Innovative Strategy for Education in Digital Era

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Abstract: The writer of this paper believes that innovative strategy for education in digital era is really needed, especially in teaching English. This paper focuses on how to use the internet for teaching speaking and listening. The reason is people all around the world now use the internet everyday for their various needs, Some use the internet for entertainment, business or education. Talking about teaching speaking, a teacher or a lecturer can use the internet for downloading splendid short educational videos with various topics as the teaching material. We can play the videos with various topics of conversation. Students are asked to watch the videos by paying attention to how the native speakers pronounce the English words properly. The teacher or the lecturer can deliver spontaneous questions about the videos. Without them realizing, students will have an exercise how to speak English naturally. Another way is students can be asked to imitate for example, pronouncing new vocabularies or difficult words. The native speakers in the video are playing roles as models for students to learn. By using short educational videos taken from the internet, a teaching and learning process will be more fun and interesting. Besides video, we can use the internet to download films or songs. Because speaking skill relates to listening skill, we can also train students’ ability in speaking by giving them a lot of practices in listening. After watching a film for instance, students are taught to retell certain dialogues from the film. We are also possibly to have a small discussion about the theme of the film. We can divide students in groups to discuss together. By doing so, students will practice both speaking and listening skill. About songs, students can be asked to write the lyric of the songs that had been heard. We play the songs for several times and students will “guess” the lyric. From the lyric of a song, students can learn many vocabularies. New vocabularies are essential in speaking. We see here that the internet can maximize a teaching and learning process. We can use language laboratory to play the short videos and give questions to all students. They will learn about different accent of spoken English too because sometimes the “player” in the videos come from various background. Some are American, European or Afro-American. Internet has become “a friend” for everybody. It can be accessed from a cellphone instead of a laptop. It is easier for us to get many kinds of information quickly. But in school or campus, the use of internet in a language laboratory will be more effective.

Keywords: innovative teaching strategy; the internet; video; song; teaching speaking and listening

1. INTRODUCTION

As quoted from www.europar.europa.eu/Reg Data/etudes/STUD/2015, we are moving from an individualistic knowledge acquisition culture towards a collaborative knowledge creation culture of learning. We are facing challenges linked to the impact and use of new technologies. Young people need to discover meaningful way of using technology for learning purposes and collaborative knowledge creation. In many countries, it is forbidden to use one’s own
mobile devices at school. Instead of being denied technological tools, the pupils should learn how to use them in socially and pedagogically acceptable ways. They need to learn how to regulate their own use of mobile devices inside and outside school.

Action is needed to promote innovation in the classroom and to take the advantage of increased use of social media and open educational resources. Consequently, this requires a new set of competences for teachers. Digital competence involves the confident and critical use of Information Society Technology (IST) and thus basic skills in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Instead of computer-supported learning, it would be advisable to talk about new forms of Socio-Digital-Participant (SDP). This includes media literacy, such as using social media and search engines.

Pedagogical innovations are needed. Systematic development of inquiry-based learning programs with meaningful use of technologies would be advisable. Technology offers unprecedented opportunities to improve quality, access and equity in education and training. It is a key lever for more effective learning and reducing barriers to education. In particular, social barriers play a large role. Individuals can learn anywhere, at any time, following flexible and individuals pathways. Evidence is swiftly accumulating regarding how people learn in addition to methods of promoting high quality education.

2. DISCUSSION

In general, learning is viewed as an active, constructive process, rather than a passive, reproductive process. Modern theories of learning see the learners as the central component in the creation of meaning. Such orientations to learning are not traits of people, but rather, develop through interactions with students and the learning environment. If therefore does not make sense to design learning environments according to different ‘types’ or ‘styles’ of students, but instead, to help people develop increasingly functional and productive approaches to learning and studying. Learning is an interactive process of participating in cultural practices and shared activities that structure and shape cognitive activity in many ways.

Greater emphasis on knowledge creation is likely to generate further innovations in education and technology. In the future, artificial knowledge, robotics and the Internet will likely fuse into Hybrid networks consisting of people and complex tools. This paper discusses the use of internet especially for teaching English. English language covers 5 skills of listening, speaking, reading, grammar and writing. This paper limits the discussion on listening and speaking. To adjust with the rapid development of IT (Information Technology), its application is also needed in our field as an English teacher or lecturer. The writer of this paper has been teaching speaking 1 until speaking four in her campus since 2003. She believes that speaking has a correlation with listening. We listen first, then speak. In this digital era where every student has a smartphone or laptop, the teaching strategy must be changed. Some innovations are needed to change the atmosphere of learning.

In the past, students learned a printed materials inside the classroom and the lecturer became the model for them how to pronounce english words properly. We were very lucky to have a language laboratory with a good quality tape recorder. We used it to play classical stories that had been designed for an English learning. The recording was played by a native speaker so students can have a good model to imitate.
the pronunciation. Along with the development of IT, now we can use internet to download short educational videos to learn speaking. It is clearer than just hearing from an audio device. Students can learn how to speak English naturally by paying attention to the movement of the lip, facial expression, stressing of words and also intonation. When they speak English, students will strongly influenced by Indonesian intonation and stressing of words. But the writer of this paper observed that by using the downloaded videos, there was an improvement. Students learned better and looked more enthusiastic. We can make a plan or schedule when to use the textbook, when to use the audio and when to watch a video. Various assessment may occur, starting from group discussion. Role-play or spontaneous questions or quiz. From the printed materials students learn the theories of language function and common phrases, level of formality, etc. In using audio, students will have a listening practice that is really helpful for them to improve their spoken English. Role-play will be more amusing because students may take ideas from the internet, from the videos that had been seen. By using role-play, students will train their self-confidence to speak like a native speaker. ”In the beginning, the idea of using media is more connotated to aspects of usefulness, then it develops and covers the diffusion and making benefit of knowledge.” (Dr.Deni Darmawan, M.Si : 2012 :25). “As long as the era of globalization grows rapidly, it is seen from the developing product and the use of IT, so the conception of a teaching and learning has moved from an effort to a modern teaching. Examples of IT-based teaching and learning : animation learning, games learning, tutorial computer-based learning.” (2012:39) As said by Dr.Deni Darmawan, M.Si, IT is able to make a learning reality as “a package” and make it more interesting. IT gives a condition of adaptive-psychological to students where they are. (41) The following are the ideas about era of information from Dr.Deni Darmawan. He said that by having an appropriate and contextual learning source, a learning process can be enriched. Sufficient learning sources can overcome learning obstacles relating to time and place of one teaching and learning inside a classroom. Now he explains the essence of electronic Information:

1. Accurate : every source of information has its own web-site. This web has an obligatory to revitalize information being produced
2. Up-to-date : The obligatory to revitalize the information shared to the public indicates that we always receive an up to date information
3. Quickly
4. Scope : all around the world
5. Comprehensive : we can access comprehensive information quickly
6. Selective : only important informations and has a meaningful benefit are available from this media

Example : computer and video : multimedia, combination of 3 elements : sound, picture and text. Multimedia are devices that can produce interactiveness and dynamic presentation.

“Tutorial method in CAI (Computer Assisted Instruction) is basically follow a programmed-teaching and learning with “branching type” where information is delivered in small units and continued by questions.” (62). Like what had been done by the writer of this paper, the website of engvidspeaking provides videos in small units with various topics and players. She then creates questions from the content of
the downloaded videos. It is also wise to see another experts say about innovation in education. The first is Prof.Dr.Udin Syaefudin Sa’ud Ph.d. He states the strategy of innovative education as follows:

1. Facilitative strategies – mainly in providing facilities so that a social change can run smoothly
2. Strategy in education – to do a social change by informing a fact so that people will use that fact to decide an action that will be undertaken soon. This strategy will be effective by the following condition: if it is needed a basic change from a behavior mode to a new mode of behavior
3. Persuasive strategies
4. Power strategies

Several guidelines for applying the strategy for innovative education:

1. Use a clear platform about the innovation which is going to use
2. Use a method or a way which gives a chance to participate actively to change personally or school itself
3. Use various selective alternatives to make the application of information easier to do.
4. Use the available data as a source of comparison in setting the planning and applying the innovation
5. Use additional data to make it easier to facilitate the innovation
6. Use the benefit from school’s experience or other institution

The Innovation of Teaching and Learning by Using IT (Internet)

Electronic learning is naturally the use of computer technology or internet. Technology in this kind of learning can also be called web-based-instruction. Information Technology is processing, producing, sharing data by a combination of computer and telecommunication. Several views tend to the definition of E-Learning:

1. E-Learning is the use of technology-network to design, to transfer, to select, to organize teaching and learning (Elliut Masie)
2. E-Learning is a teaching and learning that can occur in the internet
3. E-Learning is dynamic, it operates in a real time, in a collaborative way, individual, comprehensively (Greg Priest)

Particularly, the use of Internet for education in the developing countries grows very fast. This is a fact that by using internet, a teaching and learning process will possibly be more effective. Internet as a part of teaching and learning, should be able to support the communication process, interactively, between teacher and students as required by one teaching learning process as well. Supporting factors for using technology for a teaching and learning process:

1. Environment: the institution and community
2. Students: age, background, language literacy, learning behavior
3. Teacher: background, age, teaching-style, experience, personality
4. Technology: computer, software, network, connection to internet and various abilities needed relate to applying internet at school.


10 tips to effectively engage students:
1. Identify: gather information about the students we are teaching. What are their interest? how do they learn?

2. Collaborate: the educational process is a journey, think of how you can work with your students to create an open learning environment

3. Engage: ask questions and force students to think about the material

4. Apply: make sure the students realize the importance of what they are learning

5. Show weaknesses: we weren’t always an expert. Don’t forget that we are human and mistakes happen. If we act like we are smarter than our students, they will shut down and talk behind our back. Don’t limit the learning experience by dominating discussions

6. Be patient. It is our job to engage students and show them how to interact with the material

7. Use multiple learning styles. All students learn differently. It is important to use different methods during a course

8. Encourage: ask a lot from our students

9. Show our passion: students want to hear about our views and our stories

10. Check up on students: always be open to lighting their way and guiding them to a career

Another expert, Charles Davis states ten traits of successful teaching:

1. Teacher’s enthusiasm
2. Interaction
3. Clear goals
4. Flexibility
5. Accountability: open to students’ feedback
6. High Expectation
7. Clear Expectation
8. Generous Praise
9. Skill Orientation
10. Collaborative: a key component to creativity is collaboration

Teaching effectively: reaching the 21st Century student by Michael Gulledge:

1. Care about our students
2. Incorporate technology
3. Provide feedback
4. Try and give a roadmap for the semester
5. Don’t ban laptop or tablets
6. Give a real world experience
7. Encourage discussion
8. Have in-class workshops

Referring to the focus of this paper, teaching English by using internet, downloaded videos. The following are quotation from https://byotnetwork.com: Video within a lesson should be used purposefully and with short clips (less than a few minutes) to stimulate questions and critical thinking. Directions need to be clear, so that students can utilize critical thinking when solving problem. After students view video or another form of digital content, they should be encouraged to interact and collaborate with each other to construct new meanings from that information,

Another source of the use of technology to enhance English language teaching: https://web.wpi.edu/. Technology as a means of improving classroom engagement as well as giving students meaningful exposure to the English language outside of class. English is increasingly becoming a universal language. It is the dominant language of international business and communication, the official language of over 60 countries, and the third most common native language in the world.
(Crystal, 2003). To help students learn this valuable skill, English as a second language (ESL) courses have been adapted in many countries. Technology has been evolving rapidly over the past decade and, as such, it is beginning to play a role in the classroom with proper integration, technology could help improve student’s performance in the ESL classrooms. Technology can strengthen an approach in the current methods of teaching. We can claim that the knowledge practices of young people have drastically changed during the last decade although the educational practices have largely remained the same. Marc Prensky (2012) pointed out that today’s students are no longer people our educational system was designed to teach.

Some researchers suggest that media multitasking might in fact train the developing brain in a way that enhances attentional capabilities. Academic emotions are social in nature and emotional experiences are always situated in the immediate and broader social context. Teachers can influence their students’ emotions, although it may be difficult to make teachers change their instructional behavior in such a way that functional student emotions are fostered. Interest is an academic emotion that develops in the interaction between a person and the surrounding context. As such, instructions that activated prior knowledge, supported autonomy and a sense of control, and where the goals were transparent, were reported to promote interest. Interested students gained better course grade than the others.

As quoted from www.teachhub.com/technology-classroom-being-teacher-digital, Janelle Cox shared her opinion as follows:

Digital learning has the ability to motivate the unmotivated. As technology advances, teachers must advance with it. This means professional development courses become particularly important. Digital technology makes it possible for teachers to learn quicker and better. It has the ability to turn boring, non-innovative lessons into fun and engaging ones. One thing that everyone can agree upon is that a teacher’s role is changing and technology in the classroom is here to stay. As the world adapts into the digital era, teachers must follow. Today, teachers must learn how to adjust the educational technology but inside as well as outside of the classroom. Teachers are receiving text, e-mails, or short messages from concerned parents.

The integration of technology in the classroom has led to many new trends. For starters, some classrooms allow students to bring their tablets, while others allow students to use their smartphone to look up answers. As the digital world develops, the education system adapts. Being a teacher in the digital era means being flexible and being able to adapt to change.

The following are quotations from Tony Bates (wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/images/f/f3/teaching-in-a-digital-age-pdf). Knowledge involves two strongly inter-linked but different components: content and skills. Content includes facts, ideas, principles, evidence and descriptions of processes or procedures. The skills required in a knowledge society:

1. Communication skills
2. The ability to learn independently
3. Ethics and responsibility
4. Teamwork and flexibility
5. Thinking skills
6. Digital skills
7. Knowledge management: how to find, evaluate, analyze, apply and disseminate information, within a particular context. This is a skill that graduates will need to employ long after graduation.
About skills and skill development:
1. Skills development is relatively context-specific. In other words, these skills need to be embedded within a knowledge domain.
2. Learners need practice.
3. Skills are often best learned in relatively small steps, with steps increasing as mastery is approached.
4. Learners need feedback on a regular basis to learn skills quickly and effectively.
5. Skills development can be greatly enhanced with appropriate interventions, which means appropriate teaching methods and technologies for skills development.
6. Although content can be transmitted equally through a wide range of media, skills development is much more tied to specific approaches and technologies.

3. CONCLUSION

Universities are fundamentally about the creation, evaluation, maintenance and dissemination of knowledge. This role in society is even more important today than in the past. We expect our universities to operate at a higher level of thinking than we as individuals or corporation can do in our everyday lives. Academic knowledge is not the only kind of knowledge that is important in today’s society. As teachers we have to be aware of other forms of knowledge and their potential importance to our students and make sure that we are providing the full range of contents and skills needed for them in digital age.

Good teachers usually have methods and approaches that they can draw on, depending on the circumstances. Also teachers and instructors will differ over what constitutes good teaching, depending on their understanding of what knowledge is, what matters most in learning and their priorities in terms of desirable learning outcomes.


1. Sharing knowledge is more important than individual classroom competition.
2. The new technological developments have made some changes possible in the way we approach teaching and learning.
3. The setting in “the traditional classroom” doesn’t encourage communication and cooperation between students.
4. By using technology, now lectures can be recorded, didactic material is available online for students to watch/read/listen at home.
5. Learning in the digital Age can happen anytime and anywhere. No space or time boundaries. This means extending the process beyond the walls of the classroom and the cells of the timetable.
6. Across all subject areas, meaning making and knowledge representation are supported and enhanced today by digital production skills and technologies. Messages can be conveyed with different media.
7. In a discussion, not only teachers but students themselves are required to comment and give feedback on their classmate’s work.
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