

INTERNET AS A TOOL FOR DEVELOPING WRITING SKILL

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ABSTRACT

Language is a one of the tools for communication among the human beings. Writing skills as a part of language requires meticulous effort to achieve the mastery over it. In this age of information and technology the use of the internet in writing class is something new. Recently research on internet technology used in writing class is grown as many researchers see the opportunity to make use internet technology in the writing class. There are some internet technologies such as weblog, e-mail, instant messenger and world-wide web that were applied in the academic writing class. Meanwhile, concerning the use of the internet technologies in academic writing class, all students were aware of the benefits of using the internet. The most important value the students found from the use of the internet in writing class was that it showed that students to improve their writing skills because they used natural language on the internet.

Keywords: Communication, writing skill, internet, multimedia, technology, computer network

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Writing skill is an important part of communication and writing well is an art that everybody should master in order to be successful. Written expression is a crucial part of communication and critical thinking. Writing well means conveying thoughts, ideas, and facts in simple and clear language. The art of writing is not something that is taught seriously in school. But to learn it, is essential in order to excel at both academic and professional levels.

With the growing impact of globalization and privatization, English has become a window to the world, as it is creating more and more opportunities in every field of life. English is the global lingua franca as it is connecting different people from all over the world, different cultures, languages and political and economic issues in our day-to-day lives. People all over the world depend on English for their wellbeing. English is learnt everywhere because people have found out that it is the entry card for better career, better pay package, and advanced knowledge and for communication with the entire world.

English has a special national status in India, because it has been placed in the parliamentary, judiciary, broadcasting, and journalism in the education system. In the field of education, English functions as a language for propagation of knowledge. Information in every field, whether is humanities, science, commerce or technology, is readily accessible in English. Therefore, English language learning has become necessary for all Indians including rural learners. The importance of speaking and writing in English has recently increased considerably because English has become popular for business, commerce and cultural transaction and especially for internet communications throughout the world.

In this age of information and technology, as we are constantly barraging by information, English as the major medium which gives access to update information. It plays important role in all parts of the world, as all in their lives are feeling its necessity. Therefore, there is a massive growing in the number of people learning English. Language is a one of the tools for communication among the human beings. Writing skills is a part of language and it requires meticulous effort to achieve the mastery over it. Writing skill helps learners to learn It is required to have ability to think, arrange and express their views and ideas in written form by using correct English. The teaching of writing skill should become memorable instead of tiresome. Hence, teachers should adopt communicative approach to teach writing skill in an interesting way. In the age of 21st century, the process of teaching is easier and more learners centered. Technology is at its peak of success. The English language teaching is also not behind in terms of using

various tools and mediums to make language classroom interactive. Writing can be expressive, poetic, instructive and convincing. It depends on the type of writing, the writer concentrates either on the subject material of the written piece, on the reader or on one's own feelings and thoughts.

The intention of writing should be made clear. The title should be explained clearly. So writing should be instructive. A good piece of writing should be broken into separate steps, with each one step distinct and arranged in the exact order. Ideas should flow in an order to help the reader to comprehend the text. Each stage of writing should be absolute and carefully constructed. Unambiguous sentences lead to bewilderment and misunderstanding. Therefore, clarity is essential. A good piece of writing should help the reader by conveying information and ideas clearly and pleurably, without mistakes. Sufficient explanation, the orderly presentation, simplicity and completeness contribute to accuracy in writing.

The use of the internet in writing class is something new. In the writing class usually students are asked to write paragraphs, essays and papers. Before you write, you need many sources to read in order to have a good and well-informed writing. The researcher believes, somehow, internet can help writers as it encompasses many different ways of communicating and exchanging information. Recently research on internet technology used in writing class is grown as many researchers see the opportunity to make use internet technology in the writing class. Using internet for language teaching is beneficial for a reading and writing activity when the students are asked to find high

quality relevant information for the project or topic, and rewrite the information. With a computer network, a lively class discussion about a topic can begin in writing. Research on the use one of the internet technologies in writing class is on the rise. Teachers are making use of the internet technology to make the writing class interesting to conduct. As Stepp-Greany, J. has observed, “The use of technology, specifically the internet, as a learning tool has expanded rapidly in the world during the last decade” There are some internet technologies such as weblog, e-mail, instant messenger and world-wide web that were applied in the academic writing class.

a. Web log

Weblog (or blog) is electronic journal that allows the user to keep records of their writing on a website. A Weblog allows a writer to easily publish a wide variety of content to the Web. The writer can publish written essays, annotated links, documents (Word, PDF, and PowerPoint files), graphics, and multimedia. A Weblog is not only an easy way to publish to the Web but a way to organize the entire published product over time so that friends, associates, and customers can easily find and interact with it. A Weblog places the most recent posts at the top of the home page along with everything else the writer published that day. An integrated calendar keeps track of the daily posts and allows site users to quickly access archived posts

Students are benefitted because of blog as many students can have access to the complete notes on the internet. They have the option of previewing the class material

before class and reviewing the material after class. Because students are connected to the internet, they have access to online English dictionaries. Students can easily look up words they do not understand by cutting the unknown word and pasting it into an online dictionary. Because the class material is organized into sections, students can easily find information. Students can read comments for the class as a whole and comments directed at them individually. This maximizes feedback and contact with the teacher. Students can observe how their writing has changed over time.

b. E-mail

E-mail is the use of computer systems to transfer messages between users or private mailboxes. Simplicity is the major advantage of using e-mail. Typically, users log in to their e-mail account with a user name and password. Then, users have access to a variety of folders, such as users' Inbox. With the click of a button, users can create new folders. Users can then store messages in those folders and attach files to them. In the present decade, e-mailing has emerged as one of the defining elements of communication.

E-mail was used in the academic writing class to invite the students to the class blog. Sometimes the students used e-mail to send their writings when they found difficulties in sending their writings to the class blog. Students while writing e-mail should keep in mind that the subject must be apt in its meaning and impact. It must capture the attention of the reader and summarize the content of the e-mail. Try to make only one point at a time and priorities should be given to the content and write it

accordingly. Provide the most important information first and if the message is relatively short, write the whole information in the subject itself. The e-mail must be short and simple and must reflect that you care for their time. Adding a personal touch to your e-mail like addressing the person by name, adding a comment about the reader's product or web site or work, signing the e-mail and adding a friendly comment will make the e-mail more expressive and thus attract a better response

c. Instant messenger

Instant messenger is one of the internet technologies that is use to send an immediate and short messages. The requirements are both the sender and the receiver should be on-line in order to have an immediate interactions, talk or even chat. The students and lecturer used IM when the students needed to consult their writings to their lecturer, and both were on-line. One of the most interesting things about IM and other popular technologies is that they are potentially learning tools. They can be used by educators to help students learn school-related content, as is illustrated by teachers who encourage students to use messaging shorthand to spark their thinking processes.

d. World-Wide Web (www)

There are many resources available for students and teachers relating to topics the students need to develop. The students are urged to visit and search some World-wide web to get information, authentic sources and material for their writings. Searching information in the internet is an activity that requires the student to practice several skills, including English reading comprehension, comparing information, and summarizing and

reporting in English. It is also an activity that is designed to naturally engage the student's interest. It does this because the student's internet search is directed toward a topic that the student is already interested in. Meanwhile, concerning the use of the internet technologies in academic writing class, all students were aware of the benefits of using the internet. The most important value the students found from the use of the internet in writing class was that it showed that students to improve their writing skills because they used natural language on the internet.

It is proposed that the internet is popular especially among the younger generation, and it will become increasingly important as education moves well into the 21st century. However, it is also suggested that the use of the internet should only be considered as an option to help students learn as there is no solid proof that shows students learn better or more effective online. The internet also provides opportunity for students to practice the language or be exposed to the language in the classroom. The use of technology, specifically the internet, as a learning tool has expanded rapidly in the world among the present generation.

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