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The Importance of using Language Labs in Teaching English as a Second Language

The modern educational climate is increasingly becoming dynamic and diverse. Unlike the ancient approaches used in facilitating the learning process, the modern learning process has evolved technology-wise, making it easier to impart information to learners. Language lab is the audio-visual installations often used in modern teaching approaches to learning foreign languages. The most recent language laboratories are referred to as multimedia computers. Two brands of this computerized technology exist: Computer-Assisted Language Laboratory and Web assisted Language Technology. The language laboratory gives learners a platform to enhance and perfect English knowledge and skills. Besides, the platform helps students practice the soft or effortless skills of learning English. This technology is used extensively in learning and imparting skills in English, especially to foreign learners who do not speak English as their first language.

Research by Suherdi, (68) shows that language laboratories offer exclusive result-oriented skills to enrich learning English. The multimedia form of the language laboratory helps enhance language proficiency by sharing various materials used in a specific course. In doing so, teachers and learners find it effortless to share the course materials making the learning process easy and efficient. Unlike the ancient that used to see art as a visual language, the language lab in modern times has superseded art's ability to learn the language. Language lab plays a significant role in imparting and learning the English language in a happy atmosphere and in a happy way.

Learning a foreign language lends itself naturally to the extensive application of social media. Language laboratories have slowly become the epitome of imparting and learning the English language, especially among international students. This paper examines the importance of language labs in teaching and learning English as a second language. Following this concept, the paper will examine the advantages and disadvantages of language in effective teaching and learning of the English language.

Importance of using Language Lab to Learn English as a Second Language

When using language laboratories, students' and teachers' efforts are crucial. Extensive multimedia use will be significant in learning the English language among international students because it makes the work easy for both students and teachers. Most software organizations with the knowledge and skills in teaching software often provide pure software based on language lab solutions. Through professional sound technology and a video broadcasting function, the language laboratory offers a rich and friendly environment to learn a language effectively. Unlike traditional teaching approaches, modern teaching methods like language plays a significant role in motivating learners and creating a positive attitude toward learning English as a second language. According to Alkamel et al. (32), modern digital technology helps create an interactive learning atmosphere for learners. Such an environment motivates learners to get ready to learn English effectively. Little effort in learning through the course materials is required. Effective language lab use minimizes the efforts individuals use in traditional classroom settings. The well-planned contents and practices play a crucial role in helping students to learn a language quickly. Even though the language is believed to be self-accessible, a language expert must be required for the process of teaching and learning to move smoothly. In multicultural nations like India, learners are taking taut try to learn English language proficiency. Thus, the

country requires a digital solution that will help facilitate learning English as a second language in a trouble-free way. Thus, choosing a language laboratory will help students learn English using minimal effort.

In this case, teaching and learning a foreign language, English, naturally lends itself to the broader media application. Language laboratories' content is much richer and self-authored because it applies digital visuals. This makes the insemination process from tutors to students quicker when compared to the use of traditional forms of teaching and learning. Examining how quickly knowledge and skills will be transferred using language makes it interesting for students to learn English as their second language. Often learners develop new experiences when learning in a different environment (Rao and Parupalli 12). Besides the traditional classroom, the language lab offers an alternative experience for students, which helps in motivating learners. Language learning has been confirmed to be the best approach teachers and students can use in English language lessons. This digital technology plays a meaningful role in learning spoken English. Language lab has been extensively used in modern society to effectively impart basic proficiency in spoken English.

The language lab is a solution and need during English language lessons. Learning through multimedia technologies enhances the quality and proficiency of the English language. The experience will be even better if tutors and instructors use digital and computerized language labs. There is a need for experts to teach tutors to understand how language lab is used. In turn, teachers and instructors will use digital and computerized language to impart English skills to international students interested in learning the language (Khansir et al., 735). Thus, a language laboratory is one of the surest modern approaches to learning languages like English as a second

language. The digital and computerized language laboratory has widely helped fulfill the demands of language educators and gives life to language for several learners globally.

The language laboratory is a very helpful digital and computerized tool for practicing and assessing speeches in any language. The technology provides a facility that allows learners to listen to model pronunciations. Listening to the pronunciations will help learners in perfecting their language. For instance, English learning can easily be enhanced by listening model pronunciations. After listening to the recorded audio and videos, English learners will easily pronounce based on what they hear from the material. Then learners will consistently record the pronunciations and compare them with the given model. In doing so, the students will easily achieve a lot in pronouncing various terms in English (Shi and Xiaoqin 65). Unlike in a traditional classroom where the pronunciations are taught with any record to be listened to later, the language lab technology helps in learning pronunciation skills rapidly and with minimal effort.

More often, language labs use more resources compared to traditional classrooms. Moreover, the digitalized tool employs a wide range of activities that motivate international students to learn English better. Language lab allows learners to practice languages, especially English, using various activities and exercises based on technological equipment like computers. Such technology takes place in a more structured and visually attractive manner, immersing learners in an English learning environment. This concept will, in turn, increase learners' potential to learn and use English (Çapan and Seyit 399). The students can watch and listen to videos recorded by language experts to try and mimic the pronunciation. Learners will easily improve their pronunciation by constantly listening to the video and audio materials of the course

while repeating after the voice. Also, learners will easily perfect their pronunciation skills given regular opportunities to interact with the language tool.

Therefore, learning English as a second language is essential since the language of tourism, diplomacy, computers, aviation, and science. As a result, a clear understanding of the language in question enhances individuals' chances of working in a multinational company. Additionally, it being a language of international communication through the internet and the media, understanding this language gives one the benefit of socializing and entertainment. Although English may not be the most spoken language globally, it is arguably the most common second language worldwide. Also, it has become the dominant business language in modern society, making it necessary for people to learn the language. Most companies have the English language mandated as the official corporate language. Arguably, most music, books, and films in the recent past have been produced and published in English. Consequently, learning English as a second language provides a vital wealth of entertainment and a powerful cultural understanding. Despite learning English being time consuming and challenging, it is a valuable language to learn as it has multiple advantages.

Pros of Language Lab

Language Lab is Practical.

More than theoretical learning English as a new language or any other language in traditional classrooms is required. The traditional form of learning English does not guarantee learners a successful and effective language learning experience. Language lab provides a positive experience that facilitates learners acquiring four primary language skills. The skills include listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Students learn comprehensively using recent digital technologies like language labs. Extensive manipulation and use of language lab facilitate

self-learning among students (Al-Jarf and Reima 74). Often a learner progresses is self-guided but progressive and structured training to achieve the ultimate objectives set by the educational institution. Language helps learners to reinforce course materials in the traditional classroom by putting them into practice through one-on-one interactive activities.

Students Learn Much Faster in the Language Lab.

Language lab helps learners to learn and grasp complex ideas and concepts through Interactive activities in the course. As opposed to regular or traditional classrooms, language lab enhances interactive learning, which helps in learning the contest faster and with minimum effort. The method of classroom language network employs progressive language models that help in promoting natural learning. In this case, students learn various concepts and ideas in the English language in an intuitive way (Shi and Xiaoqin 72). Thus, the language lab plays a crucial role in boosting and motivating English language use. In turn, the process helps learners to achieve higher goals in learning English as a second language.

Language Lab Increases the Alternatives to Focus on Verbal Tasks

Often face-to-face communication is a non-verbal form of communication. When learning English as a second language, one can easily focus on the verbal task without other distractions (Al-Jarf and Reima 75). In a lab situation, audios and videos help gain perfect verbal communication without necessarily attending traditional classes.

Language Lab helps Tutors and Instructors to Deliver Individualized Teaching.

During learning, teachers and instructors can monitor learners without their knowledge. They can correct mistakes without disturbing other students. This exercise will help teachers identify learners with extreme problems and dedicate more time to giving them individualized learning. In doing so, such learners will easily understand various concepts of English language

skills (Alkamel et al., 32). Thus, language lab plays significant to help tutors impart knowledge to all learners regardless of their academic status. The primary aim in such situations is to make all students are on the same line when learning English skills.

Language Lab Increases Time Spent on Speaking Practice

Unlike the theoretical learning approach in traditional classroom settings, language lab emphasizes more on practicality. Learners spent more time on pronunciation and sentence construction. The approach allows all students in a class to speak simultaneously and yet be audibly separated from one another. Compared to speaking one at a time, speaking simultaneously increases the time students practice speaking the English language. In traditional classrooms, a fifty-minute session of sixteen students gives an average of 2 to 3 minutes of lone speaking. On the other side, the simultaneous practice in a language lab allows one learner to speak for about 20 to 40 minutes (Al-Jarf and Reima) 76. Comparing the two approaches to learning English, language lab increases the time of practice and learning among international students learning English as a second language.

Language Lab have their Self-Evaluation

Using the course material audio and video clips, it is easy for English learning learners to assess their progress. Unlike a traditional classroom, digital classrooms employ language lab standards in a better position to help learners achieve more in their academic journey. Learners can often perform periodical self-evaluation to measure their progress while evaluating skills with that of the expert. In this situation, learners will find pleasure in comparing the extent they have learned English as their second language. Thus, language lab is the best tool foreign learners use in learning and evaluating the progress of the English language for some time. Learners will often mimic the sound of the expert in the process of moving towards perfection

(Shi and Xiaoqin) 45. It might be difficult for learners to quickly acquire English language skills if they do not assess their progress for some time. Generally, the perfection of language is achieved through continuous assessment, evaluation, and reevaluation of the whole process.

Language Lab is helpful to Teachers and Instructors

Technologies and innovations in the educational systems are predicted to replace teachers. As the world experiences rapid technological development, human labour is being increasingly demeaned. Despite the advantages and responsibilities of language learning, language lab supplements instructors and teachers without replacing them (Alkamel et al., 31). Therefore, in the presence of this digital language lab, teachers and tutors cannot be replaced because of the vital role they play in guiding learners to achieve objectives.

Language lab helps Reducing Distractions in Classrooms

The constant 'buzz' of everyone conversing in a normal classroom situation makes it challenging for learners to focus on what their fellow students say and understand. Especially when learners struggle to express their language and respond to peer questions, it becomes very difficult in a traditional classroom (Çapan and Seyit). Therefore, a language lab is the best solution for the problem because teachers and instructors can monitor the progress without necessarily disturbing other learners in a classroom.

Language Lab Creates Equal Opportunities for all Learners to See and Hear

In a language lab environment, all learners, regardless of their capabilities, have equal opportunities to hear the course material at the volume level set according to their personal needs and listening comfort. Also, no matter the location, learners are seated in the laboratory, they all have equal opportunities of viewing the video material conveniently on the computer screens rather than speculating on what happens in front of the lab (Lai Wah 659). Generally, all

students, regardless of their position, have equal opportunities to see and year the course material conveniently.

<div align="center">Cons of Language Lab</div>

Language Lab Cannot Work without Technology

Language laboratory indeed uses network and the internet to facilitate the learning process. Thus, with the availability of technology, language labs have become a useful idea for learning English. Because most technological devices use power, the absence of power is also a limitation for the language lab (Rao and Parupalli 12). Generally, networks and power can easily paralyze the learning process. Sometimes it is challenging to learn English sessions from the begging to the last point because power issues affect 100% delivery of the content.

It is Difficult to Maintain Language Lab

The instructors and teachers should always ensure the lab language equipment is kept safe and maintained properly. Since technological equipment is expensive, it is challenging to maintain them when they get spoiled. Lots of expenses are often incurred when maintaining the damaged language lab equipment (Al-Jarf and Reima 78). Besides, English teachers and lab attendants should always be alert to prevent students from handling the equipment more carelessly. All these processes make it difficult to maintain language lab equipment effectively.

Unorganized labs

Since there are many learners in the laboratories, teachers and instructors may need help arranging them to make them attend to all the learners. This kind of congestion makes the lab unorganized. The language lab is effective in practising and evaluating speech in various classrooms (Suherdi 72). It, therefore, enables learners to listen to pronunciations from experts

and speak for themselves in trying to reciprocate the same pronunciation. Operating in an unorganized lab may require more work to experience the influence of this learning tool.

Language Lab Requires Expertise or thorough Training.

Teachers and instructors should undergo thorough training to ensure they guide learners appropriately. Upon installation of the language lab, language teachers with little or no knowledge and skills in technology will be forced to acquire the skills before teaching using the tool (Çapan and Seyit). Given the nature of teaching languages, the teachers may first require assistants to help them with the technology as they plan to acquire the skills. Thus, this technological tool's abrupt installation may cause inconveniences for both teachers and students.

Highs Costs in Installing Language Lab

Often a language lab cannot accommodate more than twenty learners. Building language laboratories that accommodate the vast number of learners in the modern education system can be challenging because of the high installation cost. Thus, it has become challenging to fully use this tool in teaching English in several nations worldwide. Resourceful countries like the United States of America have tried to install the labs, but they have yet to reach standardized levels (Lai Wah 676). Overall, learning the English language each day is becoming easier with digital materials such as language labs.

Language Lab Undergoes Constant Upgrades

Because the fact that language lab is computer-driven, constant upgrades are expected. Sometimes the systems will start upgrading in the midst or begging of lessons. The upgrading processes make it difficult for the classes to continue. Thus, in some classes, the tutors and instructors may be forced to stop on the way because of a system upgrade. Such processes affect student learning behaviour by a certain percentage. Some slow learners will tend to forget

everything learned in some lessons forcing teachers and instructors to repeat the whole content of the lessons.

<h2 style="text-align:center">How to Improve Language Lab Difficulties?</h2>

The language lab is one of the resourceful tools available in language learning. The tool's principle allows learners to engage in verbal communication to learn to speak a foreign language effectively. Since its establishment, the language lab has significantly contributed to learning the English language away from traditional classrooms. The primary premise has not changed since the first language labs were established (Khansir et al., 735). However, the rapid change in technology has significantly affected the language lab. One notable change is that the learning resource type no longer has to be based in a specific location. Having in place some approaches to improve the workability of the tool will help a great deal. The following are some ways language can be improved to meet modern standards.

First, in improving language labs, it is crucial to make resources available all the time. One of the primary reasons individuals choose to study language online is the availability of specialized and flexible multimedia courses. Flexibility gives students opportunities to study the language alongside their job responsibilities. Language lab resources that are often available all time help increase the flexibility between learning and commitments. Language labs should always be available by ensuring they can be accessed via the cloud. Secondly, schools should ensure instant feedback on the available language lab to improve the language lab (Rao and Parupalli 12). In the first language, instructors and teachers should sit in a classroom with learners and listen using a wired analogue-based tape deck system. The teachers will then listen to learners' pronunciation skills by turning to students' channels. In modern times, assessment and feedback work differently within a language lab. These tools will significantly benefit

learners in the presence of an instructor. Modern language labs are often run by sophisticated technology, not tape decks. The technology offers instant feedback on the recorded information. In turn, learners can immediately assess their language learning progress.

In conclusion, since their establishment, language labs have been crucial in learning languages, especially English. This computerized technology has shown tremendous significance in the institutions that have extensively used it. From the discussion, language lab has several advantages than advantages. Its broad applications in learning the English language are a motive to learners. Besides, the technology flexibility helps give a long-term solution to people with busy schedules. Availing of the services in online platforms makes it easy for individuals to learn while working. Generally, language labs represent the single largest instalment of audio and video course materials for learning English as a second language among foreign learners. Therefore, now computerized equipment fulfils all the needs of educators and learning. On the same note, learners can learn English faster than when using traditional classrooms.

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