# ROLE OF E-DICTIONARY IN CLASSROOM TEACHING

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**ABSTRACT---**Electronic dictionary is a dictionary of digital form which can be used to access any number of words or lexemes. It can also be said as the dictionary in the digital form. At present, there are different types of dictionaries which can be downloaded in the smartphones or tablets as apps. And these apps can be used in the classrooms during teaching hours. Classroom is a room where usually teaching and learning takes place. Classrooms are set up in all kinds of educational institutions such as training institutes, schools, colleges and universities. Usually classrooms are closed rooms to avoid outside distractions which interrupt the teaching or learning processes. In the technological era, classrooms have white board or LED screens, markers, e-books, teaching pads, etc. It is also equipped with all the facilities like fan, air condition, chair, table, writing pads, micro phone, speaker, etc. Classroom consists of lecture and discussion. The lecture can include text based teaching, images, audio visual, slides, etc. in the classroom. Discussion is the process of talking about some subject matter usually in order to reach a decision or to exchange thoughts. Students can be given opportunity to discuss on a particular topic which is very much related to that day's lecture or lesson. During the lecture and discussion, the teachers and students have to use dictionary for unrelated words, new words, technical words, etc. For this purpose, electronic dictionary termed as e-dictionary can be used in the classroom. This article tries to trace out the role of electronic dictionaries in classroom teaching.

**Keywords---**electronic dictionary, classroom, teaching, lecture, discussion

## I. INTRODUCTION

The world has shrunk because of the technology. Worldwide people are aware of technology and started to use everywhere. The use of technology can be seen in markets, organizations, institutions, etc. After the introduction of multimedia in technology there was a tremendous change in the field of education, in particular. This change made the teaching and learning processes ease. Both the teachers and students are the benefiters and started using in the classrooms (5).

Classroom is a room where usually teaching and learning takes place. Classrooms are set up for teachers and students. In such classroom, the teachers and students started to use electronic or digital dictionary a decade back. This paved the way to understand the meanings and concepts introduced in the classroom in ease. Electronic dictionary is a digital form of dictionary which can be used to access any number of words or lexemes (7). At present, there are different types of dictionaries which can be downloaded in the smartphones or tablets as apps. And these apps can be used in the classrooms during teaching hours.

**The purpose of the study:** to trace out the role of electronic dictionaries in classroom teaching

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## II.   CLASSROOM

Classroom is a room or place where teaching and learning takes place at a time. According to Braff (2009) 'classroom is a large surface in which instructors and students share their ideas through notes, and experiences with others'. Classrooms are found in all kinds of educational institutions such as training institutes or organizations, schools, colleges and universities (14). Usually classrooms are closed rooms in order to avoid outside distractions which interrupts the teaching or learning processes. But still open air classrooms are found in some countries. It can have an intake from small group of 2 or 3 to big group of more than 100's of students. Classroom is an effective place for learning as well as teaching. It can be mentioned that students start thinking from classroom. Traditionally, classrooms have blackboard or white board, markers, chalks, books, references, dictionaries, etc. It is also equipped with all the facilities like fan, air condition, chair, table, writing pads, micro phone, speaker, etc.

## III.   TEACHING IN CLASSROOMS

As mentioned earlier, classroom is place where teachers and students have a nice time. Classroom teaching or learning is based upon three important aspects. They are, lectures, tutorials and discussions.

Lecture is an educational talk to the students in a university or college or any higher educational institutions (3, 6). Usually students in a classroom will be from different backgrounds and have different expectations and awareness. Hence the lectures should include text based teaching, images, audio visual, slides, etc. in the classroom. All the lectures should be prepared for teaching sessions. Handouts can be prepared from the lectures. Furthermore, lectures should be based on the curriculum and the teaching and learning methods.

Tutorial is an instruction given by a lecturer to the university or college students in individual or a group. In a classroom teaching situation, tutorial is must. It can be given to the average and weak students separately. Discussion is the process of talking about some subject matter usually in order to reach a decision or to exchange thoughts. Students can be given opportunity to discuss on a particular topic which is very much related to that day's lecture or lesson.

## IV.   TECHNOLOGY

Technology is one of the inventions in the world. The word 'technology' is derived from the ancient language, Greek. According to Greek language, this word has two parts such as techne and logia. In which, techne refers to 'art' or 'skill' and logia refers to 'collection of techniques, methods, processes used in the production of scientific items'. Logia, literally means words or discourse about the way things are gained.

Technology is the knowledge or art of techniques, processes, skills, methods, etc. to produce new devices or goods. It consists of the facts and procedures necessary to order matter and information, and also how to discover new means for such transformations. It is not a latest invention. The word can be latest, but the technology is not. It came to exist when humans invented fire by the friction of rocks approximately 40,000 years ago (10). Now a day, technology is used in all the classrooms. Technology is used here for lecturing, discussion, writing assignment, mark keying, results, etc. Also have various technological teaching equipments in classrooms. All the classrooms are furnished and equipped with foldable or cushion chairs, foldable tables, writing pads, air conditioners, white board, LCD projector, projector screen, micro phone, speakers and computers.

## V.   TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS

Technology in classroom changed the entire classroom environment. In the beginning computers were introduced in the classroom and the classrooms were equipped with computers. Teachers started to teach with computers. Later, many countries, according to their economic status, started to provide computer in all the classrooms. According to this, all the students will have their own computer that can be used in the classroom (1). This created new learning opportunities and many instructional tools to the students. Since the learning potential is encouraging, some of the educational institutions started to provide internet facilities. They trained the teachers and students to use both the computers and internets efficiently.  Due to this leaning became easy for the students.

David (2001) says technology has altered the teaching and learning processes after the introduction of computers and internets. Technology has introduced laptops, smart mobiles or smartphones and other computer and mobile devices in the classroom. Though there are a lot of advantages of introducing the technology in the classrooms like, makes ease to understand, creates enthusiasm, awareness, vigilance, etc. and there are disadvantages too. Robert (2016) says, the introduction of technologies in classroom like, smartphones, laptops, etc. continue to produce lots of drama between students, teachers, and administrators in universities and high schools across the US. These may be issues in other countries too. The disadvantages like, boring because of repetition, distracts the classroom learning atmosphere, health issues, etc. These disadvantages didn't affect and continues to be a part of classroom teaching.

## VI.   TEACHING IN CLASSROOMS

'Classroom is a place where teaching and learning takes place using models or approaches or techniques usually happens in a closed indoor' (8). A classroom consists of a teacher and students who belong to various backgrounds from different places. A good classroom can be named as a worthy learning atmosphere. Classroom management plays a huge role in the field of teaching and learning and it's done by teacher or education management. It can be defined as, different types of skills and techniques used by the teachers, to keep students well organized, disciplined, focused, attentive and academically productive inside a classroom.

Classroom teaching implemented many methods to teach with ease from the initial stage. Some of them are grammar translation method, direct method, indirect method, audio lingual method and eclectic method. Of these eclectic method of teaching is used widely. It is a blend of many teaching methods used by a teacher to attract and motive the learners inside the classroom. Apart from these teaching methods, there are four main teaching approaches such as teacher-centred methods, learner-centred methods, content-focused methods and interactive/participative methods. The teacher in a present classroom situation has different roles. Some of them to be noted are, to deliver lecture, make students to actively participate, involve them in individual or group discussion, and provide activities.

These are not an easy task for the teachers individually. So they started to introduce computers in the classroom which has the ability to do multitask works. The introduction of computers changed the entire teaching and learning processes (9). The advantages of this type of teaching are enumerable. Because of the advantages like, makes teaching and learning easy, creates creativity among students, provides interaction facilities between the students and computers etc. computer aided teaching and learning packages were introduced.

## VII.     INTRODUCING THE COMPUTER ASSISTED LANGUAGE TEACHING

Computer is an electronic device which can process any input given and gives the result as output. The output can be viewed or heard through monitor or speakers. The important features of computer are accuracy, speed and energy saving. Most of the teaching, learning and research which are been carried out in the recent years are completed using computer and can be brought under Natural Language Processing (NLP). The use of natural language processing became familiar because teachers, students, researchers and scholars started to use corpus for every academic work. It brought the technologies and human together and made the task easier (12). To make the computer automatic, i.e. automatically analyse, understand and generate language texts, a set of linguistic and non-linguistic information should be incorporated into the system using programming languages in the form of rules. By incorporating the information to a computer, the computer technology (ie. computer and natural language) in teaching or learning situation can be realized. Such computer technology paved the way to Computer aided Language Teaching CALT.

Computers have been used for language teaching for more three decades (11). This is due to the importance of computers in the language learning process. At present, not only computers, even laptops, mobiles, tablets were introduced in language teaching.

CALT plays a huge role in the current teaching and learning situation. 'Computer aided Language Teaching (CALT) is an approach in which computer technology is used as an aid for presentation, reinforcement and assessment of material to be learned, usually including a substantial interactive element' (Ahmad, 2010). CALT has been used as a tool to teach language throughout the world. In 1980's when computer was used in language teaching, it was represented as computer assisted language instruction (CALI). This is because the information were provided to the computer using instructions. Later CALT became a dominant term (13).

CALT brought a revolution in the history of language teaching and learning. It has an amusing interaction feature. With this interaction feature, it can interact like any human being. It should be mentioned here is that it is only a supplementary material and it can never replace a teacher. But now a days ROBOT also teaches like a teacher. Students can use the interaction feature to do the evaluation. The computer can take the responses from the learners, evaluate them and if the answer is wrong, it can pinpoint the mistake and able to explain, how the answer is wrong or in which way it is wrong, etc. This provides a complete satisfaction to the learners. CALT in a classroom has many advantages such as, creates interest, provides higher order thinking skills, motivates the learners, demands active participation, allows the learners to work at their own time and own place, never gets tied and executes the same again and again.

As mentioned earlier, it can never replace a teacher in the current teaching situation. The materials for CALT are prepared, developed and incorporated to the computer by teachers or subject experts.

## VIII.     MULTIMEDIA IN CLASSROOMS

Multimedia includes a collection of tools which were used separately. It was coined by Bob Goldstein, a famous singer and artist. Before the coinage of 'multimedia' he introduced a term called 'intermedia'. This term was used for various purposes till 1990. In 1990, the term 'multimedia' was used in the field of education. After the introduction of multimedia, there was a tremendous change in the computer application, particularly in the areas of education, i.e. teaching / learning. Ganesan (1999) has defined multimedia as 'It is a combination of texts, graphic art, animation, video elements, sound and human voice with interactive facilities'.

Multimedia was used in CALT, Online teaching, etc. effectively. In teaching and learning processes, multimedia was for presentation and game system. During presentation, one can view it on the stage through projection. Game system can be viewed through network, i.e. online. When one talks about projection, definitely should talk about computer and related electronic devices.

Moreover, multimedia is used with the reference material for the electronic dictionary. It has various advantages. The pictures in the ordinary dictionary are digitalised in this type of dictionary.

## IX. DICTIONARY

A book which lists the words of in a particular language usually in alphabetical order and gives their meaning can be termed as dictionary. Moreover, it provides information about pronunciation, origin, and usage of a particular word which the reader wants to find out. It also provides the significance of a word, phrase, idiom, etc.

Like teaching and learning, dictionary is found in online too. It is popular among the dictionary users. It can give users direct, immediate access to the definitions of a term, allowing them to compare definitions from various dictionaries and stay up to date with an ever-expanding vocabulary.

Moreover, a dictionary is usually a printed book which has the collection of words and their definitions with some information. Dictionaries, printed as books, are now designed electronically and can be used on computers, laptops, tablets, mobiles, etc. Such type of dictionary can be termed as electronic dictionary or e-dictionary.

## X. E-DICTIONARY

E-dictionary is popular at present. It is defined as a dictionary in which the words or lexemes exists in digital form (4). It can be easily accessed through a number of means. Electronic dictionary underwent several changes in different stages from its introduction. In the beginning, the printed dictionaries were effectively copied in the form of digital and used in computers only as reference purpose. One cannot search a word or lexeme in this type of electronic dictionaries. It's almost like the pdf format of today.

Later several electronic dictionaries were introduced as softwares by software companies. In such dictionaries a word or lexeme can be searched. Also, the information related to meanings were with different colors and pictures. It attracted everyone to use. It can be installed or used in CD forms only in laptops and computers. Multimedia played an important role during this stage of electronic dictionaries.

Electronic dictionary is in its peak at the present stage. At this stage, the electronic dictionaries have enormous data and ease to use. Since the world is using smart mobiles, the electronic dictionaries also became smart. It includes multimedia content like describing a context, audio pronunciations, video clips, 3D pictures, etc. This electronic dictionary can be used in smart phones in the form of APPS. All the largest and popular dictionary companies stated provided different types of e-dictionary apps to different brands of mobile phones and tablets. Apart from apps type, online dictionaries are also available at free of cost. It's like search engines. One can search the word or lexeme in the online dictionary. After the introduction of apps and online electronic dictionaries, classroom teaching and learning became ease and interesting.

## XI.  E-DICTIONARY IN CLASSROOMS

Electronic dictionaries mentioned as e-dictionaries entered the classroom in no time after the introduction of dictionary APPS which can be used in mobiles and tablets.  Such e-dictionaries are used in classrooms in two different aspects.

- For instructors
- For students.

## XII.  FOR INSTRUCTORS

Instructors are generally teachers or lecturers who teach the students in a classroom. They teach the students from the basics of any discipline or subject which is allocated to them. The challenge they face in a classroom is describing a concept or a theory or a model or formula. To overcome such challenge, dictionaries play a vital role up to an extent. Moreover, the instructor refers dictionary at the time of preparation of a day's lesson. Hence, one can conclude very easily that referring a dictionary is must for an instructor.

Before the e-dictionaries as apps were introduced there were certain issues for the instructor to use dictionaries in a classroom while teaching to discussion. The instructors have to go to library or have to bring their own dictionary to the classroom for reference. Also, dictionaries were of huge size. New vocabulary was not included in such dictionaries.

To overcome such issues, mobiles with e-dictionary apps can be used in the classroom. Each and every mobile brands have their own or free downloadable apps through play store or similar to it.

## XIII.  FOR STUDENTS

Students learn a lot from their teachers inside a classroom. They continuously listen from 20 minutes to more than 40mts in a real classroom situation. Some of the students feel tired and boredom due to the subjects or the learning style in a classroom. Though modern equipments were equipped in the classroom the learning atmosphere differs.

Students come to classroom with different backgrounds. But they come to learn. When they learn, there may be confusing concepts or statements in the text or teaching. Such doubt cannot be clarified by the technology, but it can be solved using electronic dictionary.

Earlier, before the introduction of electronic dictionaries as apps, there were certain issues for the students to use dictionaries in a classroom while learning. The students have to go to library to bring the dictionary to the classroom for reference. Other issues are, dictionaries were of huge size and newly introduced vocabularies were not included in such dictionaries (2).

After the introduction of e-dictionary apps in the mobiles the above mentioned issues were solved among the students. But the problem arises when mobiles are no allowed or not permitted inside the classroom. At present mobile with education apps were introduced in many educational institutions. Even students learn using e-books in the classrooms.

## XIV.  ADVANTAGES

E-dictionary is one of the fast growing technologies in language teaching and learning particularly in classrooms. Though it has many advantages, a few are specified here:

- With attractive pictures
- Free downloadable apps
- Easy to use
- Interactivity
- More references or illustrations
- Huge data storage
- Anytime usage in classroom
- Clarifies the doubts easily
- Individual activity and group activity
- Class assignments can be done easily

## XV.  CONCLUSION

E-dictionary provides an efficient teaching and learning atmosphere in the classrooms. It motivates and creates enthusiasm among the students in the classroom. The features such as Bluetooth and Wi-Fi in the mobiles provide more confidence in teaching and learning situation.

Most of the educational institutions around the world came forward to use mobiles inside the classrooms with teaching and learning APPS. The Educators did a survey in japan and came to a conclusion that most of doubts which arises in a classroom regarding meanings are solved using the e-dictionaries. Hence, no doubt, all the classrooms will be equipped with the e-dictionaries.

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