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**Acquisition of English Language through Language Laboratories- A
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Abstract

In this world of gizmos, technology is fast growing and the world is witnessing many Innovative explorations. Today's world doesn't need people who confined themselves to their own territory, but the people who can excel globally well. To do so one must have gained expertise in the language predominantly spoken in the world. It is a well-known fact that English is the language which is chiefly spoken throughout the world and the fact of the matter is one who gains mastery over English language can conquer the world. The need of the hour is to have a system of Education where students of the nation should be provided with the opportunity of learning English language irrespective of the part of the Nation that he/she hails from. Meeting unending demands of people the Educational Boards have refurbished the whole systems and have embarked upon the idea of introducing the Language Labs in Schools and Colleges. The advent of such language Laboratories has yielded tremendous results in making the students learn English Language very effectively. A Language laboratory is commonly christened "Lab" is destined for the purpose of dealing with the aspects language learning. A Lab is a setting with a particular set-up and runs under the supervision of trained language experts. A language dealing institution which is dearth of lab facilities provide boredom and monotony to the learners and deprive them the opportunity of Language Learning situations. In the absence of such labs the learners will find themselves detached from the world of interest and creativity. In a language laboratory the students have the access to audio, video, multi-media and Internet facilities. For students attending a language lab is retreat from traditional class rooms, Hence the students find it interesting. This paper explains how a Language Laboratory helps in enhancing English language skills and the methodologies adopted to give further impetus in making a student more proficient in speaking English Language.

Key Words: Language Laboratory, Technology, Audio and Video, Multi-media

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Introduction:

Communication skills play a pivotal role in the fields of education, business and technology. Good communication is one of the demanded skills which everyone is craved after. The ability of an individual to communicate effectively, listen carefully, speak clearly make others feel at ease. English language has become the need of the hour in all walks of life due to the pertinent strides made in globalization. It needs a lot of efforts and incessant hard work as well as dedication to learn a language. When we talk about learning a language four skills namely listening, speaking, reading and writing come to the foray. In this technological era, Language lab plays a predominant role in the acquisition of language in a swift manner. This paper sheds light on the significance and uses of language lab in learning language to the fullest core. Since it is a technological aid, it augments an opportunity to learn and inculcate a positive attitude among the young minds to make use of the technology to learn the language with a lot of interest.

Need for a language lab

Language lab is an audio – visual set up which facilitates the students to have access to technology and in turn help the learners to learn the language at a greater speed. The language lab is a technological aid for imparting skills in English. It offers an exclusive result and efficiency to enrich the language. It is developed in view of acquiring all four skills. Language lab is an asset and can act as an effective aid.

The aspect of phonetics is an auditory learning programme where the direct sound transmission helps in acquiring the pronunciation. Since the language lab is equipped with such a facility where the learners are made to repeat and recite the speech sounds following the lip movements and diction of the speaker , the learner over a period of time gains the fluency of a native speaker.

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Language lab promotes listening comprehension skill as it is a self-pacing learning where an individual gets motivated to learn and comprehend the accent and diction a native speaker. Students have the privilege to record their own voice and replay the recording and will be able to gauge the standard of their language.

The conduct of group discussion activities paves a platform to the youngsters to enhance their interpersonal skills. The amazing feature of the language lab is that it acts as a tool in shaping and molding students to turn into a skilled person.

It also helps to improve the listening skill, building vocabulary and presentation skills. The conduct of presentation skills in the laboratory is proved to yield tremendous results. Presentation skills boost the morale of a learner to speak in a flawless manner and also embolden the learner to deliver the presentation on a given topic with a lot of precision and accuracy. It also enables the learners shed inhibitions and apprehensions about the clarity of thought and fluency of language.

Activities such as Telephonic conversations and role-plays will help learners how to converse with people in day-today transactions. It is a simulative kind of thing , where students are made to get into the shoes of character of a given situation and will be enacting the role in front of his/her peers. Such activities will obliterate the fear gripped situations and strengthen the grit of the learner to communicate with the other learner without any follies.

In addition, soft wares available in the language lab assist learners in the acquisition and improvisation of oral and written proficiency whereby the grammar elements which are considered to be the most significant part of sentence construction can be learnt concurrently. There are many kinds of labs which are used to assist learners in different aspects. Most common types of language lab are conversation lab, lingua-phone, Computer assisted language lab and Multimedia hi-tech language lab. The language lab provides broadcasting, web – assisted materials and videotaped off-air recordings in the target language. Thus, the language lab has

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become the need of the hour in language learning. It is not only for English but also for learning any language.

The Tenets of a Language Lab

Language is the medium of communication. Communication implies carrying of message or receiving of message. The students of various cultures, it means rural and urban students feel it hard to learn English proficiently as English is a second language for both of them. The language lab is a technological break for imparting skills in English. The English language lab offers an exclusive result orientation and is effective to enrich the English language learning process.

The quality of the language proficiency will be more when they learn it from the multimedia, digital and computerized language lab as in the present century English has gained a prominent position. It is compulsorily used in all most all fields of study. English language enables people to know what's happening in and around the world. The Language Laboratory is an audio-visual installation used in modern teaching methods to learn the foreign languages.

The language lab is developed on the methodology of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (LSRW) skills. The language lab provides a rich environment to learn the language and a new outlook for the students to support themselves at the onset. The language lab plays a key role to learn the foreign language in a pleasant and comfortable environment and in a successful way. Both the students and the teacher's inputs are very important in this two-way kind of learning activity.

The bounden duty of the learners is that they learn the language very quickly though the language learning lab and should believe it as self-learning accessible kit. The language lab plays a pivotal role in learning the basic proficiency in spoken English and is imparted to students through language lab.

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Computer Assisted Language Learning (Call) Lab:

CALL labs are meant for making students learn the speaking skills. The accurate pronunciation of words would be possible only when a person gains expertise in phonetics. With the advent of CALL lab a learner gets acquaintance with the speech sounds of phonetics and develops a very good diction, accent and pronunciation. Learning of aspects such as stress and intonation make the learner an effective presenter.

The objectives of the Computer Assisted Language Learning Lab (CALL) are,

- Work towards better pronunciation.
- To study systematically all the English speech sounds.
- Understand Body Language (Non-Verbal Behavior Interpretation).
- Listening comprehension activities
- Word Accent, Intonation and stress

Interactive Communication Skills (ICS) Lab:

ICS labs enable the learner to participate in a group and also escalate the qualities of influencing the group in a team environment. Such activities not only expedite language learning skills but also leadership qualities among the students. Individual and team presentation activities bolster the confidence of the students to present the topics with utmost clarity and expression.

The objectives of Interactive Communication Skills (ICS) Lab are,

- Participate in Group Discussions
- JAM sessions

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- Presentation skills
- Interview skills
- Role-plays
- Public speaking
- Telephonic conversations
- Public speaking

Utilization of Language Learning Laboratory English labs are made compulsory for U.G. students in many universities. In recent years the role of English lab has become very important in integrating the skills of students (with soft skills or life skills) with a lot of language practice through activity based learning in schools and colleges.

To consider multimedia lab, it is largely based on “Learning by doing method” facilitated with self-learning materials. The learners are immensely benefitted through this multimedia lab. Typically the follow-up would be required for good communication skills in this lab and the ability to comprehend all the Information that is provided. It enables the learners to polish and refine their ability in articulating speech sounds with proper accent from the prescribed software modules. While learning the learners are expected to prepare notes in order to excel in future endeavors. To consider interactive lab as an essential component that provides ample opportunities for learners with great exposure for participating in the activities to develop communication skills in both individual and groups.

Conclusion

To conclude, language lab offers facilities where students listen, comprehend and there by nourish their speaking skill also. Since, language lab provides learners a chance of selflearning according to their own comprehending level and flexible time to learn. As a result, it can be said that, language lab can be used consciously and in a planned way as it would definitely make enumerable significant contributions to the comprehensive language learning. Hence, Language

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lab is an indispensable tool for every English teachers where materials and lessons prepared once can be utilized all the time. If the value of using the language lab is experienced with the clear objective for mastering the language, one can certainly be unique in their communication which is the key for a successful and prosperous career.

Many of the students in the districts are from rural areas and their medium of Instruction is not English from the beginning. During student days, the students need to acquire communication skills as it is essential for them to obtain a professional career. Normally rural areas students from Telugu medium background have apprehension or phobia of learning communication skills. Through ELCS Labs the communication competence can be enhanced by taking certain measures. A few of the problems that rural area students face while acquiring communication skill is that the students have been suffering from negative attitudes towards learning communication skills, lack of interest to learn, lack of motivation, apprehensions about communication, lack of awareness for the need of learning and many other physical and psychological barriers.

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