COMPUTER-ASSISTED LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Information and communication technology has been used in almost all fields of life, including in education. Computers play significant role in the learning process, they facilitates people in learning a language. But the effectiveness of educational technology depends on how it is used to meet educational goals for particular kinds of students in specific language learning environments.

Computer-assisted language learning is an approach to teaching and learning in which the computer and computer-based resources are used to present, reinforce and assess material to be learned. It usually includes a substantial interactive element, the search for and the investigation of applications in language teaching and learning. Computer-assisted language learning refers to any process in which the learner uses a computer to improve foreign language competence. The technology includes not only computers but also smart phones, tablets, MP3 players, and consoles.

The reasons for using computer-assisted language learning are the following: computers can do some of the work of the teacher and provide great assistance to the learner even without the presence of the teacher; technologies allow computers to do multimedia applications, incorporating video, sound and text, and this capacity allows the learner to interact with both the program and other learners; computers offer great flexibility for class scheduling and pacing of individual learning, choosing activities and content to suit individual learning styles; computers can provide communicative learning environment, which serves the purposes of communicative language teaching.

The technologies used in computer-assisted language learning instruction generally fall into two categories: software and Internet-based activities. Software used in a computer-assisted language learning environment can be designed specifically for foreign language learning or adapted for this purpose. Internet

activities vary from online versions of software where the learner interacts with a networked computer and computer-mediated communication where the learner interacts with other people via the computer, to applications that combine these two elements. There are a wide range of specific tools and teaching aids which offer computer-assisted language learning.

The processes and outcomes of computer-assisted language learning depend upon the way it is used in teaching. Two different types of computer-assisted language learning can be distinguished for learning foreign languages. In the first, computer-assisted language learning enhances traditional foreign language teaching and learning, making it quicker, easier, and more efficient. In the second type, computer-assisted language learning offers innovative ways of teaching and learning which are expected to improve learners' competences more than traditional methods. Computer-assisted language learning used for innovative teaching tends to have the following characteristics: amalgamates a high degree of interactivity between a computer and a learner; aims at accomplishing relatively more creative tasks; makes possible the fulfillment of highly complex tasks. The processes and outcomes of computer-assisted language learning also depend upon the form of interaction with the learner. There are three types of interaction: interaction between the learner and the content being learned; interaction between the learner and the instructor; and interaction between learners.

Online audio and visual multimedia resources can be accessed by students outside the classroom which extends learning time and provides opportunities for practice. They promote interest and motivation in foreign languages.

Learners enjoy using technology in foreign language learning and that they prefer using technology over more traditional methods and materials. Because of technology, learners tend to be more engaged in the process of learning, and have a more positive attitude towards learning. In particular, students perceive the use of computers as an innovative and attractive learning method.

Computer-assisted language learning can reduce learner anxiety by providing a non-judgmental, independent learning environment. This form of teaching has a

positive effect on student motivation, particularly as anonymity is preserved, students feel less pressured and they enjoy the learning experience.

Providing computer-assisted language learning options in language learning helps those students who have strong technical or IT skills to succeed in their language courses, which may not have been possible if traditional teaching approaches were the only option available.

The effective use of computer-assisted language learning depends on teachers' ability to understand and integrate the use of the applications in their curricula. The use of technology inside or outside the classroom tends to make the class more interesting.

Computer-assisted language learning has important potential for English language teaching. If used properly with clear educational objectives, it can interest and motivate learners of English. However, such learning will never replace the teacher.

БИБЛИОГРАФИЯ

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