Technological support in language learning and teaching

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Abstract - **Technology in the classroom within educational centers is the present of education. The use of new technology in language learning has become the perfect complement in reaching proficiency and fluency, English or Georgian course accompanied by technological support are the most effective and attractive for students who want to be successful in their learning.This paper aims to highlight the role of using modern technology in teaching English or Georgian. It discusses different approaches and techniques which can assist English or Georgian languages learning students to improve their learning skills by using technology. Among these techniques are online English and Georgian languages learning web sites, computer assisted language learning programs, presentation software, electronic/on-line dictionaries, listening CD-players, and learning by watching and listening to videos/films.**

Keywords: Educational technology, computer aided education, modern language teaching tools.

Introduction. The era where computers rule the world is here**.** Just as **technology** plays a major key role in business relations, entertainment, music, movies, and almost every aspect of our everyday lives, it plays an equally important role in education**.** Studies have shown that 90% of students have access to some type of computer or mobile device – whether at school, at work, or at home. So, it's not surprising to see the evolution of classrooms and teaching methods gravitating in the direction of technology.

New, technology-integrated classroom systems have become popular for language learning in the recent years. Blended learning**,** virtual classrooms**,** and learning management systems are all examples of this new era of teaching methodology. These methods incorporate the use of technology in language learning to strengthen learner engagement**,** facilitate the instructor's role, and provide a structured, comprehensive learning experience for everyone involved.

Language learning is a complex and challenging endeavor. For students to achieve the desired proficiency in a foreign language, their institutions need to invest time, effort and huge resources in order to cater for different learning styles. To be cost effective, language-teaching institutions strive to provide intensive foreign language (FL) instruction to reduce the time period needed to learn the target language. This explains the keen interest in combining different methodologies with instructional technologies that promise to motivate learners and to respond effectively to their needs.

It is well known that our new life is highly affected by the era of information technology, and educational technology plays an important role in today's human society development.

Educational technology today is advantageous for teachers in so many ways. Traditional education is not so efficient anymore and teachers need to motivate their students more than ever when presenting any material in the classroom. Books are taking a back seat and new technology means that classes can be much richer in content and more participative than before. The use of technology as much in the classroom as outside it makes the students feel much more motivated, using devices with which they can practice a language through features such as voice recognition and interactive multimedia exercises etc. For young students it's much more stimulating to learn with a tablet or smartphone than with a traditional textbook and its practice

exercises. Technology in language learning transforms students from passive recipients to active learners and allows more profound and enriching linguistic immersion. Students can study their English course using a variety of comprehensive apps which are able to synchronize even without the internet.

Based on this fact, it is essential to take advantage of the modern technological facilities in aiding the task of English and Georgian languages education. Students are trying to learn English or Georgian as a second language need further language support. They need to practice in hearing language, reading language, speaking language, and writing language in order to develop their experience and skills. For doing such tasks, they are in need of using various tools which can help them learn the language easily and effectively.

Educational technology today is advantageous for teachers in so many ways. Traditional education is not so efficient anymore and teachers need to motivate their students more than ever when presenting any material in the classroom, technology means that classes can be much richer in content and more participative than before. Educational technology includes communication techniques for language teaching in which the personal computer plays a central role. There are, however, other technological tools that can be utilized in language learning besides computers. Each technological tool has its specific benefits and application with one of the four language parts (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). However, in order to use these techniques successfully, students should be familiar with using computers and internet, and capable of interacting with these techniques. In addition to the instructor's role, the role of the instructor together with the role of the technology can lead to advanced learning results. When technology is integrated into lessons, students are expected to be more interested in the subjects they are studying. Technology provides different opportunities to make learning more fun and enjoyable in terms of teaching same things in new ways. No one learns in the same way because of different learning styles and different abilities. Technology provides great opportunities for making learning more effective for everyone with different needs. For example, students learning English or Georgian can learn at their own speed, review difficult concepts or skip ahead if they need to. What is more, technology can provide more opportunities for struggling or disabled students. Access to the Internet gives them access to a broad range of resources to conduct research in different ways, which in turn can increase the engagement. The use of computers

in English or Georgian language classroom is useful for both teachers and learners. Currently, there are numerous software application programs available such as vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation programs, spelling check utilities, electronic workbooks, reading and writing programs, and different learning packages to assist instructors in creating tutorial exercises to enhance their English language courses. When we learn a language, there are four skills that we need for complete communication.

By language skills, we mean the development of the main parts or elements of the language which are speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Each language subject or area has different educational tools that are likely suited with it. The use of several technical tools has a significant effect on the learning process of each area of the language, for example English language skills are classified as input skills and output skills as shown in Figure 1.
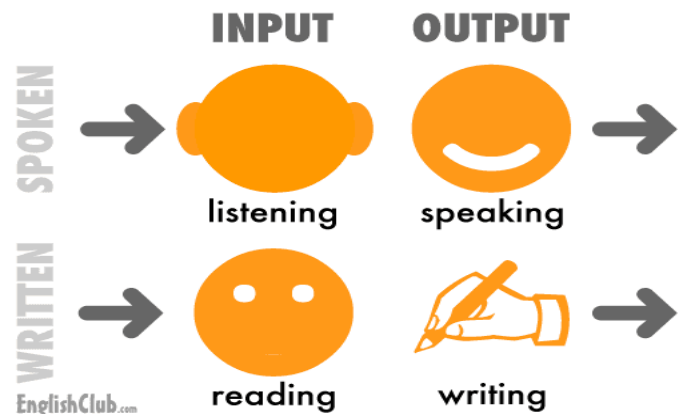

Figure 1.Classification of English language skills.

The four language skills are related to each other in two ways: the direction of communication (in or out), the method of communication (spoken or written).

Using technology with each of the language skills.

Listening/Use of Computers. Listening is defined as the process of identifying and understanding the speech of the speakers. It involves understanding the speaker's accent or pronunciation, speaker's grammar and vocabulary, and comprehension of meaning. The listener should be capable of doing these four things at the same time. Therefore, listening is very important in the process of second language education. Listening is considered as a principal language skill. Through

listening people can acquire a large portion of their education, their information, their ideas, and their understanding of the world. As an input skill, listening plays a vital role in student's language development. The use of computers in listening problems provides students with visual and voice inputs which can enhance their information and ideas, and develop their listening skills. Computer-based listening tests are very important in reinforcing the understanding skills of the listener. CD-ROM based learning films can also provide significant advantages over the traditional methods. Finally, Internet voice chatting using the second language may also aid the communication capabilities of the students. The use of CD-player device, video, DVD is also a useful source for listening practice that catches students' imaginations. Using short and feature-length videos is an engaging way to work on skills like vocabulary and comprehension. Videos help to expose students to the use of natural English, to describe or re-tell what they have seen [3].

Reading. Use of Computer Reading-Based Programs. Reading is the process of understanding a written text by the learner. During the reading process, the English or Georgian language learner can improve his vocabulary and terms, acquire new information and ideas, and enhance his real-world knowledge. Computers can raise the interest of reading for learners by the use of simple and easy way to understand text.

Reading-based computer programs can be used to improve the word vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension of the students. This also can enable students to increase their interaction with texts, pay their attention to individual needs. Computers can perform several tasks simultaneously and run programs at a very high speed, computer programs can check exercises after they are performed by students, move them gradually from easy to more difficult problems according to their abilities. Computers can also be used to correct answers and computer programs can increase the motivation for learners to develop their vocabulary and reading skills. Browsing the Internet is certainly a modern technological way for students to develop their language learning skills. There are also a huge number of resources available in the form of newspapers, magazines, journals, electronic libraries, dictionaries, encyclopedias. Browsing these resources and sites will obviously enhance the learner's vocabulary and reading ability. Another modern way for improving the vocabulary of the learner focuses on the utilization of on-line dictionaries designed specifically for English

language learners. These on-line dictionaries are also easy to use and represent quick tools for vocabulary acquisition [4].

Speaking. Speaking is one of the skills that have to be mastered by students in learning English or Georgian language. Speaking is an essential tool for communicating. In the classroom, improving the speaking abilities of students have always been a concern. In the fast developing 21st century various innovative technologies are being introduced to teach speaking skill in the classrooms. Internet, podcasts, video conferencing, videos and speech recognition software are considered the best tools for teaching speaking skill. Over the internet, students can find a lot of learning materials, for instance, audio, video, radio and TV shows, games, voice recordings, quizzes, podcasts and so on , in this way, students get exposed to a great amount of target language and this help them develop their speaking skills. To improve speaking, students can use Skype, MSM Messenger, Google talk (used to have conferences on line) and other applications where students can connect with friends, other students, teachers and even native speakers, these ways of learning have been observed to improve oral proficiency.

Writing. Use of Computers. To write clearly it is essential to understand the basic system of a language. This includes knowledge of grammar, punctuation and sentence structure. Vocabulary is also necessary, as is correct spelling and formatting. The writing process can be very difficult for learners of languages as they must do tasks like generating ideas, organization, and perfect use of grammar and vocabulary. Some of the technical ways for improving the writing skills for the students are listed below, paragraphs in a foreign language can be very challenging for the students.

However, the use of computers and graphics-based programs can make the writing task much easier and enjoyable, and can make them express their thoughts more clearly. Grammar skills can also be improved with the aid of word processing programs. The learner can highlight a specific part of the written text through underlining, bolding, italicizing, or changing the font size and color of the text with the aid of these programs which have the capability of automatically checking the spelling and grammar. So, the use of the computer as a tool in studying grammar is much more motivating for the student than the process of traditional writing with a paper and a pen. Electronic mail is a modern way for writing and transferring messages through the internet. Using e-mail can bea very effective means for improving

writing skills. Students can use E-mails to learn how to respond to the incoming messages using some formal statements and meaningful language. Text chatting is another important technical method for developing writing ability. It provides an on-line and quick tool for writing and expressing thoughts, transferring ideas and opinions .

In conclusion, we may say that Educational technology is indivisible part of education in the twenty-first century. When used correctly in the classroom, technology can allow students to experience situations and circumstances that the students of 20 years ago could only dream about. Through technology, books and figures can suddenly become alive and applicable to the real world. In addition, information technology provides an even greater avenue for interaction between teacher and students. At the lessons different videos, exercises, games, listening may be done. Educational technology makes learning English or Georgian available to a wider range of learners as well, and using technology in learning has become a real necessity nowadays. This paper has reviewed briefly how technology can be utilized in developing English or Georgian language skills of the learners [5]. Different methods for using technology in improving language skills were discussed. The computer is being viewed more as an integral part of the learning activity, and as a means by which skills are transferred to learners. English or Georgian language teachers should encourage their students to use technology in developing their skills. Modern technological tools are much more interesting and provide fun and enjoyable learning, motivating the students and help them to enhance their language learning in a fruitful way.

In conclusion, we may say that the use of new technology allows students to be much more creative and participative in the classroom**.** They prepare a basis of knowledge outside the classroom engaging with all the content in the course, when they arrive to the classroom they share this knowledge with the rest of the students and the teacher to demonstrate what they have learnt and reinforce it in a coordinated way.

Educational technology allows students to be much better prepared for class, and provides teachers with attractive resources to make their classes much more human and sociable, where all students have the opportunity to participate regardless of their level.

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The educational sector is no exception here, technology has been exponentially beneficial for language learning and development. From making language courses available to the whole world to bridging the gap in student-teacher language communication, we have technology to thank for the innovative developments that led to a better learning process for all.

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