The teachers must also ensure that students are not relying on technology too much. There are several disadvantages of using technology and students should be made aware of it.

Some of the drawbacks related to technology that must be told to students are:

- Real and face-to-face interaction has been a replaced by social media presence thus increasing mental distance among people. People are so heavily engaged in their virtual profiles that they space much less time for their family and friends. The virtual and superficial life has taken over the beautiful human-to-human bonding.
- The creative artists are now jobless because technology has given the world such software that can produce designs within minutes. Technology has brought a mega loss to creative minded people.
- Technology is rapid and multi-dimensional. It spreads across the world within a few seconds. Technology and its effects are difficult to control since they travel globally in a very short interval of time.

- It is one of the reasons that students and young children nowadays play fewer sports or read books. They start using technology from a very early age. They do not understand the value of a library or a good book, since technology has given them short cuts to seek information.

Likewise, technology has made people dependent. This is another major drawback of using technology. An individual is dependent on technology for completing academic, professional, social and professional matters. In case technology comes to a halt, different parts of the world would show little or no signs of further development because they have been trained to perform their daily and routine activities using computers and technology.

Role of Students

The students can perform an active role while using digital learning forums. Students learn different competencies like oral communication, written communication, and group management that further help them in their careers. They also learn how to accept a variety of opinions and negotiate with others as they are interacting with a wider number of people. Digital classrooms also tell students to perform activities on different forums like online lessons, reading activities and speaking drills. Students practice a better form of learning.

The technology in classroom is an effective way in shaping a personality needed to solve problems in the real world. Students receive numerous learning opportunities since they are not relying on limited resources. Instead students learn academic concepts as well as the use of technology as they complete their tasks using technology (Satell, 2014).

Solution and Recommendation

To consider the advantages of blended learning, it is recommended that the classrooms today should be technology friendly (Watson, 2008). Modern day teaching is carried out by using computer and technology-based devices, such as smart phones hence the concept of M-learning is relevant (Sharma & Barrett, 2009). M-learning refers to Mobile learning where there are several opportunities to learn new words by using mobile phones apps. It helps students to learn continuously. One such use of M-learning is the availability of dictionaries and language learning Apps on students' personal devices that they use regularly for communication. A solution for secondary level learners is modification of classroom teaching style into technology-based learning in which there is a regular use of computers and mobile phones.

References

- [1] Aydin, S. (2016). Teachers' perceptions about the use of computers in EFL teaching and learning: the case of Turkey. *Computer Assisted Language Learning*, 26(3), 214-233.
- [2] Blake, R. J. (2013). *Brave New Digital Classroom : Technology and Foreign Language Learning*. Georgetown University Press.
- [3] Goodman, P. (2018). *The Advantages and Disadvantages of Technology*. Soapboxie.
- [4] Harris, J. L., Al-Bataineh, M. T., & Al-Bataineh, A. (2016). One to One Technology and its Effect on Student Academic Achievement and Motivation. *Contemporary Educational Technology*, 7(4), 368-381.

-
- [5] Mirza, A. (2012, July 23). Three Disadvantages of Traditional Classroom Learning. Retrieved November 24, 2018, from Ezine Articles : <http://ezinearticles.com/?Three-Disadvantages-of-Traditional-Classroom-Learning&id=7193366>
- [6] Satell, G. (2014). How Technology Enhances Creativity. Forbes.
- [7] Sharma, P., & Barrett, B. (2009). Blended Learning: using technology in and beyond the language classroom.
- [8] Shraim, K. Y., & Khlaif, Z. N. (2010). An E-Learning Approach to Secondary Education in Palestine: Opportunities and Challenges. *Information Technology for Development*, 16(3), 159-173.
- [9] Watson, J. (2008). Blended Learning: The Convergence of Online and Face-to-Face Education. *Promising Practices in Online Learning*. ERIC.
- [10] Weber, Danielle. (2016). Technology: Advantages And Disadvantages - How Technology Shapes Our World. Odyssey.