

## ENRICHING LISTENING SKILL WITH TECHNOLOGY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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### Abstract

English language learning can be improved even out of the classroom with the aid of technology. English Language has four skills namely LSRW which makes the ESL learner to comprehend and to produce the language in a proper way. Among all skills, listening skill is the foundation for developing other skills in the language. The word technology is not contributed for machinery works, in the current scenario it's become integral part of the education. Especially it aids more in English language learning. Technology has great impact in improving the listening skill by providing real-world experiences and practices while learning. So this paper aims to discuss the all possibilities for acquiring and enhancing the listening skill even outside the class room through technology.

**Keywords:** ESL- English as a Second Language, LSRW - Listening, Speaking, Reading and writing

“Listening is the first mode children typically acquire, it provides the foundation for all other language abilities” (Asha,2009, Hylop &Tone ,1989).

English Language has four skills namely Listening, Speaking, Reading and writing. Listening skill is the basic of language learning, through listening your brine naturally aids to learn the language so it's important to identify the struggle in regarding to improving the skill. This paper aim to focus on the idea of using technology in developing the listening skill even outside the classroom. The common problems with the ESL learner is not to be excellence in listening skill because of the regular classroom does not provide the real – world situations and experiences.

In the recent days' technology has been emerged into the language learning to provide the practice in a progressive method. To develop the listening skill learner should understand the differences between hearing and listening. Hearing is a passive process while

listening involves active-thinking. Simply hearing is to perceiving the sound alone and listening involves active thinking to comprehend the idea.

For the ESL learners listening skill is considered as the basic for producing the communication in the language. Most of the ESL learners studying the same topic and following the same learning methodology so there are many chances for not acquiring the skill effectively. Sometimes instructor's accent makes it difficult to understand the idea and not getting the outcome as like the other learners. Some learners may need more time to practice and learn the process that suggested by the instructor. To avoid these struggles, instructors can also make use of the technology to aid the student for learning in an enjoyable way.

Adopting different strategies for improving the listening skill will aid the learner to acquire the skill very quickly. As well there some sub-skills are involved with the listening skill. To reinforce the skill, a learner must also work upon these key points listed below.

- Guessing the unfamiliar word meaning contextually.
- Listening for key words.
- Identifying abbreviations for common words.
- Identifying why the information presented for?
- Listening for main idea.
- Understanding distinct sound.
- Thinking about what the information means.

These are the basic key points to be developed while acquiring the skill. Technology plays an important role in learning the language. It has numerous ways in its approach to education like, Language applications, programs and other tools which aids the learner to access the study material and native speaker accent to learn and practice. So its best choice for the ESL learner instead of studying only from the classroom, they can explore more practices over the internet.

In the current scenario easy access for technology by the mode of internet websites, laptops, mobile phones and other communicative tools. Mobile phone application has many potentials to help the ESL learner also its makes them to learn in an enjoyable way. Mobile learning's can be accessed easily from anywhere and anytime and it's really aiding tool when properly used. There are so many applications introduced day by day like pronunciation checker, language learning software and exercise based applications to explain the learner with the multimedia files. Mobile learning helps the learner in a different way to improve the listening skill as they can do pronunciation practices, vocabulary building and understanding the distinct sounds from the native speakers on educational and social settings.

Laptops and mobile phones considerably does the same process in acquiring the skill in a fun filled way as its allows the learner to practice outside the classroom with privacy. There are so many websites available for ESL learners, they offer video conferences with the native speakers and making interactive sessions to listen to them and to respond them. This kind of approaches entirely different from the traditional classroom. There are many approaches and methodology are available over the internet so it's easy for the learner to find one method which is best for them.

Listening is difficult skill to be acquired in the learning process; it needs more practices and activities to strengthen it. Other modes like Podcasts and YouTube are offering wealthy study materials and audios to acquire the skill. It's not only enriching the listening skill also helps to improve the speaking skill. These medium will definitely make the learner to get interested with the lesson topics even outside the classroom.

Other possible ways to improve the listening skills includes watching TV like English program, movies when a ESL learner listen to such shows can able to figure out the situation if not still there is a chance to pause the video and think about the situation to understand it. So learners do not always rely on the instructor and to the classroom setting.

As ESL learner, while learning the skill they need to understand that the first language has so much potential in acquiring the second language so while listening to the English language interpret with the first language to get the main idea. Because listening is the primary skill which aids to learn the language. Listening needs active mind in order to understand the knowledge and to comprehend the meaning and its helps to develop other sequence skills.

Developing listening skill is not easy task until making effort to practice it. In present days' formal education systems includes technology as part of the learning process. ESL instructor can avail the possible methods to strengthen the learners listening ability and also must motivate the learners to make use of it. Mobile apps, websites or podcasts does not require any special skills to use it. So easy to access and brings the real life situation to the learner.

Technology stimulating the learners to engage in the real-world situation as well provides chances for the learner's privacy and opportunity to practice skill even from the basic level. And the world technology is not something wrong or taken it in a negative way so teachers also can motivate the learner to make use of it in proper way. There is nothing to fear about the internet world. As present scenario internet flat forms provide more and more educational content to the all level of ESL learner.

Listening is the primary skill when it comes to language learning and which needs active listening from the listener. So to enhance the listening skill in English language is to do more practice even outside the classroom with help of technology and necessarily to listen to the different native speakers' accent in order to comprehend the idea.

#### References

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