Social Networks Used To Teach English To Rural Students To Enhance Reading Skill

L.Bapitha, S.Gunasekaran

Abstract: The study makes a comparative analysis between the traditional method by using chalk and board and modern method of teaching by using social media. Some thirty students were randomly selected taken for experiment. The fifteen students were trained by the traditional method of chalk and board. Then another fifteen students were trained on by using recent method of social media that is by using facebook and WhatsApp on mobile phones. Then and analyzed their level of learning through a close ended Questionnaire for data collection. The result showed that students have the potential of learning when it is done on their interest. The study concludes that the students have a positive response towards learning language through social media. The teacher’s perspective is achieved only when the target of teaching is successful. The study recommends that no adequate facility provided for the teachers and students for using social media in learning English language.

Index Terms: English Language; Rural Students; technology; mobile; internet, Reading Skill.

1. INTRODUCTION
In this paper it is highlighted that some of the basic ideas in relation to technology and its implementations in language learning and teaching and language learning strategy to enhance reading. Our college is taken for experiment since it is located in a rural area and a mixture of students from different background Rural English medium (L1), Rural Tamil medium (L2) and Urban English medium (L1) Urban Tamil medium (L2) is taken for experiment. They are selected to ensure that whether those students can also learn the skill of language learning when taught with the help of social media. Since the participation of learning is more important rather than learning. To make the learner participate actively in the learning activities it is necessary to integrate technology in learning through reading and writing. It is one of the best methods for the English teachers to make the learning interesting and purpose oriented. Though there are ample of ways available for the English teachers to bring technology in the learning activity in the classroom. Since it is a foreign language the teacher can use the internet and web technologies for teaching and learning. It will help teachers to transform the learner an interactive learner. The application like social networks can enhance students learning activity. Today’s learner tries to connect, share ideas and fun through social networks, the latest advances in technology fulfills the needs. Social networking makes learning more fun, efficient, interactive and interesting. Reading the printed material is so boring to the students rather than using hand held device, mobile phone. It is the weapon for the young learners of this age irrespective of their place.

2 TECHNOLOGICAL TOOL TO ENHANCE TEACHING LANGUAGE
The most easy technological tool for the second language learners of today is social networking because most of the students are using mobiles for social networking like Face Book, Whatsapp and google app. Youngsters are using social networking only for personal fun and entertainment. Teachers can motivate their students to enhance the reading skill by using mobiles and social networking media. They can help out their students by practicing various skills of the language and enhance their learning. Social networking not only makes students' learning interesting but makes all the more exciting. Through the usage of social networking, students can learn anytime and anywhere with the help of resources they provide. The time is not as it was earlier—we need to assign and assist work to pupil they learn by using social network.

3. SHARPEN THE LEARNING SKILL
Technology based teaching can benefit students as they are now able to access more content from various leading sources around the world for learning along with other students in the world. Students are very sharp in using technology in this technologically rich world students involve in multi tasking; they are highly focused into interaction and connectedness. The student’s oral and written communication should be trained by using technology since most of the students oral communication does not match the written skill therefore a good mixing of technology can bridge the gap between oral and written communication. (Bush1997)

4. METHODOLOGY
English language in the Engineering College in Tamilnadu is not satisfactory. Their abilities to understand written and spoken is very poor. Besides they are lacking in communicating in written and spoken English. Teachers can create study groups for sharing of information and communication. First of all the thirty students were tested with pretest. Here the grammar questions, vocabulary and Error correction task is performed. A questionnaire is prepared based on the above mentioned topics and students were tested initially after imparting teaching using traditional method.

Table 1: An Analysis Before Using Social Networks- Level of reading and comprehension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Learning Platform</th>
<th>Rural and Urban</th>
<th>Rural and Tamil</th>
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</table>

The table below indicates the different learning...
The above table 2 describes the tremendous change in the learning of the students. Since, the social networks are the brainstorm to younger they are sharp in using technology rather than traditional method. Both the set of students have the same potential when it is trained out accordingly. There is a tremendous change in the learning aspect therefore the students all have the potential to learn. The only protocol that is required is the method adopted apt for the present generation. The mobile phone as become the part of life to the younger generation. Therefore it can be taken as a tool in making them advance in Language learning. As a facilitator it is the duty of the teacher to make learning possible to students in whatever the method that is possible.

5. DISCUSSION

The main mode of teaching delivery in India that too in Tamil Nadu is printed study material. Chalk board method of teaching is mainly implemented. As it is an Engineering college, English is not given much importance. Students learn other major subjects but without caring about their language. The quality of the students is good but their written and spoken English language spoils their success. Many students do not attend the language class since they are not interested in learning language because they belong to L1 group. Thus, English teachers find it difficult to impart English communication skill to the learners. So, the technique of imparting language through technology at the tertiary level can transform the class room interesting and meaningful that too when incorporated with social media it brainstorms the learner to participate in learning activity. First of all the interest is created and then the language is enforced. Technology-enhanced language learning is a modern term that has been a growing and evolving area of interest towards foreign language skill and second language acquisition circles. Technology enhanced language learning is basically used for the students whose second language is English. Hereby I have taken this topic for the study, since in India that too in Tamil Nadu the speaking and writing skill in English is very difficult to practice. Since the students are not interested in acquiring the skill. But, as a blessing in disguise they have a good intellectual capacity in utilizing social networks. Most chat with their friends on social networks like what’s app and Face book. Therefore by making use of the social networks learning English language skill can be made interesting and incorporatingTeachers struggle to integrate technology and learning. Technology enhanced language learning when brought into the English language learning it really makes a difference in learning situation. The efforts have to be taken in order to impart the teachers the technology based learning. In a few cases there seem that technology facilitate language-learning the best, when given to technology, it gives students immediate feedback, allow students to learn by working in what they want to learn.

6. CONCLUSION

Traditional and conventional method does not impart learning Social media is beneficial tool when used for sharing information among learners based on language learning aspect. It may be an efficient tool in enhancing student learning if it’s designed and used suitably. Social media or

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<th>Learning Platform</th>
<th>Rural and Urban English Medium</th>
<th>Rural and Urban Tamil Medium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Communication skill</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Listening Skill</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: An Analysis after Using Social Networks –level of reading and comprehension
social network sometimes distracts the students’ studies. However here the social network distracts the young pupils’ chats and directs them to find out language within the fashion they like most. It appears to be actually technical benefits for the students of technical background. As of today, it seems that face book and Whats App are the widely used technological tools used; it is cost efficient simple, accessible, and natural language. Until today there was no such technological tool which was used naturally both by adults and students alike. Email was comfortable for the teachers but not friendly with the students. Students feel comfortable with Face book groups and Whats App application has its own impact. Both teachers and students use these to social networks regularly, so this technology facilitates communication between them interesting. It is an open style that enables the teachers to know the students and create a positive environment for enforcing learning. The students may feel at home and try to learn whenever they get opportunity to learn.

RECOMMENDATIONS
This Paper clearly discusses about how social networks can be considered as a beneficial tool for the learners of second language and enhances the reading skill in the learner. Usually the learning can best be imparted through the tool which interests the learner. It can be considered as an easy method of acquiring language in a most simple was that can be. Immediate feedback can be given to the students in order to encourage them towards learning activity. Learning English should be emphasized by the English language teacher through the networks they use regularly for fun so that learning can be taken place anywhere and anytime. Educational institutions should consider the teaching technique by using social networks so that the students may use the social networks mainly for education rather than other unwanted aspects.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
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REFERENCES