THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING & LEARNING: AN INTERVIEW WITH RONALDI, S. Pd

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Abstract

This paper offer good innovative about how ICT can give good effect in every aspect of our lives especially in teaching and learning. ICT give positive effects to students in learning, especially in English language. ICT is a strong alternative strategy to increase the motivation, the fluency, the confidence and the ability to learn language. Moreover, it took role in the relationship between teachers and students. This paper aims to point out the effectiveness of ICT in fostering students' ability in learning and to enhance language learning. An interview is used to investigate how ICT enhanced language teaching and learning. The data (instrument) is interview with Mr. Ronaldi as a teacher and lecturer in Jakarta. The data showed that ICT as an alternative strategy may provide learners the opportunity to explore their skills in technology sector and it can increase their motivation in teaching and learning. Thus, by having known the important of the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in English language teaching and learning, the teacher can develop the use of ICT in the classroom and can help the students to develop and increase the students' achievement in learning English.

Keywords: ICT, English Language Teaching and Learning, Strong Alternative Strategy.

Introduction

In recent year, ICT (Information and Communication Technology) has become affected the every aspect of our lives, including in education, because ICT is a valuable tool that can use to enhance teaching and learning. The utilization of ICT in education has become power of attraction to appeal the potential and significant progress in language learning. ICT provides opportunities for students to communicate more effectively and to develop literacy skills including skills in critical literacy. The use of ICT such as computer plays an important role in teaching and learning process, especially in teaching and learning language. The implementation of ICT in teaching and learning has the superiority such as the available of information widely, fast, appropriate and there is an easy way in the learning process and with the support of technology to facilitate the teaching and learning process.

One of the goals of the development of ICT in education is to improve the quality of human resources which is the education will be better and be able to compete in the education world. Therefore, this paper will discuss about the use of ICT in learning and teaching English, so that we can know the benefits of the use of ICT in education, especially for learning English

Brief Review of Related Theories

A computer is a tool and medium that facilitates people in learning a language, although the effectiveness of learning depends totally on the users (Hartoyo, 2008). The development of technology innovation has brought a revolution in teaching and learning process, because technology has a contribution on improving language communication and language learning. The more exciting about ICT in teaching and learning is the studies have demonstrated the positive effects that ICT brings towards students' learning motivation in language mastery (Chenoweth, Ushida & Murday, 2006). Therefore, the utilization of ICT in language learning to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of learning that can improve the quality of understanding and mastery of the language studied. In other words, the integration of ICT in the field of language learning is inevitable known that the ICT and language learning are two aspects which support each other like two sides of the coin inseparable (Hartoyo, 2008). Based on the explanation above, ICT is flexible and interactive, it is flexible in the term of time and place. ICT also can encourage students in learning language, besides that ICT is able to generate interaction and improve students' communicative competence. in short ICT has the good potential and important role in supporting and enhancing language learning.

Wyse and Jones (2008) point out that, the growth of ICT is one of the most significant areas of change in modern society so ICT is an important part of the development of learning and teaching, because ICT as useful tools which, with appropriate pedagogy, it can enhance learning and teaching. Dickinson (1998) pointed out "ICT in education point of view refers to "information and communication Technology (ICT) such as computers, communications facilities and features that variously support teaching, learning and

a range of activities in education. Moreover, the term information and Communications Technologies includes technologies in which the computer plays a central role, i.e. Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL), the internet, and variety of generic computer application (McKenzie, 2005).

Nowadays, the rapid development of ICT has encouraged several English teachers to manage an interesting learning environment. Many schools have used the ICT as media to facilitate the teacher to teach the students in the classroom. Many kinds of application that they use in the classroom to improve and enhance the better lesson, one of them is social networking (internet). Small (2014) stated that social networking (internet) ranked as the most popular content category in worldwide engagement. Some of these networks that are being utilized as educational tools inside and outside the classroom include *Twitter*, *Facebook*, *edmodo*, *blog*, *email*, *etc.* it means that internet is considered as a technology that can be applied in teaching and learning activities in the classroom. In language learning, there is a communication between teacher and student. The process of learning is not always carried out by subjecting teacher and students in the certain room or a certain place directly. As the example, teacher can use internet as the medium to give lessons, assignments, or other information to their students.

Educational institutions which implement ICT in the teaching and learning process will be considered by many people as favorite schools. The people have positive perception to the application of internet in school or college. They believe that the successful of graduates of each school is depending on their ability to apply internet at their work place. Without mastery of ICT, graduates of high school or college will not have a superior competitiveness. So, In context of language learning, ICT has an important role as the "media" bridging and enabling the learning process, or direct communication between students and teacher although they are not present in the same room or place in certain time. Language learning program can be created to enable students to learn the lessons with guidance, instruction, information or further explanation. ICT in language learning used as a reference book. Computer can store unlimited lessons or references, which can be access anytime, anywhere and accurately.

Becta (2006) stated that, using ICT as a classroom tool has many other benefits because ICT :

- Provides highly motivational activities for students. Initially computer-based activities can provide stimulus to undertake tasks that students may otherwise avoid
- Links to other learning and to real-world situations and experiences that reflect gender & cultural diversity
- Increases opportunities for student interaction and decision-making. This interactive process has the potential to cater for individual learning styles
- Makes complex tasks more manageable. In some cases these activities require the development of new skills
- Makes repetitive tasks more interesting
- Illustrates complex processes or concepts
- Provides access to resources. Increases the need for students to develop critical thinking and effective information processing skills.

Data Analysis and Discussion

This paper used the interview to get the data. This interview highlights the issue of bringing ICT into the English language classroom. Mr. Ronaldi, S.Pd is a senior English teacher at one of public school in Jakarta. This was interviewed is to share his experiences on how ICT could be effectively used to support the language development process.

1. Mr. Ronaldi, Could you describe about your academic and professional background about English language teaching and learning?

   I graduated from Padang University in 2002 majoring in Educational English department. I have been teaching in public school in Jakarta for 13 years. I have been teaching in one of private university in Jakarta and English Course in LBPP LIA Pramuka for 11 years.

2. In your opinion, what is ICT and how important ICT in English language teaching for students in the school and in university

   ICT stands for Information and communications technology and it is important to assist language teachers in the classroom. CALL (computer assisted language learning) is one of the technologies commonly used the language learners and teachers to accelerate learning.

3. Could you describe your interest about the issues of ICT in language teaching and learning?

   I get interested in web learning as one of the ways to encourage autonomous learning, the positive effects of computer and gadget on language learning, digital teaching media, and the like.

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the implementation of ICT in the process of language teaching and learning in the school and in university?

Advantages of ICT:

- Time and energy – saving
- More practical
- More attractive
- More flexible in terms of web learning
- More informative and accurate
- Environment – friendly owing to no paper.

Disadvantages of ICT:

- It is more expensive than conventional teaching media.
- It requires less physical motion for students.
- It makes people dependent upon electricity, gadgets and internet connection.
- It fosters less productive skills – speaking spontaneously.

5. Could you give one or two examples of ICT program that you have used and how to integrate ICT in language classroom?

Hot Potatoes
It is an open source program that teachers use to create quizzes, crossword puzzles, and the like. They can import it into html files. Teachers need to use LCD to have students do the quizzes.

ATM Vibe
It is similar to hot potato but it requires Microsoft excel to create the quiz.

Mobi Pocket reader
It is a software that people can install in their blackberry mobile phone to read prc files like dictionary, e-book, et cetera.

Thinkquest
It is a web that teachers use to enable students to do collaborative learning.

Edmodo
It is a web that enables teachers to create online class and quizzes.

Wondershare Quiz Creator
It is an application program that help teachers create quizzes.

Vocaboly
It is an application program used to improve learners' vocabulary.

Powerpoint
It is one of the application programs in Microsoft offices that people use to give presentation.

6. Do you know hot potatoes program? What do you think about hot potatoes program in teaching and learning? Have you used it in teaching and learning? And how to integrate that program in your language classroom?

Yes, I do. It is a user-friendly open source program. I have used in teaching learning. Sometimes, I create a quiz and let the students do it in the class. Sometimes I attach it in my personal blog and have my students visit my blog and do it online.

7. How your students respons about the use of ICT in language learning?
Most of them enjoy it. Some of them think it is so – so. Few do not really like it.

8. How the teacher and school administrators responded?
No appreciation and no response since they are not technology savvy and they never observe me teaching using it.

9. What are the teachers and school administrators' arguments about the benefits of ICT in English language classrooms?
Teachers should use the ICT in teaching and learning activity since the LCD are available. If teachers never use the LCD in the class, it means teachers are not professional and they do not keep update with the current technology.

10. How would you help teachers to overcome their difficulties or reluctance using ICT in their language classrooms?
When I have free time and do not have to teach in the class, I sometimes teach and share my experience how to use a user-friendly application program. Sometimes, we talk about an exciting and worthwhile application program.

11. What is the teacher's preparation program that helps the students and teacher to respond the role of ICT in English language classrooms?
Annually, the school management invites ICT instructor in a workshop to enrich teachers' ICT skills. After the class is over, some school teachers who are technology savvy sometimes browse the internet to find digital teaching materials and software that they can facilitate them upon doing their job.

12. If you are chosen as the coordinator for the implementation of ICT in a school with the limited facilities and located in a remote area, what will be your first plan of action upon starting work?
   * Encourage and guide the teachers to make good slides for presentations.
   * Tell them how to handle problems that commonly happen when using the hardware and software.
   * Explain to them about various file types, file extensions and the application program to use them.

13. Could you suggest some research areas or topics related to ICT in language classroom that ELT scholars could explore?
   * The effect of gadget with android operating system on language learning.
   * The effect of digital dictionary on improving pronunciation.
   * The effect of blended learning on grammatical competence.
   * The effect of digital e-book on reading fluency and comprehension.

14. Is there any final thought or suggestions about the use of ICT in English language classrooms that you would like to leave us with?
ICT is like a musical instrument whereas teacher is like the singer. No matter how sophisticated the gadget and the application program are, teaching and learning will not be fun and successful if teachers are too dependent on it. Therefore, teachers need to know when and how to use ICT properly. They also need to vary teaching and learning activities. Otherwise, students will get bored with it.

15. Thank you very much for sharing your expertise and experiences. I am sure our readers will enjoy reading your insightful ideas. All the best for your future professional projects.
Thank you Ms. Novi for inviting me to share my idea and experiences. I hope the readers will get inspired and see ICT as an important tool in language education and in teaching and learning process.

The emergence of ICT in teaching and learning process gives some disadvantages and advantages. ICT in language learning reduces the intimacy of students and teacher relationship that it may negatively contributes to students affective feelings in the process of learning. However, ICT appears as a 'bridge' to break the distance and 'survive' the learning. In case of distance, teachers can use ICT to enable them teach or monitor the students learning process. Therefore, the development of ICT is seen as a better way of teaching and learning a certain language compared to the existing methods. Through the internet, teacher or learners can obtain as many as possible sources related to the language learning; such as text, songs, stories, etc. Those sources can contribute as models of the learned – language use in the real context and in a proper manner. In addition, computer can also be used as a more interactive aid to support the learning of language compared to that of tape recorder, or chalk and blackboard. However, sometimes the teachers confusing to choose the right ICT technology in teaching and learning process. Because of that, there are some advantages and disadvantages of ICT for education.

The Advantages and disadvantages of ICT in teaching and learning

Advantages
   * ICT motivate students to learn and reduce students' boredom.
   * It helps teachers to conduct interesting activities.

- The information required will be more quickly and easily accessible for educational purposes.
- More interaction both teacher-students and students-students
- Development of collaborative work
- It will increase students participation

Disadvantages
- For some teachers, ICT becomes a difficulty to be applied. Facilities at school can't support the implementation of ICT program
- It makes people dependent upon electricity, gadgets and internet connection
- The teacher must have control at all times on the navigation of students during school hours. it can make them understand that all websites are not reliable o acceptable.
- It requires less physical motion for students

Conclusion and Suggestion

ICT is a form of advanced science technology must be optimized function, especially in the implementation of learning. ICT provides opportunities for students in the era of global competition needs to obtain adequate supplies. Because of that, the integration of ICT is a good way to attract the interest of the students. Moreover, the use of ICT has many impact for on students, one of them is ICT can help them to develop skills to work in collaboration and data processing and promote increased students achievement because this tool allows them to progress at their pace and needs, besides that, learners are also able to update learning potential and creativity. On the others hand, ICT also have advantages and disadvantages for the students, so we are as a teacher must control what children are doing, because not all the lessons can be incorporated into ICT.

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