INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY INTO ENGLISH PEDAGOGY AT ENGINEERING LEVEL

VADAPALLI LAKSHMI
Bhavan's Vivekananda College
Lecturer
vadapalli.lakshmi@gmail.com
9704014706

Abstract
Engineering students need to enhance their communication skills particularly in English and other soft skills in order to cope with increasingly tough competition in the job market. Integration of technology into the Engineering English helpsthe students to develop their four major skills like listening, speaking, reading and writing.With the help of web based activities a student can learn English language skills in all the areas and promotes critical thinking and that was essential to get success in his personal and professional life.
Key Words: *integration, Communication, technology, skills etc.*

Purpose of the paper
With the help of technology how the engineering students can enhance their communication skills and certain micro and macro skills in English language and use them effectively as a student as well as an employee at their work place.

Introduction
English is a tool that notably affects engineering students in theiracademic life. Most of the engineering students need to deal with countless lectures, tutorials, labs, project reports, papers etc.to become excel insuch concepts it requires good English communication proficiency. Internet generally provides information in English. Achieving proficiency in English becomes even more indispensable for job seekers.Students who are aspire to pursue their higher education in other countries need to pass the qualifying admission test in English. So, English communication competence plays an important role in the academic life as well as career of engineering students. The integration of CALL into the English programme help learners develop their English language skills and promote collaborative learning and critical thinking.

Content:
Engineering is the vast field of study in the world. Present era internet has become a powerful means of communication. Ever since the Internet has become affordable to common people, communicationhas become easier and it is easy to communicate with anyone in the world. Many researchers and ELT professionals have emphasized on integrating information and multimedia technology enhanced language learning into Engineering English. (CALL) has become a key resource in many engineering institutions.

There are many studies that show how the integration of CALL into the English programme help learners develop their English language skills and promote collaborative learning and critical thinking.

The Internet is bringing further changes as language courses can now be downloadedfrom all over the world. The interactive exercises on the Internet provide the learnersplenty of opportunities to assess their language skills. Podcasts, voice chats, blogsand authentic materials available on the Web enable learners to develop theirlistening, speaking, writing and reading skills respectively.

Technology-integrated language learning labs are very much useful in Engineering Education. The software used in the language laboratory aims to help students develop the four major language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

According to global survey, 44% of respondents said speaking was the most difficult aspect of learning English. When it comes to improving both comprehension and speaking skills, extensive listening is highly recommended. English as a second language (ESL) learners have difficulty with Englishpronunciation. Students often have a poor grasp of how sounds in English are made,and as a result these sounds are produced poorly and unintelligibly. With advances intechnology, the use of multimedia resources such as animations, audio files, and onlinevideos on pronunciation teaching has become increasingly popular. The Internetprovides limitless possibilities for learners of English to enhance their listening skills. A good listener can become a good speaker, a good speaker can become a great writer.

As we all know 50% of engineering students are from rural background. They face difficulty in speaking English. If a class can be linked to other classes around the world using technology tools such as video conferencing, a scope can be provided for the learner to ask a question and then try to understand the response. It might also provide support for the teacher, too. The technology mediates the process, getting language out there and gives feedback that shows whether someone has or hasn't understood what you have said.

Blogging is one of the effective tools that enhance students' writing skills; it motivates participants to become independent learners and promotes collaborative learning. They can express their views on any topic of their choice. This will be helpful in instilling confidence in them that they can write well.

The WELL(Web based English Language Learning)   project was just an experiment to find out whether students' writing skillcould be enhanced more effectively through WWW-based activities than traditionalclassroom activities.

The WELL participants having felt the importance of discussing current affairs
expressed the need for reading articles related to such topics and giving their views on the topics. ─Authentic reading materials require students not only to understand information but to interpret and evaluate it as well… academic writing follows from listening and reading, and thus requires students to synthesize facts and ideas from multiple sources as preparation.

The benefits of technology in language learning that is integrated with project work

With the help of Online tools students can estimate their skills like by evaluating themselves on the four skill areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking – and they can gather feedback with that they can improve on their weaker areas. Progress from Pearson English was the first online, fully automated progress test. It accurately measures student progress in English, highlighting both strengths and weaknesses to inform teaching.

The other area that technology supports effectively is project work. Teachers always tried to encourage learners to learn about things through language. Getting learners to do work about topics that are of interest to them, or topics that are taught in other parts of the curriculum is a great way to improve their skills. Technology makes this possible wherever you are in the world. Teachers and learners can go online to read or listen to material about different areas of interest, and can then write or speak about what they have discovered, telling others in the class or other classes elsewhere in the world.

Conclusion

There are many advantages of technology-enhanced language learning in the English class. As mentioned earlier Web-based activities have the potential to develop learner autonomy, enhance learners' communication skills, promote collaborative learning and foster critical thinking. Especially engineers need all these skills: communication skills,critical thinking skills and group skills. Engineering students who depend much on technology find the TELL(Technology Enhanced Language Learning) environment very conducive for language learning and therefore technology should be integrated into the Engineering English curriculum.

References

1. *Breemfit, C.J and jhonson, K, The communicative approach to language Teaching, London: Oxford University press1979.*
2. *CALL lab material*
3. *Riemer, M.J., English and communication skills for the global engineer. Global J. of Engng. Educ.*