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The Impact of Elcs Labs to Improve English Language Skills for 1ST B. Tech Students of Jntuh : A Study

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Abstract:

This article presents use and an importance of the software in learning an English language in various Engineering (B.Tech) Colleges in Hyderabad, under the affiliation of JNTUH. Technology becomes essential for a life, without it life will be difficult. For this reason, in every engineering college made it a mandatory for establishing software labs to enhance the English language skills. Technology promotes various methods in communication.

Key Words:

English Language Communication Skills (ELCS), Interactive Communication Skills (ICS), Computer Assistant Learning a Language (CALL) and Software's, Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (LSRW).

Introduction

The 21st century has witnessed a revolution in the use of mobile phones, emails and the internet. It has ushered in a new world where communication has become language plus soft skills. In modern times the personality of a job seeker is not merely by virtue of his Intelligent Quotient (IQ) but on the basis of his Emotional Quotient (EQ) too. With this backdrop, the learner should be equipped to understand the subtle, emotional and cultural nuances and react appropriately. Therefore, there is a need to acquire proper communication skills in order to get one's job done successfully. For this to happen, English Language Lab Software Systems are necessary to hone the communicative competence of the learners.

Technology in Language Teaching / Learning

Today, Information and Communication Technologies are playing a very vital role in transforming the mode of imparting education. While the interactive white boards are increasingly becoming common in the school classrooms, popularity of online courses are helping the countries in improving access and quality of education. Application of Technology in the mode of imparting education is thus not only helping a lot in bridging the rural urban divide but also in improving the quality of life.

Egbert & Hanson-Smith (1999) point out that learning through the use of computer can provide opportunities to interact with each other and learners are encouraged to produce creative language. Furthermore, the use of computer technology as an aid to create a supportive and effective environment in the classroom. Moreover, computer assisted programmes provide ways to learn English through computer games, animated graphics, and problem solving techniques which can make drills more interesting (Ravichandran 2000).

ELCS Lab Resources:

ELCS labs facilitate in learning / teaching a new language. If anyone wants to become a master in learning a new language with effectively he/she must go through the proper channel / guidance, so that the learner will be efficient in that particular language in all the areas (like LSRW skills).

In Language laboratories, students have lot of opportunity to gain a command over a language by using the module properly. Through CALL lab, they can test their basic skills like LSRW skills, pronunciation skills, grammar checks, and basic elements of phonetics. If you go through ICS there students can improve their communication skills: role plays, JAM and Ice breaking activity.

Listen: Listen to others voice attentively

Understand: Understand the speaker's voice and recognize it to give appropriate reposes.

Record: Listen carefully to the recorders voice and fill the required exercises given.

Compare:
Students can compare their voice with that of facilitators and even with your teacher. If you find any difficulty of pronouncing a word you can take help from Software of from teacher.

In every ELCS lab, there will be a computer for each student with headphone. So they can go though the software which is mentioned in their syllabus and they can learn many these topics by using the English language skills laboratories. After completion their course students can able to communicate effectively in any field. 1st year B. tech is foundation for learning communication and ICS skills through labs.

Types of Language Lab Softwares
As of many career experts and technological sources, communication skills is more important in education field, if anyone in calibre enough in spoken and written communication he/ she can lead a good life. In order to fulfil all these skills, JNTUH introduced ELCS labs in 1st Year B. Tech as well as in 3rd year. So Iam focussing only on 1st Year. if we implement these labs in strict manner, students will get benefits in their academic and in professional life.

Types of software
   a. Globarena software
   b. K-VAN software
   c. LEARN TO SPEAK software

As per JUTUH 1st Year B. Tech syllabus, every college should provide any one of the above software's or any other software's which is useful to the First year students. All the software should fulfil the needs of the students.

Globarena software
I am going to give a short note on Globarena software which we are using in our college; it is a one of the best among other software's. Globarena Technology is promoted by a set of professionals.
It is designed to enhance students' language skills, communication skills, listening skills, vocabulary, and

pronunciation skills to eliminate Mother Tongue Influence (MTI)

Topics covered under ELCS lab in Globarena software

CALL Lab		ICS Lab	
1	Listening skills	1	Communication: Spoken & Written
2	Syllable Structure (Stress & Rhythm)	2	Conversation (role-plays, telephone etiquette)
3	Intonation and MTI	3	Presentations
4	Listening – Skimming	4	Short speeches
5	Listening – scanning	5	Interview skills

This software provides above mentioned major topics, which will also have sub-topics.

This software gives ample topics like soft skills, employability skills, management skills and leadership skills.

Conclusion

The Globarena software is presented in the ELCS lab in our college, it helps the students to acquire knowledge and develop their communication skills and gain command over English language skills. However ELCS labs need to have effective items which are suitable for engineering graduates and teachers. English labs will have more practical way than going into the theory, practice makes man perfect, and so these labs will have practical approach. One should focus more on activities, so that the person will impart practical knowledge. Special care should be taken for the improve of rural students.

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