

## **A Critical Examination of the Limitations in Computer-Aided Language Labs**

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### **Abstract:**

English plays a predominant role as a common language that facilitates communication and understanding among people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. A lingua franca is a language that is adopted as a common means of communication between speakers whose native languages are different. English has indeed become a global lingua franca, particularly in fields such as business, science, technology, academia, and international diplomacy. There are several reasons for this:

**Historical Factors:** The historical influence of the British Empire and later the economic and cultural dominance of the United States contributed to the global spread of English.

**Economic Influence:** English is often used as the language of international business and finance. Many multinational companies and organizations conduct their affairs in English.

**Technological Advancements:** The internet, which is a major medium for global communication, largely operates in English. Many key technological developments and resources are also available predominantly in English.

**Academic and Scientific Dominance:** English is the primary language of instruction in many universities and is the language of scientific publications. Researchers and academics worldwide often use English to share their work with an international audience.

**Cultural Impact:** English-language media, including movies, music, and literature, have a significant global influence. This exposure contributes to the widespread familiarity and use of English.

International Organizations: English is often used as the working language in international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

While English serves as a powerful tool for global communication, it's important to recognize and respect the linguistic diversity that exists worldwide. Efforts to promote multilingualism and language preservation are also crucial for fostering understanding and inclusivity in a global context.

**Key words:** Language, Technology, Virtual , Technophobia, Traditional Classes, Strategies, facilitators, academics.

### **Introduction**

Language learning labs help a student to know about language from its roots. Phonetics and Speech sounds are mainly focused in language labs. Coronavirus has changed the teaching – learning situations in a drastic way. Because several nations have implemented travel restrictions and many educational institutions have shuttered as a result, a large number of formerly tech-averse teachers are being forced to learn how to teach using internet materials extremely quickly. This might be accomplished by using virtual classrooms to offer courses or by giving students with online self-study materials, both of which are potentially novel ways of delivering lessons to many.

English language (EL) teachers have had a tumultuous relationship with technology since the internet's introduction in the 1990s. Because initial teacher education has been sluggish to adopt digital methods of teaching and learning, many EL instructors believe they lack the skills to teach in this environment.

To take care of each one separately, follow these steps:

Is it true that instructors are becoming increasingly isolated as a result of technological advances?

Technology may help people interact in a variety of ways. Consider how many of us now communicate through our phones and social media platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook. This is also true in a virtual learning environment: if properly managed, possibilities for language use can be maximised, and students will have lots of opportunity to engage with one

another. And, whether we like it or not, digitally mediated connections now account for a significant portion of interactions in the 'real world.'

Institutions and faculty members are preparing to give education via the internet. Shivangi Dhawan is an actress who is known for her role in the Bollywood film Shivang (2020). The accessibility, affordability, flexibility, and learning are some of the issues that the concept of e-learning has raised. policy, pedagogy, and lifelong learning.

### **Video conferencing for ESL classes**

Through video conferencing, the teaching profession is compelled to adopt a new form of instruction. Prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, video conferencing was mostly employed in the corporate sector to hold meetings and conversations. Video conferencing technologies, on the other hand, are the most widely utilised ICT technology for conducting virtual classrooms. Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams are video conferencing solutions that are rarely mentioned in the education community. Unfortunately, instructors all around the world are compelled to develop these skills in order to stay in this profession. Many of the features of videoconferencing tools have been integrated by the firms that provide them.

#### **Delivering lessons: Opportunities and Challenges**

Delivering lessons, whether in a traditional classroom setting or through online platforms, presents both opportunities and challenges. Let's explore some of the key aspects:

#### **Opportunities:**

**Technology Integration:** Access to Resources: Technology allows access to a vast array of educational resources, multimedia content, and interactive tools.

**Remote Learning:** The ability to deliver lessons online enables learning to take place beyond the physical confines of a traditional classroom.

#### **Customization and Differentiation:**

**Adaptive Learning:** Technology enables adaptive learning platforms that can cater to individual student needs, allowing for personalized learning experiences.

**Varied Teaching Methods:** Teachers can employ diverse teaching methods, catering to different learning styles and preferences.

#### **Global Collaboration:**

**Connectivity:** Online platforms facilitate collaboration and communication among students and educators globally.

**Cultural Exchange:** Virtual classrooms provide opportunities for students to engage with peers from different cultural backgrounds, promoting a global perspective.

**Flexible Learning:**

**Asynchronous Learning:** Students can access lessons and materials at their own pace, promoting flexibility in learning schedules.

**Blended Learning:** Combining online and offline methods allows for a flexible and adaptable learning environment.

**Data-Driven Insights:**

**Assessment and Analytics:** Technology allows for the collection and analysis of data to gauge student progress, helping educators tailor their teaching methods.

**Challenges:**

**Technological Barriers:**

**Access Disparities:** Not all students have equal access to technology and a stable internet connection.

**Digital Literacy:** Both students and teachers may face challenges in adapting to new technologies and digital tools.

**Engagement and Motivation:**

**Distractions:** In online settings, students may face more distractions, making it challenging to stay focused.

**Lack of Personal Interaction:** Building relationships and a sense of community can be more challenging in virtual environments.

**Assessment and Evaluation:**

**Cheating Concerns:** Online assessments may be susceptible to academic dishonesty.

**Authentic Evaluation:** Some types of assessments may be difficult to conduct online, limiting the ability to evaluate certain skills.

**Teacher Professional Development:**

**Skill Acquisition:** Teachers may need training to effectively integrate technology into their teaching methods.

**Adaptation to Change:** Implementing new teaching strategies and methodologies requires time and ongoing support.

**Equity and Inclusivity:**

**Socioeconomic Disparities:** Students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds may face challenges in accessing necessary technology and resources.

**Special Needs:** Ensuring inclusivity for students with diverse learning needs can be more complex in virtual environments.

**Security and Privacy Concerns:**

**Data Security:** Protecting sensitive student information and maintaining privacy can be a significant concern in online learning.

**Teacher-Student Connection:**

**Lack of Personal Interaction:** Building a strong teacher-student relationship can be more challenging in virtual environments, potentially impacting the learning experience.

Balancing these opportunities and challenges requires a thoughtful and dynamic approach to education, **considering the specific needs and circumstances of both educators and students.**

Without the aid of language learning labs, learners may miss out on cultural context and real-world scenarios that are essential for a deeper understanding of language use.

**Limited Interactivity:**

Online learning might lack interactive elements, such as real-time conversations, group activities, or simulated dialogues, which are crucial for developing practical language skills.

**Less Personalized Guidance:**

Online platforms may not provide the same level of personalized guidance and feedback that language learning labs with instructors can offer.

**Dependency on Self-Motivation:**

Learning English online without structured labs may require a higher level of self-motivation, as learners need to navigate the learning process independently.

**Potential Lack of Real-world Application:**

Some online programs may focus more on theoretical language learning rather than practical, real-world application of English skills.

**Limited Teacher Interaction:**

Online learning may lack direct interaction with teachers or language experts, which can be valuable for addressing specific questions and receiving guidance.

**Technical Challenges:**

Online learning is dependent on technology, and technical issues can disrupt the learning process. However, language learning labs might have dedicated technical support to address issues promptly.

To mitigate these shortcomings, learners can actively seek out well-rounded online platforms that incorporate a mix of reading, writing, speaking, and listening exercises. Additionally, supplementing online learning with self-paced language learning labs or engaging in language exchange programs can provide a more comprehensive language learning experience. Balancing online resources with interactive elements and real-world application is key to overcoming these limitations.

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- [7] Cost and access to the Internet. This factor concerns whether the respondents find access to the Internet too expensive, fear the loss of privacy, confidence, or property rights, or otherwise find access to the Internet limited to the point of raising barriers to them.

[8] Technical problems. This factor concerns such things as a lack of consistent platforms, browsers, and software, or the lack of technical assistance that causes obstacles to online learning.

[9] Teacher's Role in Online Learning | Importance of Teachers (forestrailacademy.com)