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## Use of Multimedia Tools to Assist English Language Teaching and Learning as a Second Language

**Mohammad Jalaluddin**

Assistant Professor, Department of English, College of Sciences and Arts, Dhahran Aljanoub, King Khalid University, Abha, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

[myakub@kku.edu.sa](mailto:myakub@kku.edu.sa) / [jalalamu@gmail.com](mailto:jalalamu@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** Course books are the most popular way to learn foreign languages. However, in the 21st century, there are other ways to learn languages, such as multimedia tools. The use of the Internet, newspapers, radio, or television can be an alternative to traditional language learning methods. The rapid advancement of science and technology, such as multimedia technology, has made it possible to explore this new teaching method more effectively. In reality, multimedia technology plays a vital role in the teaching of English language, particularly in the context of non-native speaking English. It also helps non-native English speakers of language teachers to understand how to use it effectively. The use of multimedia in foreign language teaching has grown steadily, and it has greatly improved the quality of teaching and learning. To effectively teach a foreign language, the traditional method is insufficient. We ought to reconsider the way we teach and accept their impersonal quality as a type of instruction. Thus, we can legitimately use contemporary educational technology to achieve the goal of teaching languages. Nowadays, almost everyone uses multimedia tools to help them with daily tasks. For example, some people get ready to leave the house to the beat of the radio's music, while others can't imagine having breakfast without reading the newspaper and so on.

**Keywords.** Multimedia tools, Internet, foreign language, traditional method

### Introduction

Modern language teachers face new challenges and responsibilities in this new era. The traditional English teaching method has been significantly changed by the remarkable development of modern technologies like multimedia technology. Technology offers so many options that make teaching interesting and productive as it has the ability to draw in the language learners. Technology plays a major role in the globalization process; it affects education, work and culture.

In addition to the role of the teacher, technology has a huge impact on the teaching and learning of the language. The role of the teacher combined with the role of technology can result in advanced learning outcomes.

English as a second language learners need additional language support. They must practice in listening, reading, speaking, and writing languages in order to gain their experience and skills. To do this, they need to use various tools that make it easy and effective to learn the language.

Technology is everywhere, including banks, courts, schools and even small shops. We cannot simply throw away such stuffs as they have become an integral part of our lives. Technology has also had a major impact on education. For example, it can facilitate learning and make it more effective. Teachers can support student learning by observing and evaluating their performance. The teacher probably has the ability to create an interesting lesson using the computer, and the technology is useful for teachers to present the lesson and add value to it with better visuals.

### **What is Multimedia?**

Multimedia is made up of two words, one is multi and the other is media. Multi means many and media means package. Multimedia is a group of text, images, art, sound, animation and video, which is used for some purposes. To use it, a computer or any other electronic device is needed.

Multimedia refers to the integrated presentation of text, images, video, animation, and sound through the use of computers. The term CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) comes up frequently while discussing multimedia in language learning. Since a computer can be used to combine material. Multimedia and CALL are closely related with each other. At times, CALL is even used as a stand-in for multimedia. Multimedia is fairly simple to define, but it is incredibly difficult to implement.

*“Multimedia is any combination of text, graphic art, sound, animation, and video that is delivered by computer. When you allow the user – the viewer of the project – to control what and when these elements are delivered, it is interactive multimedia. When you provide a structure of linked elements through which the user can navigate, interactive multimedia becomes hypermedia.” (Vaughan, 2014).*

We can try to explain multimedia in a simple way with example that multimedia is a combination of text, images, graphics, audio, and video that is presented digitally for the user to access information more efficiently and effectively. Images and sound are used to communicate information. For example, if you watch a video on YouTube, you will only be able to access that information through multimedia. This means that you are watching both the video and the image. In addition, you will be able to hear the voice and read the story, as well as access the data. This can be the perfect example of multimedia.

### **Elements of Multimedia**

Text, graphics, animation, music, and video are all components of multimedia. These elements can each contribute differently to the learning of materials.

**Video.** It is the part of the television broadcast that is visible and broadcasts images of moving or stationary objects. Compared to animation, video can provide more vivid information. However, it will take up more storage space compared to animation.(Vanghan, 2014).

**Animation.** Animation is the process of quickly displaying a series of pictures of 2-dimensional or 3-dimensional artwork or model positions to create the illusion of motion. In simple terms, animation ranges from a simple graph with a single motion to a complex image with multiple moving parts. With the help of animation, teachers are able to highlight important knowledge points and increase students' enthusiasm. (Vanghan, 2014).

**Graphics.** It includes images and pictures (chart, diagram, photograph, etc.) that do not contain any motion. According to the book *“Picture for language learning”* by Andrew Wright (1989) , graphics can increase interest and motivation, enhance language

comprehension, and provide specific reference objects and topics. Graphics play an essential role in language learning.

**Text.** It is an essential part of all multimedia programs. It carries most of the information (Vanghan (2014)). In English teaching, we can use plain text or different typographic effects for emphasizing or clarifying information. To grab the reader's attention, we can use different font sizes, colors, and styles to present information; highlight a particular word or phrase.

**Sound.** It is speech, music, or any other sound that is stored and produced by computers. It has more advantages than tape recorder. In multimedia, teacher can use more vivid and fruitful sound to help students' English learning.

### **The Use of Multimedia Tools in English Language Teaching and Learning**

As Harry Samuels argues, the 21st century is the age of globalization and information technology. *"Recent developments in social media and information technology are taking foreign language education in new directions"*. Learning the language is important because English is one of the most important languages. Therefore, teaching English is one of the most important subjects in the world. In fact, there are more non-native speakers of a language than native speakers. There is also a diversity of contexts, such as learner age, nationality, and learning background, which is an important feature of English language education today.

Modern education and modern technology are combined to create modern educational technology, which is defined by greater information and stronger intuitiveness. The advancement of modern educational technology fosters the growth of educational models and thinking in addition to the methods and resources used in education. As world's educational initiatives continue to grow quickly, more and more people are becoming aware of the importance of multimedia teaching, which is a component of contemporary education. Widespread use of multimedia in schools, colleges and universities is causing it to progressively infiltrate classroom instruction, the front line of education. Multi-media instruction has gained popularity in schools, colleges and universities, and research shows that it is a superior way of instruction. We might state that multi-media instruction must advance as a result of current educational technology.

### **Necessity of Using Multimedia tools in English Language Teaching**

Multimedia is more than just text, animation, and graphics. It can also include video and audio, all of which are up-to-date. The goal of multimedia is to create an active learning environment for students. A multimedia tool provides students with a realistic learning environment and enhances students' learning performance. Following are some major points to use multimedia in English classroom.

#### **To enhance Learning Process:**

Multimedia content helps to diversify and improve the learning experience, and improves the retention of knowledge. Educational video provides more opportunities for students to interact with the material. Students from all over the world can access course content through video.

**To make topics more understandable and enjoyable:**

Multimedia-based teaching has a much higher impact on academic performance compared to traditional teaching and makes learning topics much easier to understand and the learning environment much more enjoyable.

**To develop students interest and motivation:**

Multimedia technology provides a realistic experience and works very effectively, which makes students more interested and motivated to study and participate in classroom activities.

**To foster students communication skills:**

Multimedia technology teaching has had a profound impact on the students' ability to think positively and communicate effectively in social situations.

**Advantages of Using Multimedia Tools**

Technology also makes teaching more engaging and productive because it attracts language learners. Multimedia technology is used in the language classroom to enhance teaching content and make the best use of class time. Multimedia technology disrupts the traditional teacher-centered teaching method and improves the teaching efficiency of teachers. This allows English teachers to take full advantage of multimedia technology to teach English in foreign countries. The advantages of using multimedia technology in the English classroom include:

- Multimedia technology uses sound, visuals and animation to motivate students to learn English quickly and effectively.
- It makes it easier for teachers to combine teaching and learning, and it gives students more motivation.
- It gave students a better understanding of the target language's culture.
- Multimedia allows students to share information with each other, get involved in class activities, and help them learn the language faster and better.
- It provides a more realistic learning environment for English language learners and enhances student-teacher interactions.
- Using multimedia technology in the classroom enhances students' listening and speaking skills, helping them to develop their communication skills.
- Provides an environment for language learning by facilitating the exchange of information among learners, as well as between teachers and learners.

**Disadvantages of Using Multimedia Tools**

In addition to the advantages of multimedia in teaching, there are also many disadvantages of using multimedia technology for English language teaching. Below are some of the disadvantages of using multimedia tools for teaching English.

- It lacks teacher-student communication. It is essential that there should be many opportunities for communication in the language classes.
- Students' logical thinking is lost. Multimedia technology makes it easy for students to understand the content, but it also limits their abstract thinking. As a result, their logical thinking gets lost.
- It lacks real-time language teaching. Real-time language teaching involves a lot of discussion based on questions and answers between the teacher and the student. The

teacher asks questions in real-time and directs the student to think and develop the ability to provide the answers.

- It requires to choose the material very carefully according to the needs of the students.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Multimedia-supported teaching offers a new way of teaching to overcome the challenges of conventional classroom teaching. It is an essential approach to improve English teaching resources so that students can learn to listen, speak, read, write, and translate while developing their creative and critical thinking skills. However, it is not easy to integrate multimedia technology with conventional teaching as it requires teachers with advanced teaching skills, advanced information technology and excellent language skills.

There is no doubt that multimedia is a great way to learn the language, but each method has its drawbacks. The biggest drawback of the multimedia-rich classroom is that you have to choose the material carefully because of the needs of the students. Additionally, you have to prepare earlier than usual because sometimes the language used, the content, or even the level of difficulty can be inappropriate.

In the end, we may think that learning a new language is like learning how the culture of that language works. And for that, multimedia is the best way to make the students aware of the cultural environment so that they can integrate themselves and utilize a multicultural repertoire.

To sum up, the use of multimedia technology can completely enhance the student's thinking and practical language abilities. This will guarantee and maximize the outcome of the English language teaching. Although there are some drawbacks to using multimedia technology in the classroom, it can be used in many English language teaching classes. In general, non-native English as language teachers will be able to teach English more effectively if they are using multimedia technology.

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