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## INNOVATIONS IN LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING: THE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information technology is a useful facility to stimulate learners to learn and teach a language, which enables both learners and teachers to be more interconnected and creative. By integrating technology into lessons, teacher arouses students' great interest in the subjects they study. It must be pointed out that using technology in education helps students to keep in mind the material effectively. Today, information technology allows learners to study the language at their own speed, as well as take an active part in decision-making and implementation of concepts typical in traditional classes. Perhaps it is most reasonable to conclude that innovation in education is not just an opportunity, but necessity.

**Key words:** innovation, information technology, language learning, language teaching, education, lesson, student, knowledge retention.

Language is a system of arbitrary, vocal symbols which permit all people in a given culture, or other people who have learned the system of that culture, to communicate or interact. [1]

In the broadest sense of the word, [Language is] a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, or marks having understood meanings. [2]

According to Gregory K. and Norman G. "Learning, is relatively permanent change in behavioral tendency and is the result of reinforced practice" while teaching may be defined as "showing or helping someone to learn how to do something, giving instructions, guiding in the study of something, providing with knowledge, causing to know or understand". [3]

This is borne out by the fact that language teaching cannot be defined apart from language learning. Gage N. pointed out that "to satisfy the practical demands of education, theories of learning must be 'stood on their head' so as to yield theories of teaching."[4] Teaching is guiding and facilitating learning, enabling the learner to learn, setting the conditions for learning.

Against this background, technology has become a fantastic and useful tool in language teaching. It is assumed that tutors will make use of it to improve the quality of learning and distribution of information.

As in reason, digital culture has changed the ways people live, feel, think, work,

communicate, play and *learn*, influencing the formation and dissemination of knowledge and power around the world. At the same time it has a great influence on social skills and social behavior. In learning and teaching language, learners utilize such types of digital aspects as computers, tablets, white or smart boards, social media, e-readers and so on.

This picks up on a point, which Myamesheva G. states, "the high-tech environment – computers, smart phones, video games, Internet search engines – reshape the human brain".[5]

To have a clear idea of positive and negative impacts of innovative language learning and teaching, we have provided our own experiment with the college students at Stepanakert "Grigor Narekatsy" University. The lesson was about asking for and giving directions. In order to provide more material to students, we used different sources (network links, books) during the lesson. The experiment was conducted between freshmen of PE (Physical Education) and freshmen of PMT (Preliminary Military Training). In the PE course, the lecturer carried out his lesson using presentations via smartboard, audio-visual aids. Students were given: a) fourteen (14) terms with their explanations about the direction of the road: taxi rank - a place where taxis queue for passengers; level crossing - where the road and railway meet; underpass - a walkway that goes under a busy road so pedestrians can get to the other side safely; overpass/flyover- a road that goes over another road (or railway); zebra crossingblack and white markings in the road for pedestrians to cross the road (the markings look like a zebra's stripes); pedestrian crossing - a place in the road where pedestrians can cross; tunnel - a road under (or through) mountains; crossroads - where two roads cross each other; junction - where one road meets another, and you can either go left or right; fork in the road - where the road divides, and you decide to go left or right; turning - a road off to your left or right; *main road* - a big road where there is lots of traffic; *lane* - a small road, or a part of a road (the left-hand lane / the right-hand lane; the bus lane).[6] b) thirteen (13) adjectives, adverbs and prepositions indicating directions: across, on/to the left, on/to the right, down, up, between, in front of, opposite, past, through, over, under, next to, c) five (5) expressions related to directions: turn left, turn right, go straight ahead, go past, at/on the corner, d) five (5) idioms pointing out people's character, emotions and relations: our paths cross -we meet; stuck in a rut - in a boring situation, with no hope of excitement, or future prospects; driving one's round the bend – making one's angry and frustrated; right up your street/alley –perfect for you, exactly what interests you; middle-of-the-road - neither left-wing nor right-wing, has no radical views,[7] e) ten (10) road idioms that comment on situations: on the right/wrong track - thinking or acting rightly/wrongly; an uphill battle/fight/struggle- a very difficult task; to be gone downhill - to be good, but not any longer; off the beaten track - in a very isolated place; at a crossroads – at a decisive moment in its history; a dead end – no future, no prospects; to go/get from A to B – to make simple/typical journeys; put the village on the map – everybody heard of the village; hit the road – start journey; road rage – violent incidents resulting from traffic disputes,[7] f) nine (9) phrasal verbs with go: go past, go across, go along, go straight on, go up, go down, go through, go out of, go on.

In the PMT course, the lecturer explained the same lesson to his students without using any modern teaching aids, that is, without any information technology. The lecturer simply used a book even without any image, a copy-book and a blackboard.

Through an accurate analysis it has been possible to show how many terms, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, idioms and phrasal verbs from this field, students were able to memorize at the end of the lesson. The results are shown below:

	Using IT	Without IT
	PE (14 freshmen)	PMT (15 freshmen)
14 terms	9 terms (10 students)	4 terms (4 students)
13 adjectives, adverbs	10 (12 students)	6 (5 students)
& prepositions		
5 expressions	4 (13 students)	2 (2 students)
5 idioms indicating people's character, emotions & relations	5 (10 students)	2 (3 students)
10 road idioms that comment on situations	7 (13 students)	3 (7 students)
<b>9</b> phrasal verbs	9 (14 students)	5 (6 students)

This is the reason why a lesson has a low rating without IT. It was difficult for PMT students to remember more facts in asking for and giving directions. Students were not motivated and such a lesson without IT was too boring for them.

This may be accounted for by the fact that, the role of technology has a vital importance in all areas of teaching and learning. Thus, technological skills and abilities are too significant in order to be lucky nowadays. The verity is that educational development is not only about learning by heart facts or taking exams. It is about being able to solve sophisticated problems with the help of innovative technology related to a specific situation and being able to work well with others.

We also support the idea of Pano Savvidis who observed the following top benefits of using technology in order to make teaching and learning more effective:

- a) IT improves the engagement of students in learning.
- b) Technology improves knowledge retention.
- c) It motivates individual learning.
- d) It encourages collaborative work.
- e) Students can learn useful life skills through technology. [8]

According to Delano L., Riley L., and Crookes G. "An innovation in a second language teaching program is an informed change in an underlying philosophy of language teaching/learning, brought about by direct experience, research findings, or other means, resulting in an adaptation of pedagogic practices such that instruction is better able to promote language learning as it has come to be understood".[9]

All these points may be accounted by the fact that today the use of information technology in education has become more significant. It also enables to keep on learning, irrespective where the learners are even when they are at home. Thus, recent innovations have made it possible to find ways of integrating the use of information technology in the everyday learning and teaching processes.

It should be added in this connection that using information technology in education provides opportunities for learners from all over the world to consolidate and share experiences, despite the geographical distances.

Narrow down the material information technology in education also helps students get acquainted with the culture of different countries and appreciate it.

ИННОВАЦИИ В ИЗУЧЕНИИ И ОБУЧЕНИИ ЯЗЫКУ: ПОЛОЖИТЕЛЬНОЕ ВЛИЯНИЕ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫХ ТЕХНОЛОГИЙ - АРАКСИЯ АБРААМЯН – Информационные технологии являются полезным инструментом для стимулирования учащихся к изучению и обучению языку, что позволяет учащимся и учителям быть более взаимосвязанными и креативными. Безусловно, интегрируя инновационные технологии на уроках, учитель вызывает большой интерес студентов в изучаемых дисциплинах. Использование технологий в образовании помогает учащимся эффективно запоминать изучаемый материал. Сегодня технологии позволяют учащимся индивидуально подходить к изучению языка, а также принимать активное участие в принятии решений и реализации концепций, типичных для традиционных классов. Инновации в образовании - это не просто возможность, а необходимость.

**Ключевые слова**: инновация, информационные технологии, изучение языка, преподавание языка, обучение, урок, студент, сохранение знаний.

ՆՈՐԱՐԱՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆՆԵՐԸ ԼԵԶՎԻ ՈՒՍՈՒՑՄԱՆ և ԴԱՍԱՎԱՆԴՄԱՆ ԳՈՐԾԸՆԹԱՅՈՒՄ. ՏԵՂԵԿԱՏՎԱԿԱՆ ՏԵԽՆՈԼՈԳԻԱՆԵՐԻ ԴՐԱԿԱՆ ԱԶԴԵՑՈՒԹ-ՅՈՒՆԸ - **ԱՐԱՔՍՅԱ ԱԲՐԱՀԱՄՅԱՆ** – Տեղեկատվական տեխնոլոգիան օգտակար միջոց է, որը խրախուսում է սովորողներին սովորել և ուսուցանել լեզուն։ Ի դեպ, այն հնարավորություն է տալիս և սովորողներին, և դասավանդողներին լինել ավելի կրեատիվ ու փոխկապակցված իրար հետ։ Ակնհայտ է, որ տեղեկատվական

տեխնոլոգիաների կիրառումը դասերին ուսանողների մոտ ավելի շատ հետաքրքրություն է առաջացնում դեպի այն առարկաները, որոնք որ նրանք ուսումնասիրում են։ Մատնանշվում է, որ կրթության գործընթացում տեխնոլոգիայի գործածածումը օգնում է ուսանողներին արդյունավետորեն մտապահել նյութը։ Ներկայումս տեխնոլոգիան հնարավորություն է տալիս սովորողներին՝ իրենց տեմպերով սովորել լեզուն։ Տեղեկատվական տեխնոլոգիաների օգտագործումը նաև հնարավորություն է տալիս, որպեսզի ավելի շատ ուսանողներ ակտիվ մասնակցություն ունենան որոշումների կայացման և գաղափարների իրականացման գործընթացում, որոնք բնորոշ են ավանդական դասերին։ Թերևս առավել տրամաբանական է եզրակացնել, որ նորարարությունը կրթության գործընթացում ոչ թե հնարավորություն է, այլ ՝անհրաժեշտություն։

**Բանալի բառեր՝** նորարարություն, տեղեկատվական տեխնոլոգիաներ, լեզվի ուսուցում, լեզվի դասավանդում, կրթություն, դաս, ուսանող, գիտելիքի պահպանում։