Introducing Computer Assisted Language Learning (Call) In English Language Class Room Rough Clinical Linguistics

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Introduction

English is a West Germanic Language which originated mainly in England. It is considered to be the first language for most of the people in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and the United States of America. It is also used as a second language and as an official language throughout the world. English as an international language is used in communications, science, business, aviation, entertainment, radio and diplomacy. A working knowledge of English is required in most of the fields, professions and occupations. As a result of this, over a billion people speak English.

In India, English is considered to be the second language and it is made compulsory to teach English even at the primary level, so that the students could gain the knowledge of English even in their primary studies. English has developed from a synthetic language with all sorts of inflections into an analytic language. Today English has become the fabric of India's culture. English exercises a great influence on the educated people of the country. It continues to be the medium of instruction in technical, medical, law and other institutions. The compulsions of learning English are no longer merely political but scientific and technological.

In recent years technology has provided education with a range of teaching aids that have been a great help to modern language teaching and learning process. Computer plays an important role in language teaching and has made considerable impact on language learning and teaching. In spite of strong opposition, Computers are now extensively used in various fields of human activity. Application of the computer in education is considerable. According to Mohanty, "the use of computer tends to make the class more interesting. It is utilized for student guidance and it assists the Universities and Board of Secondary Education in tabulating scores and grading students" (263).

In the age of information and technology, computers have found their way into the classroom faster and there is no denying the fact that the computer as a teaching tool,

has made its impact on all curriculum areas, including fine arts. Computers provide more freedom to teachers and students. It is the freedom to make mistakes without the fear of ridicule or personal embarrassment.

When used effectively, computers function as an excellent tool which support the acquisition of skills and in the learning of content. Computers can play a new role in teaching materials and make the students more interest in learning. Use of computer technology in classroom helps in improving self -knowledge and mastery of basic skills (Learning, Speaking, Reading, Writing). This project is an attempt to study how English Language classroom can be integrated with Computer Assisted Language Learning for learning English language at the U.G. level.

History of ELT in India:
English is recognized as a world phenomenon and it is now used by nearly a third of the world's largest population and among the countries using English as an official language, India looms largest. The use of English in India started as a historico-political accident and has now become an economic-academic reality. English continues to be the vehicle of communication at the political, economic and cultural level. The need for English as a language of opportunity and development has increased in every field. Gurrey states that

> The history of a language is intimately, bound up with the history of the peoples who speak it. It is not be expected that everyone should be a philologist or should master the technicalities of linguistic science. But it is reasonable to assume that a liberally educated person should know something of the structure of his or her language, its relation to other tongues, the wealth of its vocabulary. These forces shape the language in every aspect, most obviously in the number and the spread of its speakers.(21)

Role of English in India:
English occupied a privileged place in India before independence and after independence Hindi occupied the place of English. English was considered as the official language of the country and Hindi as the medium of expression. Later, it was realized that Hindi could not replace English because it was not understood by the people in the South of the country. As a result, there was a considerable opposition to Hindi from the south and it was declared that both English and Hindi could be used.

Present Status of English:
English occupies an important place in educational system and life of our country. It is the language that continues to dominate the national scene. It is taught compulsorily in most of the states in the Country although the teaching started, differs from state to state.

In the Union Territory of Chandigarh, the teaching of English is started from the Third class. In Punjab and Haryana, its study is commenced from the 6th class, but in Gujarat the teaching of English is delayed upto the 8th class so far as the Government schools are concerned. (Pahuja 91)

English is an international language and it is convenient and more useful for pupil to read English. A knowledge of English will help a person in interstate communication and it may also help him in getting a job in another state. In Tamilnadu, the teaching of English is being started even when the child is joined in school. Even the regional medium of schools have English as a compulsory language.

The recommendations of the Education Commission of 1964-66 has suggested the following language formula. That is, only the regional language will be taught from class I to class IV. Two languages will be taught from class V to Class VII, one of the them being the regional language. The Second language may be either English or Hindi. Three Languages will be taught from class VIII to class X. One of these will be the regional language and the other two both English and Hindi. (Pahuja, 10)

Even when English is made optional a majority of students opt for it. It is because that English still continues to dominate our life. So long as English continues to be the language of administration, courts, etc., it will be read with interest by pupils.

The aim in teaching English to the Students is to enable them to use English with ease and comfort, that is to use it both instrumentally and integrative. They should be able to speak and write English effectively and develop an ability to understand the basic patterns of the culture of the English –speaking people, and the Government of India is doing all possibilities to teach English more effectively and has introduced many teaching methods.

Computer Assisted Language Learning:
Computer Assisted Language Learning is an approach to language teaching and learning in which computer technology is used as an aid to the presentation, reinforcement and assessment of material to the learned. The reason for using computer –assisted Language Learning includes.

1) Experimental learning.
2) Motivation.
3) Enhanced student setting.
4) Authentic material for study.
5) Greater interaction.
6) Individualization.
7) Independence from a single source of information.
8) Global understanding.

History of CALL:
According to Warschauer and Healey "computers have been used for language teaching ever since the 1960's and the evolution of this period can be divided into three main stages: behaviorist CALL, Communicative CALL, and integrative CALL (Jain 70). Each Stage corresponds to a certain level of technology and certain pedagogical theories.

Behaviorist CALL:
In the 1960's and 1970's, the first form of Computer Assisted Language learning featured repetitive language drills, the so-called drill-and-practice method. It was based on the behaviorist learning model and the computer was viewed as a mechanical tutor that never grew tired. It was mainly used for extensive drills, explicit grammar instruction and translation tests.

Communicative CALL:
Communicative CALL emerged in the 1970's and 1980's as a reaction to the behaviorist approach to language learning. The proponents of communicative CALL rejected behaviorist approaches at both the theoretical and pedagogical level. They stressed that CALL should be focused more on using language rather than on the analysis of the languages. Grammar should be taught implicitly and students should be encouraged to generate original utterances instead of manipulating prefabricated forms. This form of computer-based instruction corresponded to cognitive theories which recognized that learning was a creative process of discovery, expression and development.

Integrative CALL:
The last stage of Computer Assisted Language Learning is integrative CALL. Integrative CALL seeks both to integrate the various skills of language learning (LSRW), and to integrate technology more fully into language teaching.

Difference between Behaviorist CALL, Communicative CALL and Integrative CALL:
Behaviorist CALL focuses on the language drills and drill-and-practice method. It serves the students as a mechanical tutor which gives drills and instructions, and communicative CALL focuses on the communicative approach. It serves the students with reading and listening skills. But Integrative CALL is different from Behaviorist CALL and Communicative CALL, that it integrates various skills of language learning (LSRW) and it coincides with the development of multimedia technology as well as a computer – mediated communication.

Reason for choosing Integrative CALL:
Integrative CALL seeks both to integrate various skills of language learning (LSRW) and to integrate technology to the maximum extent into language teaching. Communicative CALL was criticized for using the computer in an ad hoc and disconnected fashion, and using the computer made greater contribution to marginal rather than central elements'

of language learning. Due to the recent shift to global information and technology it is a must for the students to have the proficiency in English language and know the usage of computer. When English language is integrated with the technological aid, it would help the students to perform better. At the same time, the role of the teacher also changes. Teachers are not only the source of information, but acts as facilitators so that students can actively interpret and organize the information they give, fitting it into prior knowledge. Students become active participants in learning and are encouraged to be explorers and creators of language rather than passive observers. Integrative CALL stresses these issues and lets learners of a language to communicate with other learners or native speakers. It also combines information processing, communication, use of authentic language and learner autonomy, all of which are major importance in current language learning theories. So Integrative CALL has been chosen for the study.

Significance of the Study:
Of all the languages in the world, today English deserves to be regarded as a world language and it is one of the world's most widely spoken languages. It is the means of communication between the people of different nations. One person out of every four on earth can be reached through English. Randolph Quirk points out, "There are now something like 250 million people for whom English is the mother tongue or first language. If we add to this the number of people who have a working knowledge of English as a second or foreign language, we raise the total to about 350 million" (8).

The effect of globalization has made the importance of the modern man to learn English. In India, for instance English continues to be the medium of instruction in Colleges and Universities and is also the language of administration. Eventhough English is the medium of instruction and administration, the educational system in India has failed to produce students capable of their basic skills (LSRW). One of India's Education commissions has asserted:

> For a successful completion of the first degree course, a student should possess an adequate command of English, be able to express himself with reasonable ease and felicity, understand lectures in it and avail himself of its literature. Therefore, adequate emphasis will have to be laid on its study as a language right from the school stage. English should be the most useful 'library language' in higher education and our most significant window on the world. (Allen, 4)

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, we have witnessed the great technology boom, especially that of communication. The key word that is spelled in the growth and development of the society is the computer. Computers are going to be a great boon for the teaching community. Therefore, teachers must be well equipped with the knowledge and skills about information technology.

Teachers who are creative will definitely produce the required amount of effectiveness in their teaching. When it is combined with the latest technology, the idea holds good for the future of the students, education and the teachers themselves. Creative and updated teachers are bound to be more effective in teaching. Effective teaching involves preparing and planning for teaching, classroom management, thorough knowledge of the subject matter, positive personality traits and good interpersonal relationship. All these will make a teacher very successful in transmitting his knowledge, skills and values to the students. Students can get the thorough knowledge of the subject when it is taught effectively with technological aids and they could also gain the knowledge of the basic skills through computer. This study intends to find out the influence of creativity and awareness of information technology on the teaching effectiveness of the teachers and the learning capability of the undergraduate students.

Scope of the Study:
In India, before the sixties, the term educational technology was almost unknown to the education system. In the early sixties, the use of the term educational technology took its roots through programmed learning. These programmed learning contributed a lot to the improvement of instruction in a number of ways. Gradually the meaning and concept of educational technology has grown wider and larger. Educational technology has a meaningful present and promising future in our country.

Education, by any definition depends on human communication. Many forms of human communication are enhanced by new information technology. Here Language is a means of communicating thoughts and feelings. Man alone uses language for communication. As Dwight Bolinger say "Language is species-specific. It is a uniquely human trait, shared by the cultures so diverse and by individuals physically and mentally so unlike one another…" (3). Language is one of the most important characteristic forms of human behaviour. So the students must develop a good knowledge of speaking the language. For this the teacher must be a source of language.

Learning usually involves both a student and a teacher. But in the recent tooling up of the educational system, the teacher can be a guide to them in constructing the activities and to help them. The integration of computer Assisted Language Learning in classroom helps the student to learn their language easily and also helps to develop the basic skills (LSRW).

Use of CALL gains in reading and listening and most CALL programs are geared toward these receptive skills because, of the current state of computer technology. However, most reading and listening software is based on drills. Gain in writing skills have not been as impressive as computers cannot assess the skill of writing. Development of speaking ability has gained much attention using CALL technology. The use of CALL technology tends to make the class more interesting.

The present research focuses on the opinion of the students on the aspects of their learning environment.

Methodology of the Study:
Research Methodology refers to the methods, the researcher uses in performing research operations and it is also the systematic way to solve research problems. It is necessary for the researcher to know not only the research method but also the methodology. The knowledge of the methodology helps the researcher to develop disciplined thinking or a bent of mind to observe the field objectively. Methodology describes the nature of the present study, the method adopted, the tools and techniques used.

Here in the present study the researcher has undergone interviews and interactions with both the teachers and the learners. Observation has been taken when the classes are going on both in the English Language classroom and by using computer Assisted Language Learning. The researcher has also used the experimental method for conducting the study. In the experimental method the researcher has given various activities to the students and has examined their performance. One of the major purposes of the study is to find out the opinion of the students regarding the English Language classroom and Computer Assisted Language Learning in the present condition of learning methods at the U.G. Level.

Methodological tools:
Computer, LCD Projector, Power point slides, internet, software programs, Role playing games, language lab, etc., can be used as the methodological tools.

Relevance of the Study:
English is the mother –tongue of 250 million people of the world. Some countries like India, Pakistan, Africa, France, The Soviet Union, etc., use English as a second or foreign language and the number of these people is nearly 100 million. It is interesting to note that now there is a craze for, the study of English all over the world.

> English is the language of the international politics, trade, commerce and industry. One out of 10 persons in the world knows English, 75% of the world's mail, 50% of the world's newspapers, over 60% of the world's radio stations and more than 50% of the world's scientific and technical periodicals use English as medium of expression (Pahuja 3)

English is one of the six official languages of the U.N.O. It is also the link language of common wealth countries. In the words of the F.G. French.

> By accidents of history and by the rapid spread of industrial development, science, technology, international trade and by something like an explosion in the speed and ease of travel and by all the factors which have broken

down frontiers and forced nations into closer independence, English has become a world Language. It is the means of international communication; there is no other. (1)

In colleges and universities the students learn their subject only in English, but in schools they learn their subjects in mother tongue. So they find difficult to learn in English at college level. The government has made it compulsory to learn English even at school level. This is because every student is expected to have an adequate knowledge of English. A students' field of study may differ but cannot do his best without a good mastery of English. The fact is that a student should be equally proficient both in his mother tongue and English, and should be able to express himself in these languages with facility and accuracy.

In the recent days education has been developed by the rapid growth of technology in various fields. English is the key to the store house of knowledge. English can be taught through computer. Computer is an electronic machine equipped with electronic circuits, key-boards recording and storage facilities. It is utilized for student guidance as well as for the other fields. It assists the universities and Boards of Secondary Education. Mohanty in his <u>Educational Technology</u> has stated that

> The Government of India in the Ministry of Education has started implementing a project of computer education in the country. It has been launched as a Pilot Project for introducing Computer Literacy and Studies in schools in collaborations with the Department of Electronics. (262)

As the development of the education technology, computer is being used to teach languages and other subjects. In the last few years the number of teachers using Computer-Assisted Language Learning has increased and has made a great impact of Technology in Education. The use of technology in Education was the major fact that paved the way for the rapid progress in the field of Education. The use of computer in language teaching has the following advantages.

1. Motivation plays a vital part in the process of learning through computers.
2. Students feel easy to understand teaching through computer than the instructional method.
3. Teachers are able to store and retrieve the details about the students.
4. Students can be encouraged to develop their own software and to do their assignment.
5. It provides drill and practice to the students and it keeps track of the performance of the students.
6. The use of technology inside or outside the classroom tends to make the class more interesting.

Implication of Integrative CALL:
The integration of CALL in the English language classroom would make the class more interesting and create enthusiasm in learning the target language. The use of CALL in classroom helps both the teacher and learner to get into the subject more effectively. The teacher need not be directly involved in the student's construction of language instead he/she could interact to facilitate the difficulties in using the target language (grammar, vocabulary etc.,). Teacher should also be familiar enough to anticipate technical problems. Students should need the presence of a teacher to motivate them in CALL environment. It gives new experiences to the learners. The learners by using the CALL technology become the creators and not just the receivers of knowledge.

Instruction based teaching can be an effective one in language learning but the learners will not get the efficiency in basic skills and they will not be able to express their ideas or views of them by using the language. But Network –based instruction can help pupils strengthen their linguistic skills and help them build self instruction strategies and promote their self-confidence. So it is better to introduce CALL at colleges to make the teaching and learning an effective and to give a valuable education.

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