



Teaching and Learning English During the 4.0 Revolution – Some Trends and Recommendations

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ABSTRACT:

During the period of international integration, English plays an increasingly important role and becomes a bridge to help our country's development and access to the world more effectively. Therefore, teaching and learning English receives a lot of attention from managers, teachers, and learners. One of the requirements is how to improve the quality of English teaching and learning at all levels to meet educational innovation. In the context of the 4.0 revolution, educators need to update new trends in English teaching and learning, contributing to improving the quality of teaching and learning. Therefore, the article aims to provide general information about English teaching trends in the world, from which we hope that teachers can flexibly apply them to increase the effectiveness of English teaching and learning to meet the needs of students, new demands and conditions.

Keywords: Teaching and learning English, trends, revolution 4.0, recommendations.

1. Introduction

English is currently regarded as a global language with significant global influence. In many nations, international organisations, and international transactions, English is one of the primary languages spoken. One could argue that English is the "key" that allows nations to engage in integration while still greatly advancing their own development. Vietnam has incorporated English into the curriculum for all educational levels, from elementary and middle schools to colleges and universities, realising the value of the language. The national strategic project "Teaching and learning foreign languages in the national education system in the period 2008-2020" was also formally implemented by the government in 2008, and a project for the years 2017–2025 was later added. With the goal of "creating a breakthrough in the quality of foreign language teaching and learning for all educational levels and training levels..." it may be argued that the national foreign language project is significant. Encourage the use of cutting-edge technology in the teaching and learning of foreign languages by developing an electronic learning resource system appropriate for all subject areas. This will enable students to access and learn native languages at any time, from any location, in any way. handy..."

Thus, applying information technology advancements is one of the key components to a foreign language project's successful implementation. Digital technology is the foundation of the fourth industrial revolution, which aims to optimise the process of teaching and learning foreign languages in general and English in particular. Put differently, the integration of information technology into English language instruction brings about a substantial shift from conventional techniques, enabling educators and learners to be more adaptable and proactive while also fulfilling the demands of innovation in the field.

However, in reality, teaching and learning English in schools still has some limitations and has not maximized the effectiveness of teaching and learning, so the results have not met expectations. Although the National Foreign Language Project has been applied since 2008, many assessments say that English teaching in middle and high schools still focuses on knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, and reading. understand, without focusing on practical skills, using English in real life. In addition, at universities that do not specialize in English training, students' entrance exam scores are uneven, their English proficiency and proficiency are uneven, leading to relatively challenging English teaching and learning. awake. Surveys at 18 universities in Hanoi showed that first-year students only scored 220-245/990 TOEIC points. With this score, researchers and educators believe that: Students must attend 360 hours of training to achieve the required level of 450-500 TOEIC points, equivalent to level 3 according to the foreign language competency framework. 6 levels for Vietnamese people.

Our university trains both language majors and non-language majors, so we also encounter some similar difficulties when students' English proficiency is not uniform. Students still do not pay attention to learning English in high school and are not aware of the importance and necessity of English. However, teaching and learning foreign languages in general, and English in particular, is increasingly receiving attention and attention from schools, teachers and learners. Especially through the COVID 19 pandemic, updating and applying new methods and trends in teaching and learning English has become extremely necessary and urgent. Therefore, the article aims to provide general information about English teaching trends in the world, thereby encouraging teachers to flexibly apply them to improve the effectiveness of English teaching and learning to meet the needs of students, new demands and conditions.

2. Some modern trends in teaching and learning English

The 4.0 technological revolution benefits greatly from the current trends in English teaching and learning because they foster relationships and provide access to a limitless reservoir of knowledge and data. Information technology advancements have a significant impact on how foreign languages are taught and learned in general, and English in particular, according to Zydny and Warner (2016). These developments foster a collaborative, positive learning environment where students actively participate in the process of learning rather than merely receiving information. Because learning gadgets and applications cater to learners' different needs, interests, and learning materials, trends in English teaching and learning are both successful and appropriate for all types of learners. Put differently, the integration of information technology into contemporary pedagogical and learning practices serves to enhance the personalised learning experience. To be more efficient, students will actively develop and implement the right teaching strategies while also improving their time management abilities. Dang (2019) and Fatin and authors (2020) state that there are a few significant developments in English teaching and learning at the moment, including:

+ *Blended- learning*

A hybrid learning strategy, often known as blended learning, combines online and in-person instruction (OL). To fulfil educational goals, the simplest method is to mix communication, in-person instruction, and indirect involvement over the internet (Voos, 2013). Scardamalia and Bereiter (2003) assert that blended learning has numerous advantages for students, such as improved creativity, improved self-discipline in the classroom, and increased motivation and enthusiasm. According to Moskal, Dziuban, and Hartman (2013), the use of technology in this approach results in less administrative management of training activities and more learning opportunities for students at any time and location.

One way to describe blended learning in foreign language instruction is as a way to combine two formats: face-to-face and online learning. However, this coupling is sequential rather than mechanical, guaranteeing flexibility, energetic, maximising the benefits of each learning style while minimising the drawbacks.

+ *MOOCs (Mass Open online courses)*

According to Bartolomeo, MOOCs (Massive Online Courses) are open courses via the Internet with no limit on the number of participants. This means anyone with a computer or phone connected to the Internet can attend MOOCs for free. It can be said that the MOOCs model creates learning opportunities for learners similar to other direct learning models, in which flexibility and personalization are the two most important characteristics of the MOOCs model. Learners proactively choose and participate in any course according to their interests based on planning, arranging time and learning resources in compliance with course regulations. This creates equal access opportunities for all types of learners. The MOOCs model combines 3 elements, including: 1. Self-study with instructions on using information technology tools; 2. Learning on a virtual technical platform, thereby promoting autonomous and collaborative learning; 3. Interact with classmates to achieve learning goals and create learning communities to share content, learning materials as well as communicate with each other to build knowledge and learn collaboratively in classes learn English. According to Anderson and the authors (2014), the MOOCs model has the potential to become a collaborative model because learners can participate in forums where they can discuss and help each other. each other in learning. Shalatska (2018) believes that the MOOCs model enhances English proficiency, critical thinking, problem solving and time management skills for learners.

+ *Learning through integrated projects and movement*

It can be said that learning English language is not simply learning through books. The English language is a necessary tool for learners to access subjects, expertise as well as future jobs. Some studies show that one of the most effective ways to learn a language is to learn through activities that combine mental and physical movement, collaboration, discussion and discovery. The trend of learning through projects and combined movements helps learners develop social skills such as group work, discussion, critical thinking, and presentations through language activities. , beside

In addition to highly interactive learning content, learners are creative and gradually improve their language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing English as well as soft skills such as presenting and negotiating through projects. learning project in class. Thereby, learners have a sense of initiative in finding information, learning how to work with a team, summarizing experiences and thereby applying them effectively for themselves..

+ *Learn from the real world*

One of the goals of the process of teaching and learning English is to use knowledge and language skills to be able to apply it to real life, study and work. Through real stories and real events, learners can learn and develop language. To be able to teach and learn effectively, it is necessary to have reputable learning resources and textbooks that meet the criteria. Currently, the 4-level Perspectives textbook (published by National Geographic Publishing House) includes highly inspirational learning content. Through lessons, learners can gradually build confidence, have multi-dimensional views of the world and build strategic thinking through giving opinions, ideas, and thoughts. my thoughts. Thus, learners form and develop language along with developing confidence and thinking.

+ *Gamification*

Kapp (2012) defines "Gamification" as the application of game design in the process of teaching and learning English to stimulate learners to participate in the learning process, thereby promoting the learning and problem-solving process. problem. Integrating games when teaching and learning English is

considered an effective tool to motivate learners through game features, such as awarding badges or finding the leader in learning. These characteristics help learners increase their motivation to learn.

+ *Personalize the learning program*

Personalization of learning programs is one of the interesting trends and has been noticed by a large number of learners. Personalizing the learning program is designing the program and learning path to suit the time, needs and level of each individual learner. That helps the acquisition of program knowledge become more proactive and effective

Each learning program for each student will be suitable for different educational methods and trends. In order to build a solid English foundation for students, it is necessary to take full advantage of the advantages and benefits of technology in teaching to bring about the best learning effectiveness.

3. Recommendations

From new trends in English teaching and learning, it can be seen that teaching and learning English using technology is becoming an inevitable requirement. Therefore, to meet the goals of teaching and learning English, there needs to be changes from teachers, learners and teaching programs to adapt to the 4.0 Revolution era.

On the part of the teacher

+ *Cultivate their own knowledge*

Recently, the quality of teachers has been improved. Teachers are well-trained and have qualifications that meet and exceed standards, so English teaching and learning has had many positive changes. However, the change in teaching trends requires teachers to update and improve their knowledge to find new appropriate and effective content, methods, and teaching activities through Huge means and information sources in the digital technology age.

+ *Access and apply technology to teaching*

Changes in technology help teachers access new media such as computers and the Internet. In addition to lectures designed on PowerPoint with visual images, teachers can design activities and games through applications and websites such as Kahoot and Quizzie to increase students' learning motivation and at the same time. still ensures the objectives of the lesson.

In addition, teachers can guide online learning (e-learning) for learners. This coaching can take place anytime, anywhere. Students can discuss more about the lesson with teachers after class. Or simply, learners can ask questions that are unclear thanks to the Internet connection system

+ *About English teaching methods*

English teachers need to research and explore new teaching methods that suit practical requirements. Design experiential activities for learners through extracurricular activities and English clubs so that learners have a living environment and practice listening and speaking skills in English. In addition, teachers can create exercises based on topics related to life and social issues so that students can discuss and debate, thereby enhancing language and thinking skills. only for learners. TED Talks are one such suitable learning resource. Simply put, TED Talks are inspirational speeches, recorded at TED (Technology-Entertainment-Design) events. Each video is limited to about 18 minutes with the intention of giving listeners a sufficient amount of information. Listeners can concentrate for a period of time and express their thoughts and feelings about that content. Based on such resources, teachers can intertwine listening and speaking activities in English lessons. Such activities not only innovate the teaching and learning environment, but also encourage initiative, train and strengthen critical thinking skills, express opinions, and partly develop learners' confidence..

Teachers are also encouraged to use English entirely during lectures as well as chat with learners to create a maximum English learning environment, helping learners practice and develop listening, speaking and motivating skills. full of language acquisition process.

About the teaching program

It is imperative that the English teaching programme be updated and revised to reflect contemporary developments. The programme innovation will make teaching easier for teachers while also assisting students in developing and improving their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in addition to providing them with a strong foundation in grammar. Not only that, but being able to converse and work professionally in English after graduation also benefits students. Thus, specialised subjects can complement practical learning materials in addition to the communication curriculum used to accomplish subject objectives, enabling learners to access and gradually form and enhance their skills. the capacity for thought, opinion expression, and multifaceted perception of reality.

On the learner's side

Learners must alter their perspective of the function and significance of English in the workplace and in daily life in order to be able to implement effective trends and techniques of teaching and learning the language. Proficiency in the English language not only opens up a wide range of career options in the future, but it also gives learners a chance to discover, investigate, and assimilate the cultures of the English-speaking world. In English. From there, students can develop a passion for the material, become motivated, and identify efficient teaching strategies.

Students can use technology to aid in their English language study. For example, they can practise pronouncing and listening in English with headphones. This is a really engaging and useful teaching strategy. Applications for technology can also help learners learn. Many individuals use the Internet to study English, and this includes learning it on computers, tablets, and cellphones that are linked to the Internet. These days, learning English is simpler than ever thanks to a wide variety of websites and smartphone apps. Therefore, in order for students to self-study, self-improve, and sharpen their language abilities outside of class and lecture hours, they must take advantage of technological apps.

On the side of educational institutions

Touch TVs, PCs, projectors, wifi, and other technology must be installed in schools in order to provide teachers and students with the necessary infrastructure for teaching and learning. In English. To use in teaching, exchanging, and learning English, both teachers and students must arm themselves with technical know-how and cutting-edge, intelligent equipment.

4. Conclusion

Consequently, it is evident that English instruction and learning are following a global trend that is becoming more varied, rich, and focused on the process's beneficial outcomes. However, in order to successfully and appropriately use and deploy such trends to meet educational innovation, educators and students must work together with the help of educational institutions. instruction. Additionally, implementing cutting-edge and contemporary teaching trends successfully depends on upgrading curriculum, instructional strategies, testing, and assessment procedures.

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