

The Contribution of Information and Communication Technology to Develop Writing Skills in ESL Classroom

B. Karunakaran¹ and Dr. A. Noble Jebakumar²

Ph.D., Research Scholar, Department of English¹

Research Advisor, Assistant Professor of English²

Periyar EVR College, Tiruchirappalli, India

Abstract: *Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the teaching and learning process in general, the use of ICT in teaching writing skills in English as a Second Language (ESL) classrooms is very encouraging in the present scenario. This study attempts to seek findings on the use of ICT tools in the teaching of ESL writing skills in modern classrooms. The skill of writing is used on an everyday basis to communicate what one thinks and feels. This study, to find out how the use of technology enhances writing abilities in the classroom. New advancements of technology are being created each day and educators need to incorporate these technologies into modern classrooms. By integrated technology, educators are providing more opportunities and strategies to increase their student's abilities to write more detailed and grammatically correct essays, stories and, letters.*

Keywords: Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Writing Skills, ESL, Modern Classrooms.

I. INTRODUCTION

The emergence and rapid growth of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) have become an essential part of education. The teaching and learning process is based on four skills are listening, speaking, reading and, writing. These four skills cannot be separated from each other and can be integrated with another skill to obtain a better result of learning. The ICT tools enable constant learning and offer several benefits such as flexibility, comfort, and interactive user interface. The application of modern technology represents a significant advance in contemporary English language teaching methods. Information and Communication Technology in education refer to the use of computer-based communication that incorporates into the online platform. Most contemporary English language teachers now actively incorporate a range of technological aids designed to facilitate optimum teaching delivery.

II. DEFINITION OF ICT

According to Wikipedia, Information and communications technology (ICT) is an extensional term for information technology (IT) that stresses the role of unified communications and the integration of telecommunications (telephone lines and wireless signals) and computers, as well as necessary enterprise software, middleware, storage, and audiovisual systems, that enable users to access, store, transmit, and manipulate information. Its benefits the students through better understanding, improved communications and, a positive impact on learning. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2006), literacy is defined as "the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, and compute using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts.

III. IMPORTANCE OF WRITING SKILL

Writing as a skill is very important in teaching and learning a foreign language; it helps learners to assimilate letters and sounds of the English language, its vocabulary and grammar, and to develop habits and skills in pronunciation, speaking, and reading. As Irmscher notes, "In our minds, we can fool ourselves. Not on paper. If no thought is in our minds, nothing comes out. Mental fuzziness translates into words only as fuzziness or meaninglessness". The following

skills are very important to good writer includes passive vocabulary, figures of speech, grammatical structures, parts of speech, idiomatic expressions, spelling, jargons, punctuations, and so on.

IV. CONTRIBUTION OF ICT IN ESL CLASSROOM

The use of the computer in the classroom offers the opportunity for teachers and learners to interact in a meaningful and interesting way. As Rao P. S. (2019) says, "The teachers should understand the level of the students and try to adopt relevant teaching strategies of improving their writing skills that are more suitable for them. Moreover, the tasks that they choose for this purpose should be well-known to the ELLs and they should create interest among the learners" The use of integrating technology, such as the internet, enhances and improves students overall writing abilities. According to Malloy and Gambrell (2006), "the internet exemplifies a growing literacy that engages readers of all ages and abilities." Practicing writing can be done on websites, blogs, wikis, online forums, discussion boards, and social networking sites. There are several tools available online to help the students writing skills such as online dictionaries, vocabularies, grammar and, spelling checkers, encyclopedias, and online writing labs. Rojas (2011) declares that students improved the writing skill, because "they consider it could be learned by taking advantage of technological resources such as computers, blogs and, web pages" (p. 13). According to UNESCO (as cited in García & Marin, 2013): The term ICT is plural referring to a great many technologies and it is an all-encompassing term that includes the full gamut of electronic tools through which we gather, record and store information, and we exchange and distribute information to others (p. 428). Under the approach of ICT, the introduction of tools in the educational system aims to bring new experiences that promote language learning and interaction in the 21st century. Computer technology brings a set of advantages to promote and enhance language skills and it permits learners to develop their language competencies by interacting with the authentic material in an interesting and meaningful way.

ICT gives the path to the online educational platform that offers the possibility to design language lessons in an interesting manner where the implementer can use diverse tools such as challenge board, cloze, columns, hangman, pop-ups, matching, word search, columns, rags to riches, jumbled words, picture-perfect, ordered list, and patterns to develop the learning. Computer-assisted language teaching and learning (CALL) enhances teachers' practices and students' independence, participation, and motivation towards language learning, that is, it plays an important role in the learning process to develop writing skills in an ESL classroom.

V. CONCLUSION

The effect of ICT is developing positive attitudes and improving students' proficiency in writing English. This paper reviewed the contribution of Information and Communication Technology to develop writing skills in ESL classrooms. The use of technology occupies a major role in language learning. Technology provides interaction between teachers and learners, provides comprehensible input and output, helps learners to develop thinking skills, makes learning and teaching become more student-centered, promotes learners' autonomy and, helps them feel more confident, and increases learners' motivation to effectively learn a foreign language. The online learning platform helps the students to learn the subjects with the use of technology is benefitting the students and teachers in modern classrooms.

REFERENCES

- [1]. García, M. & Marin, J. (2013). ICT trends in education. Work presented in the 1st Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference, AIIC 2013, Azores, Portugal.
- [2]. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_communications_technology
- [3]. Irmischer Teaching Expository Writing. New York, 1979.
- [4]. Malloy, J.A., Gambrell, L.B. (2006). Approaching the unavoidable: Literacy instruction and the Internet. International Reading Association, 59 (5), 482-484.
- [5]. Rao, P. S. (2019). The Significance of Writing Skills in ELL Environment". *Academicia: An International Multidisciplinary Journal*. 9(3), 5-17. DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2019.00035.1
- [6]. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2006). www.unesco.org/en/literacy