Mobile Assisted Language Learning: A Shift in Learning Attitude

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ABSTRACT:

The idea of Mobile Assisted Language Learning focuses on the learning which takes place with the use of mobile technology. It is widely mushrooming in today's world. The features of mobile assisted language learning program are such as personalization of learning, spontaneous, informal and widespread. It enables the sense of positive attitude towards the second language learning. It permits the learner to choose the time and place of language leaning. Use of MALL removes the need of getting the learning material every time you learn a new thing instead it gives you easy access of the learning material as and when you need them. It gives you the advantages of no hardcopy material for language learning. In recent times we get to use smart phones which are providing a way better learning experience than learning experience with computer or other PDA. The biggest advantage of using mobile phone is its portability. In other technological devices you cannot have the feature of portability to the extent which is given by mobile phones. In this research paper we will shed light into the advantages and disadvantages of using Mall for second language learning with the point of view of learners and teachers

Keywords: Mobile assisted language learning(MALL), Second language learning, Smart phones, PDA(Personal Digital Assistants), Second language learning

INTRODUCTION:

Today is the era of Technology. Most of the people need English language in their day to day/ routine life. We cannot deny that the knowledge of English and the use of technology attributes vastly in the overall development of the personality of human being as an individual. Thus, people need English language in order to use it in a specific educational/ occupational purpose. English is the language which gives human being wings of opportunity. We cannot deny that English is so much important in today's world that one cannot do without a proper knowledge of the English language. The emergence of the technology and internet aided mobilephones have shifted the whole scenario of teaching and learning English as a second language to a great extent.

The possible ways of language learning implemented regularly to provide a great help to teachers inside the classroom. it is always fun learning experience. Here the role of teacher becomes a facilitator and always appears as a class coordinator and engage students in various language learning activity.

Mobile Assisted Language Learning:

Among all modern communication devices mobile phones are the most powerful medium of communication as it can act as a learning device. With this kind of learning device the learner can improve his/ her learning in unexpected way. There are so many advantages of learning with the mobile phones. The learner can practice the skill anywhere anytime.

Mobile Assisted Language Leaning (MALL) is the learning strategy which is related to the learning practice which takes place with the use of mobile phones and other PDA. MALL is a subgroup of m-learning and computer assisted language learning (CALL). The concept of MALL came into existence into 1980s.MALL is also referred as m-learning means mobile enabled learning.Beatty defines CALL as "a term used for the collection of technologies aimed at enhancing creativity and collaborations, particularly through social networking" (Beatty,2010). Looking at the current scenario the popularity of MALL which "differs from CALL in its use of personal, portable devices that enable new ways of learning, emphasizing continuity or spontaneity of access across different contexts of use" (Kukulska-Hulme & Shields, 2008).

These days mobile devices such as mobile phones, smart phones, and other handheld devices like I-pad, tablet, MacBook are used everywhere to do everything from doing voice calls to learn new things. We can call it "Internet on hands". One can access the files from the internet and the mobile device across the globe.

The use of mobile phones has two main reasons firstly its take me anywhere feature and secondly it fascinates the students with the learning experience it gives. It gives the students the sense of superiority while learning a new topic. Mall is completely driven by the use of technology at its fullest. Mall

has given the world a new learning style widely known as distance learning. The idea of distance learning is very popular in today's era because it provides the learner the facility of learning from a distance which means one learner can learn his or her chosen subject from anywhere across the globe. It also provides the learners interactions and learning from various experts of their respective field across the world.

Effective application of mobile learning into the classroom not only promotes the teaching but also the learning style of the learner. It brings the motivation and innovation in the daily monotonous study routine. The appropriate use of mobile in learning second language facilitates both the teacher and the learner make the use of language more correctly and in a better way because the mobile learning provides the learner a greater sense of learning and which gives the student make use of the learning material in practical way which enables learners' ability of self- learning.

Advantages and disadvantages of MALL:

In recent times it has been believed that learning with the use of mobile phones is more popular than the traditional learning experience because it gives the learner a richer self-learning experience than the traditional learning experience. Today mobile phones have become the most powerful essential because of its portability and accessibility. Mobile phones are technological devices which are so handy in terms of their portability. Moreover, mobiles are lightweight than other PDA, so one can carry mobiles anywhere anytime.

The practice of MALL supports the mobility of the learner which means learner using the method of MALL can roam freely he/she need not to worry regarding the time and presence of oneself. it allows the learner learn from anywhere without getting the barrier of time.it makes the concept of distance learning clear by supporting its feature of anytime anywhere. Mobile phones provide ample of easily accessible material across the globe which has brought a tremendous change in the learning style of the learner.

Mobile Assisted Language Learning provides learner choose from three learning situation. It provides face to face, distance and online learning to the learners. MALL also gives the opportunity of collaboration with the other learners. MALL has provided the learners the facility of ocean of information as it gives endless results of the search, they have made on the tip of their fingers that to without any barrier of place and time.

The strategy of MALL also fulfills the teachers needs also. With the shift in learning style the need of change in the teaching style has occurred and as a solution mobile phones provide teachers the facility of material production and also gives the facility of individualization. Teachers can create activity to the learners individually taking in account their level of understanding.

One of the main reasons of the shift towards the MALL is inexpensiveness of mobile technology. Mobile phones in recent times provides inexpensive devices which everyone can afford and it also provides the learners even better applications than laptops or other PDAs. Just like laptop or computer mobile provides the learner the facility of internet explorer with the use of it one can easily access the information from across the globe on the tip of their fingers.

In some cases, the learners cannot afford the mobile phones in those cases the teacher can make pair of such students and make them practice the lesson with the peer learning concept.

Mobile Assisted Language Learning has its disadvantages also. It has some of the loopholes like small screen which is not sufficient for learning. The content provided on the small /fixed screen does not provide clear visibility sometimes. Sometimes the internet makes hindrance in the learning process. Another problem faced by the practice of MALL is that of its tech support. Some versions of the mobile phones do not support smooth access of all the applications, so while preparing any of the language program the teacher has to compile all the theoretical and practical knowledge of the application.

In one of the experiments Stockwell affirmed that the learners found the activities take too long time to complete on the mobile phones and so some of them completed their task on the computers. It has also been noticed that the active internet pack and small screen of the mobile phones made the learners lose their interest in learning through MALL.

Change in inquisitiveness:

Learning has been given a huge importance in all the cultures. Learning is an essential part of human's life because it is a matter of one's survival. The practice of MALL came into existence in the early 1970s and it is widely accepted and practiced throughout the world in the time of 2000.

Before the concept of MALL the process of learning used to take place in a vary traditional way in which the teacher used to give instructions and dictations to the students. It was purely a monotonous classroom activity. The learners were not participating actively in the classroom but instead they use to cram the lessons. There was a lesser exposure to the target language.

But now the shift in the learning technique has taken place and the learners are being self relient and learning oriented. The learners want to acquire the language with active participation. They want to perform the task by themselves and they want to explore new information beyond the information provided to them by the teachers. They want to go on the quest of the knowledge on their own.

In recent times the students also like to get the knowledge by learning collaboratively and with the sense of freedom in acquiring the information. Now a days the learners find the classroom teaching monotonous and they want to make use of the internet and computer/mobile phone for language learning. With the use of mobile learning the students get ease of learning and they can get benefit from their ability of using mobile applications with utmost ease.

Stephen Krashan's The affective filter hypothesis from theory of second language acquisition has three variables motivation, self confidence and anxiety with the use of mobile application the learning process becomes informal so the learners get motivation and they feel boost in their self confidence so the MALL is a better method to learn the language.

Technology influences the language learning teaching becomes more effective and efficient by using real time tools for language leaning such as chat, videocall, e-classroom. tools specially created for language learning provides more and specific opportunity to the learners. The development of any particular skill has always demanded new material or effective language program to furnish the particular language. The students of English as a second language are always in a need for language enhancement programs to develop a particular skill.

MALL provides learner centered and personalized learning experience. Only a basic knowledge of handling a mobile phone is needed and that too for all the age groups. Which motivates the student to an extent which makes the learning procedure very smooth in functioning.

Research done in the field of MALL:

Cochran and Smith has showed that the students involved in the technological writing programs increased communication skills when paired in collaborative assignments. Moreover, he indicated that writing is not a mechanical process in which the learners manipulate the words and language forms.

It is well-known fact that online learning plays a great role in learning and facilitates stimulating the knowledge. Online learning provides major benefits to the both teacher and the learner. The internet makes the resources more accessible at a low cost. **Bates, (2002)**

Both reading and writing activities are involved in written text. Writing requires using correct words accurately in a text. Reading requires comprehension through generating meaning of a text. Both skills involve generating relations among words, sentences and paragraph. Comprehension of reading material will help the learners master the language patterns and by that the learners can develop their ideas in a text. Researches done till date used various games and SMS module to enhance the language efficiency.

Conclusion:

The immense growth and the speed of the mobile assisted language learning affecting the learning of the language very much. The researches done in this particular field is providing new ideas and strategies to the learners and the students of English as a second language. Although there are some advantages and disadvantages of the MALL program it is widely popular and accepted by the learners and the teachers of the English language.

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