

## AMALGAMATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

### SKILLS – NEED OF THE HOUR

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#### ABSTRACT

The paper is an attempt to analyse the importance of integration of technology and language learning and how computers are helpful for learners. The paper elaborates on how language learning is made easy for the new generation learners. The paper enlightens on the advantages in teaching and learning methods in TILL and CALL concepts. The paper throws light on the concept of fearless and autonomous learning.

**KEYWORDS:** TILL, CALL, Amalgamation, Assimilation, Globalization, Pedagogy

#### INTRODUCTION

Teaching and learning Communication skill has undergone a paradigm shift in given time. Language learning process has changed with its receiver and pedagogy of teaching communication skills has taken twist and turns with the flow of learning. With English reportedly the most commonly 'learned' second language around the world (Crystal, 1997; Special Euro barometer, 2006: 243) with this raises the question of what innovative approaches to language development can be employed to meet the needs of a new generation of young technocrats growing up within an increasingly globalised world. Communication skill is no more mere necessity of the hour; it has become way of life in everyone's professional and personal life. Precedence to communication skills has emerged with its demand and inevitability in the global job market. The acknowledgment of English as the top lingua franca is the result of its popularity amidst people from different cults. The globalization has made people accept English as an official language in almost every country and welcome its learning and acquisition with open mind and heart. The flexibility of the language has given way to easy comprehension and learning of the language. English language has given people the flexibility to localize the international language and thus emerged different types of English as American English, European English, Indian English etc.. L2 learners have openness in accepting English as their official language and are keen in learning it more than just acquiring it. When technology blends with language learning it gives varied opportunity to L2 learners to learn the language and comprehend in different dimensions. Technology has provided wide variety of learning tools and has opened the way to autonomy learning as well, if not fully atleast partially. Multilingual and multicultural world needed a common platform for official communication, thus English emerged as the most popular lingua franca. Even the iron curtained countries had to give way for English in their system for their own betterment in the global job market.

Technology amalgamation in language learning brought in the revolution and made the learning and teaching process easy, comfortable and convenient. The so called gen X and gen Y speak only tech language and teaching them in

the conventional way would be a challenge in itself. The technology integration gives them the confidence of relating it with their learning process. Technology integration has also paved way for varied learning process and gives an enhanced teaching pedagogy. Technology blends with the language and brings out the nuances of language learning with satisfying the learner's specific needs and over all development simultaneously. Giving way to new methodology of teaching has brought fresh look to the teaching and learning process and leads to great results.

### **CALL and TILL**

A useful definition of CALL comes from Levy: 'the search for and study of applications of the computer in language teaching and learning'. (1997: 1) CALL (computer assisted language learning) and TILL (technology integrated language learning) are the concepts that have amended the teaching and learning process in present syllabus mainly in engineering colleges. These concepts have made learning language not only easy but interesting as well. This era has taken leap into getting computerized in every arena possible. The use of technology in language learning has simplified the process of learning. The concepts of CALL and TILL have paved way for communicative approach of language learning. The most expected skill from an engineer in his work place is the ability to communicate with others and giving words to his ideas and thoughts. This is possible only if engineers are open to learning English language in communicative approach. Communication skill in global job market fetches the due recognition an engineer deserves for his work and talent. The concepts of CALL and TILL have made these engineer not only acquire but learn English language for the specific purposes as well.

These concepts have given the learners the autonomy of learning even at the absences of faculty members. Though it cannot be fully independent learning but partial independence with little assistance is enough for learning the communicative approach of language learning. The learners can take up online test, speech test, role plays, notes on grammatical concepts, usage of grammar in communicative English, pronunciation practices and many innovative practical tutorials. Language labs, Blog writing, video conferencing, interactive books, skype learning, learner podcast, instant feedbacks system, video servers, etc are few good and innovative tools where language is assimilated with technology and gives varied flavours to language teaching and learning process. The syllabus designed for engineering students in tamilnadu has communication skills lab in their curriculum, which is included to make students competent for the job requirement and campus placements. The lab has helped students to enhance their communication skill to good extent and comprehend the communicative approach of English language. The dictionaries available in application formats in the mobile phones are another good example of TILL. It comes handy whenever necessary and easy access to learners. Likewise, the audio visual halls help the engineering students for better presentations and enhance the listening skills. The assimilation of technology in language learning gives the learner a whole some approach to comprehend the nuances of communication skills. The assimilation leads to fearless learning and allows the learners to overcome the hesitation of getting embarrassed in front of others which includes the teachers also sometimes. Inhibition is a barrier in language learning and stands as an obstacle to the learners. The fearless learning concept enhances the speed of learning of the learners and drives the learners towards better results i.e inheriting the communication skills in high quality and standard. According to study conducted by Jackson et al. (2006), it has been found that students, who used the internet more, got higher scores and grades. According to the research activities, the internet changes the interaction between learners and teachers (Kern, 1995): there is less teacher and more learner talk in computer classes. Furthermore, it changes teacher and students' roles (Peterson, 1997) and makes learning more students centered. (Warschauer, Turbee, and Roberts, 1996).

CALL and TILL concepts also provide the learners individualization in a large group and endorse peer learning.

The base of language learning is placed on the platform of LSRW notion, i.e. Listening, speaking, reading and writing. The assimilation of technology in all these skills furnishes language teaching a varied standard which makes learning an attention-grabbing experience. The person affluent in LSRW components is considered to be the ideal choice of an MNC (multinational company) for most of the job profile. The “business English certification”, a course run by Cambridge University, is based on this concept and a person possessing this certificate is given the preference in job market. This certification is also a good example of assimilation of language and technology as the training and the test for the certification, both, include computer and other technical aids involved in the process. LSRW learning with the help of CALL and TILL provides the person varied range of learning scope and tremendous career prospects. Globalization demands the assimilation of language and technology for coping with the trend and further development. The global job market makes a person acquire international standard in national and regional levels as well. Fluency in communication skills boosts a person to achieve this international standard which is expected out of him. And assimilation of technology in language learning helps the person attain success in mastering the required standard of communication skills. Any career profile of global job market makes fluency in communication mandatory and key factor to achieve it is assimilating technology in language learning. Hence, language learning goes digital to have its important position in the digital world.

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