IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LABORATORY IN TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Language is the expression of human personality in words whether written or spoken. It is the universal medium alike for conveying the common facts and feelings of everyday life and the philosophers' searching after truth. It is a natural human growth partly mental and partly physical. It follows, therefore, that never ceases to change but it is continuous development in a constant state of flux. English is an international language it is a language of World culture in the same way it is an agency for international understanding and world peace. It helps in interlinking the people in other countries of the world. The place of English in India is unlike that of any other for a language say Russian or French. Hence it can be said that English is the second language in India not a foreign language. It is one of the most widely used international language.   In the recent context of globalization and computerization, knowledge and skills has gain too much importance. To keep pace with the changing times and more and more important attached to English language, everyone wants to become proficient in it. The study of English as the special language is a strengthen as a result of satisfactory cultural orientation on the part of the students. Hence in this modern era of globalization and technology if the teacher wants his student ahead of others, he or she must update their knowledge.

This is information and technology world. The world is changing rapidly due to globalization. Hence in such a changing era a teacher has to improve and update his knowledge for teaching students. Hence in today's era teacher has to implement innovative methods and techniques in teaching. Any teacher of English language must be innovative imaginative and resourceful. He must have thorough knowledge of that subject. Teacher has to innovate something new instead of travelling trodden traditional path of teaching. Above all, a teacher of English language and resourceful . The process of globalization has invariably made its mark on the language of the world in general and in English in particular. Hence, so as to compete with the other countries teacher has to adopt new techniques and skills to change socio, economics scenario of the nation. In the same way various types of innovative materials and strategies will assist for the betterment of the students.

Audio visual aids is new concept which the modern teachers have developed a craze use it. To convey some instructional aids, such aids are called audio visual aids. The word audio refers to hearing and the word visuals to seeing. The teacher through the display of Audio-visual aids catches the organ such as eyes and ears of the students and their auditory senses. It helps in imparting good education. In this connection C.S. Bhandari opines " Our aim of teaching English is to impart certain skills without making the process of teaching and learning monotonous. It will not be wrong to say that the present era is the era of Audio- visual aids in. Audio-visual devices make the permanent impression on students mind.

The best mode of audio-visual aids is language lab. Language lab is computerized set

of audio visual aids. Wikipedia defines "A **language laboratory** is a dedicated space for foreign language learning where students access audio or audio-visual materials. They allow a teacher to listen to and manage student audio, which is delivered to individual students through headsets or in isolated sound booths. In this fast shrinking world learners survive and non-learners perish. Technology change in the learning method and access to information redefine the process of knowledge acquisition as well as skill development. Compressive technology enabled learning solutions that serve the needs of their users in innovative , intuitive and inspiring ways is needed. It is the new and useful gadgets and equipment which help us to do this. The innovative curriculum effectively integrates the knowledge and skills of engineering while at the same time it promotes self study and seminars so as to provide professional orientation to the students.

What is a language laboratory?

Technically a language laboratory is an instructional technology tool consisting of a source you need that can disseminate audio materials to any number of students at individual seat or carrels.

A language laboratory is a facility where a student or any aspirant can learn and familiarize with the language with the help and guidance of a teacher through a system to improve his/ her speaking and listening capacity.

The language laboratory contains one teacher console with different switches representing number of students and switches for different functions. This also has a microphone and set of headphones. There is a sound and light indications for the students asking question or raising the query. The student units have one request switch, one headphone and one microphone. There is a set of amplifier and speakers with built in audio recorder to broadcast pre recorded tapes and records student performance.

Requirements of a language lab :

1. It should be multi functional classroom that accommodate language learning, multimedia presentations, self study session and even distance learning to provide value and flexibility.
2. The computer in the lab should be loaded with specially design language learning software solutions. Apart from attending structured classroom sessions, students will have to undergo computer based learning sessions using the learning software
3. Student course should comprise of printed learning material and also Web ROM based material on compact disks. These CDs should carry relevant content from the language learning software that can be used for sale paste practice by students at any place where they can access a computer that is their home , hostel , cyber cafe etc.
4. The teacher should be supervisor of speaking abilities a guide or a CO participant rather than a class controller. The language tasks and activities envisage in the lab requires flexible classroom format which is learner centered and task oriented
5. The institution intending to set up a language lab should have the following points to remember.
   I. All key aspects of delivery the program
   II. Scientifically structure subject matter content

III. Session wise detail trainer note
IV. Assessment strategies
 V. Scheduling
VI. Course management skills.

Institute may change guidelines/ specifications as per their individual requirements. specifications should be generic so as to generate adequate competitions when tenders are invited.

Language lab configuration :

Basically digital language lab requires high speed TCP IP network with server and client computers. Dual monitor configuration may be considered for server. Server should have high end video capture and graphics card . Every client computer and server have full duplex sound card. Hard disk of the client computer should be at least 80 GB. Client computers are to be provided with dedicated video acceleration cad with 256 video RAM and high resolution matching LCD monitor.

Classroom layout plan and furniture requirement has to be decided by institutes looking to their individual setup and availability of setup. False ceiling, anti static flooring, air conditioning may be decided locally based on lab size.

Benefits :

1. A language lab assist teachers to facilitate mentor and coach rather than lecture
2. Students evaluate through frequent testing and assessment. They apply and create information to define and solve problems rather than simply recalling acts.
3. Enhancing verbal communication skills through free speech, role played activities and interaction
4. Learners participate in group discussions, mock interviews and make presentations or speeches in order to build confidence by using language effectively
5. Speech sounds, pronunciation, voice modulation, accent correction and listening abilities are effectively taught, tested and remedial measures are suggested for collective action. The objective is to learn, to speak in a globally accepted neutral accent and minimize regional influences in speech pattern.
6. Content and media based suited to meet course objectives can be dynamically selected.
7. Power course with high quality interactive multimedia content
8. Remove hesitation from the students mind
9. Design customized course material in the best possible learning sequence
10. Allows one to one interaction between the teachers and students
11. Keeps the workload of the teacher to the minimum
12. Helps to create an audio library and promote self learning focus
13. Easy to use and simple to operate. No specific training required
14. Language lab can awake the concentration of the students and diminish the boredom and dullness of students
15. Language lab can develop the power of observation and independent Judgment.

Other uses of language lab

State wide class of network
Smart class to teach other subjects
Video conference center
Animation / Graphics lab
BPO/ Call center demo lab
Smart class system

It is the use of high take tools with appropriate software for collaboration class management and multimedia information dissemination language lab software core engine provides basics smart class capabilities. If cost is not the criteria then dedicate ad -on for smart class may be used.

1.   Demonstrate or show the teachers or any students screen to the whole class. Broadcast multimedia content video and sound from shared drive or from a web address and zoom 50% full screen. Broadcast selected screen area only. Broadcast recording of teachers or students screen and demo of full screen. Demo of full screen DOS on teachers. Students can request microphone, help and keyboard during demo.

2.   Specific monitor support for multi monitor environment. Broadcast a specific monitor only selected from the list of currently installed monitor.

3.   Auto join demo monitor chat and attention automatically include students in ongoing activity if joining the class late.

4.   Attention lock screen keyboard and mouse of students computer with a single command using a text a bit map or a web page

5.   Monitor students view the screens one at a time and follow progress of work. Optionally transfer sound from students to listen to them

6.   Remote control take over a students computer sharing, keyboard and mouse to assist in difficulties. Optionally turns sound from students to listen to them

7.   Chat online discussion forum in return form. Start several charts and save chat content

8.   Audio chat and video chat online discussion from for the all class using the sound system of the computer and include video stream from web camps in web cams in the audio chat. Show teacher or present speaker to all.

9.   Transfer sound - listen to the sound side of the student computer while e.g. practicing languages

Conclusion :

With the fast development of computer technology, language teaching in setting other than the traditional classroom is a promising trend and digital language laboratory will definitely prove itself to be the most effective teach ware of language.

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