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THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF INTEGRATING ICT IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

There has been much debate over the use of computers and the internet in foreign language teaching for more than two decades. Thus, the Information Communications Technology (ICT) in foreign language teaching has been the researchers' focus of attention. Education, especially foreign language teaching, has to adapt and renew itself to be compatible with the globalized world.

The purpose of this study is to examine the necessity of ICT and highlight the positive effects of it in order to keep up with the modernized communities in the current digital world. To meet this end, the enormous advantages of integrating ICT in foreign language teaching will be presented. With the enhancement of ICT, teachers

and students will be able to communicate and collaborate with native and non-native speakers around the globe. The application of ICT is also beneficial in that they provide a wealth of resources for the students to become active learners by creating content for a world wide audience. When students write or speak for a broader and more international audience, they become more enthusiastic about learning and be active participants in the information age.

Furthermore, by using the authentic material provided by the internet, the students will have a better insight into the culture of the country and people whose language they study. In the later parts of the study, reasons for using technology in foreign language teaching and some strategies and techniques for integrating ICT in foreign language teaching will be presented.

There has been much debate over the use of computers and the internet in foreign language teaching over the past few years. The techniques offered, the activities and the degree of application in the language teaching syllabus have undergone a number of serious changes alongside the evolution of technology [1].

The technology has become a fixture in many homes around the world, and its influence has permeated into all facets of our lives, including educational settings. This phenomenon has been hailed by many as the wave of the future in which language instruction will be driven by new advances in computers, the internet, and mobile technologies [2].

The introduction of this new process has serious implications for the nature and purpose of educational institutions. The knowledge and skills acquired make learning possible continuously throughout the lifetime. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as well as newer digital technologies such as computers and internet are more powerful tools for educational change and reform. They can best be harnessed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of education at all levels and in both formal and non-formal settings as it enables access to information exponentially [3].

The process of learning a second language may be structured in different ways - in a classroom or at home, with or without a teacher, emphasizing or minimizing grammar, gradually exposing the student to native speakers or prompt immersion [4].

There is no more doubt that the use of ICT has positive effects on foreign language teaching/learning. Its impact is highly dependent on the way it is used, the teachers' motivation and his "savoir-faire".

The following impacts seem to be the most obvious ones when using ICT to support foreign language teaching:

1. The possibility to adapt easily the teaching materials according to circumstances, learner's needs and response.
2. ICT allows to react upon and enables the use of recent/daily news, it offers access to authentic materials on the web.
3. Possibility to combine/use alternately (basic) skills (text and images, audio and video clip.
4. Lectures become more interesting and less ordinary which boosts learners' engagement.
5. ICT enables to focus on one specific aspect of the lesson (pronunciation, vocabulary [5].

The advantages of ICT usage in foreign language teaching can be listed as:

1. Capacity to control presentation.
2. Novelty and creativity.
3. Feedback.
4. Adaptability [1].

So, I think, that today's technologically competitive world needs integration of ICT in education. Therefore, it is stated that integrating ICT in foreign language teaching will have positive effects on both the teachers and students to help them be aware of the modernized world and meet the current demands of the new era.

In summary can conclude that learning a foreign language is more than just a boost to your CV or handy for travelling. It will make you smarter, more decisive and even better at English, says Anne Merritt.

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