

TSL 506: USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN ELT

## **Course Design**

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The term “educational technology” refers to the practice of language learning and teaching through digital devices. The process combines both digital tools and learning theory to enhance the learner’s ability to grasp and understand language, by making classes more interactive, entertaining, and engaging for students. In a traditional classroom language learning does not cover the four elements of language learning which are reading, listening, writing, and speaking. However, technology-based teaching emphasizes and stimulates all four aspects of language learning. Some of the terms that are used majorly in technology-enhanced learning are CALL, MALL, TELL, E-learning, Multimedia classroom, Distance learning, F2F learning, flip classroom, and so forth. CALL is a phrase used to describe language instruction that is computer-assisted and in which the teacher teaches using a computer. The classes include a variety of videos and audio clips like a speech or dialogue to stimulate and develop students listening and speaking skills. Similarly, MALL (Mobile assisted language learning) helps teachers conduct classes through mobile phones. It is often an alternative method to CALL. Additionally, e-Learning, distance learning, multimedia classroom, and f2f learning helps the student to learn a language in a different way. In different situation tutor apply this process according to their needs. For instance, during the pandemic teachers in a rural teaching environment mostly used MALL due to the accessibility and availability of mobile phones. Teachers tend to be apt for this type of learning as computers were not readily available in that particular area. However, in an urban learning environment tutors and students mostly used CALL due to the accessibility, availability, and affordability of computers. These digital-based learning enable students to easily grasp and understand their lessons. Additionally, it helps them to access resources for an unlimited time, and these learning classes enable students to engage all four skills in terms of language learning and help them in being more competent in that language.

### **E-Learning**

E-learning, which can also contain performance support information, is an organized course or learning experience given electronically. An e-learning program might include a variety of different components, including live or recorded lecture content, videos, quiz simulations, games, activities, and other interactive aspects. In 1999, Elliot Maisie used the word "E-learning" for the first time in a professional context. Since then, e-learning has become popular in terms of teaching and training. However, there are four factors that facilitated e-learning becoming more accessible to people. Before the internet became widely used, people typically relied on printed manuals, CD-ROMS, and other constrictive learning and training techniques. However, with the rise of the internet organizations abandoned one-dimensional practices and utilized the flexibility of e-learning. Moreover, the development of Multimedia- As eLearning progressed, the ability to integrate elements such as images, audio, videos, and graphics proved to be a more reliable way of keeping learners engaged compared to traditional learning.

Apart from these, the constant development of technology has led to the mass production of electronic devices, considering the first IBM computer cost the equivalent of almost 5000 dollars today. Therefore, it is the popularity of eLearning rose as digital devices became more affordable. Moreover, mobile learning also hugely facilitated the growth of eLearning. Furthermore, the learning management system has evolved and become more sophisticated over the years. For instance, moving from locally installed to cloud-based systems, organizations increasingly apply them to execute many forms of training. Moreover, while choosing a Learning Management System it is important to ensure its functionality and support through which a teacher can meet his/her objectives and those of learners as well.

### **Importance of eLearning in Education**

E-Learning has been introduced to allow learners to get basic schooling and enhance their skills. Additionally, they can also obtain a degree certificate, without actually attending school or university, or any other institution. Moreover, implementing e-learning at all levels of schooling helps students to grasp the lessons adequately at a faster pace. Also, according to psychology the audio-visual method which is used in e-learning creates a disciplined learning environment which leads to more effective teacher-student engagement. Moreover, e-learning and virtual class give students around the globe an opportunity to learn online and attend establishments that were previously impossible. Also, in educational establishments eLearning allows educators to carry on classes without any interruption. Additionally, online learning tools make it easier to measure the impact of education and training. For instance, learning platforms collect quantitative data which later shows how successful the learning experience has been for the students. However, the most important aspect of e-learning in education is that both the tutor and participant can develop advanced learning skills. For instance, creating and selling eBooks. E-learning has worked towards bringing learners, tutors, experts, practitioners, and other interest groups to one place. Therefore, it creates a good space for practicing sharing knowledge followed through different online platforms.

**Types of e-Learning:** There are basically two types of e-Learning. First, one is Completed Online which refers to no face-to-face meetings. The communication between the provider and receiver happens directly through a chat room or audio-video conferencing. And the other one is provided through mixed learning- It is a blend of online and direct communication. The information is passed through forums, emails, and wikis.

E-Learning is becoming popular due to its easy accessibility and it provides education in a more flexible way. For example, almost 53% of university teaching has moved online. Moreover, e-Learning became more popular and effective during the pandemic. Since schools and universities were closed due to safety issues. Tutors have to search for an alternative to continue their classes.

The biggest advantage of eLearning is that classes can be taken from anywhere and anytime. For instance, students living in different geographical locations can easily attend classes. Additionally, eLearning is a platform that offers exclusive, prolific, and updated content that is easily accessible,

secured, and uninterrupted. Also, the effectiveness of the transferred or imparted knowledge and learning is high and powerful. It makes information easy to grasp and absorb. For example, the audio-visual classes help students to remember their lessons for a longer period of time, also the lessons that the teacher prepares are well-planned. Moreover, in eLearning tutors have a variety of options to teach from, teachers for instance are able to create recorded learning and can conduct webinars as well. E-learning also benefits the students as well, students can access their study materials unlimited times. Students become more active and independent in terms of learning, as they can study from unlimited sources. Most importantly, it is most beneficial for part-time working college students and professionals because through online learning platforms tutors can easily record their lectures and students can see those recorded classes at their suitable time.

E-learning has completely changed the concept of learning in a classroom its accessibility has made learning more entertaining and interactive. However, despite the advantages of eLearning, there are also certain drawbacks. Since e-Learning provides students the opportunity to attend classes from their respective homes. However, due to the lack of a physical classroom and their peers' students often feel a sense of isolation which eventually detaches them from learning. Moreover, the major drawback of online teaching is that it requires additional training for instructors. In the context of Bangladesh, there are several teachers who are not well equipped with digital devices. Therefore, it becomes an issue for them to conduct online classes. Online-based learning is also prone to technical issues, nothing disrupts an online class more than audio, visual, and connection issues. In rural areas, this problem is more prominent as the internet connection is poor in that area. E-learning also means spending more screen time and excessive screen time leads to different types of physical ailments like poor posture and headaches.

### **MALL:**

Mobile-assisted language learning is language learning that is assisted or enhanced through the use of a handheld mobile device. MALL is a subset of both Mobile Learning and computer-assisted language learning (CALL). MALL has evolved to support students' language learning with the increased use of mobile technologies such as mobile phones (cell phones), MP3, MP4 players, PDAs, and devices such as iPhones or iPad. With MALL, students are able to access language learning materials and communicate with their teachers and peers at any time.

MALL is beneficial for language learners for many reasons. First of all, the average language learner has a mobile phone. In addition, most people take their phones wherever they go. This enables them to study anytime, anywhere. And assuming their language learning apps and activities are enjoyable, they'll be motivated to continue studying outside of class. There are numerous smartphone apps that can be used for language learning. Some apps were created especially for this purpose. Others are educational apps that can be used to teach any subject, including languages. And finally, social media apps were created for a general audience, but can also be adapted for language learners. For example, teachers can have learners use an instant

messaging app to message each other in the target language. Teachers can also have students send text messages that target a grammar point covered in class. Learners can also use media sites to observe authentic content in real-world situations and practice social interaction in the target language. Learners can also use mobile-generated media such as photos, videos, and audio recordings to produce their own content making the study of the target language more interesting.

### **F2F learning:**

Face-to-face learning is an instructional method where the course content and learning material are taught in person to a group of students. This allows for live interaction between a learner and an instructor. Face-to-face learning methods usually only involve traditional learning materials such as textbooks and lecture notes.

We can access more information and richer understanding through the teacher and other students' body language and voice. We have the opportunity to connect with, problem-solve and network with other students from a wide range of backgrounds. Regular attendance in classes helps them interact with other individuals of their own age, be better disciplined, follow a regular schedule and improve their physical fitness and mental alertness. Classroom learning helps students and teachers know each other in a better manner. For example, when a teacher directs students to learn through memorization and recitation techniques thereby not developing their critical thinking problem solving, and decision-making skills. Traditional teaching is a teacher-centered approach.

### **CALL:**

Computer Assisted Learning Language is the process of using computers and computer programs to help students to learn. CALL has been linked to second language research since the late 1970s. CALL within applied Linguistics has been a subject of other fields of study including computer science, psychology, cognitive science, curriculum design, and so on. It is firstly deemed as any process in which the learner utilizes the computer and enhances his/her knowledge and expertise. It is the integration of computer applications with language learning and teaching in order to achieve a certain goal. CALL programs can be mentioned that the widely used programs nowadays. CALL-specific software refers to apps designed for the purpose of improving and promoting language learning such as quizzes, web-based LL exercises, CD-ROMs, and so on. Moreover, Generic software programs are intended for multiple purposes, along with Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Furthermore, e-dictionaries, news/magazines, e-texts, blogs, encyclopedias, and others are web-based learning apps. Programs for computer-mediated communication (CMC) refers contain online chat and email, message boards, and discussion forums.

Furthermore, there are various kinds of CALL activities as well such as multiple-choice quizzes, games, crossword puzzles, matching, re-ordering, gap-filling tasks, and close tests. CALL

programs, platforms, and activities are notable contributions to comprehension input, higher levels of interaction, and meaningful classrooms regardless of certain drawbacks.

Students and instructors can receive real-time feedback and the Learning process is more interactive and engaging using this technology. Students can get immediate feedback and error analysis so learning can be personalized.

Some considerations must be given to the disadvantages of CALL, such as less handy equipment, high cost of education, lack of trained teachers, and of CALL programs to handle unexpected situations. CALL can become destructive; the software can become outdated quickly and there is a risk of over-dependence on the technology.

### **Multimedia Classroom**

Multimedia is an advanced technology that facilitates the integration of text, data, images, graphics, audio, and video animation in digital form. The use of multimedia in education helps in smartly managing teaching-learning activities in the classroom. Multimedia use in the classroom is more effective for students who learn through observing the teaching process, as well as for those who learn through listening. Multimedia is therefore able to meet the learning needs of all students. The use of multimedia is very important for students of different needs.

Multimedia Classroom is a classroom that has the opportunity to manage teaching-learning techniques (pedagogical process) through all the ICT-based media. That is, the materials or equipment required to use all the media will be in this classroom. If there are electricity connection, Laptop/computer, Internet connection, projector, projector screen/white color walls, and sound system, then it can be Multimedia Classroom. Teachers have to manage classes with respect to the content of multimedia functions.

Multimedia content refers to where the teaching-learning is enriched using audio, video, and visual clips. There are many benefits of using multimedia classrooms. Such as,

In a very short time, information can be presented to the students using many mediums.

It is possible to meet the needs of learners of different learning needs in the same class. Using multimedia content does not require the use of a lesson plan to take classes. The lessons can be presented in terms of reality. Abstract topics can be presented with realistic views. Difficult issues can be easily presented. The learning of the students in the classroom setup makes a permanent impact. At the same time, there are opportunities to use different teaching aids (materials).

All students can be included in the learning process. Teaching learning activities (classroom performance) run with delightful attitudes. A variety of lessons can be brought to the students. There is a chance to show the same information repeatedly. The latest information and explanation

can be presented in the classroom. The same materials can be used in different classes. International quality education can be ensured by using multimedia in the classroom properly. Teachers should have technical knowledge of multimedia Classrooms. Technology replaces the teachers' role and inappropriate choice of content and tools and takes much time to start a class.

### **Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL)**

Technology Enhanced Language Learning is an approach that deals with the effect of technology on both language learning and teaching. Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL) is used in the classroom to display as a tool to support teaching. It is only a teaching approach that needs other methods to teach and learn. TELL, in the beginning, was known as Computer-Assisted Instruction (CAI) and Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL). The early stage of TELL or CALL was not very popular for use by schools or teachers. At that time, the cost of buying computers and other innovations was very expensive for schools which have a problem with tight budgets. Comparing the differences between computer features now and in the past, we can find computers are better than before. Computers and computer software are smarter and faster. Tools should be aligned with the curriculum. Some tools that are used in TELL are such as Providing audio feedback, exploring Augmented reality, collaborating with Google docs, E-books, note taking and Evernote, OER s (Open Educational Resources), presentation with SlideShare, Social Media, tablet and mobile devices, blogging, using office 365 tools in a teaching context.

The TELL approach is one of the supportive methods, but there are advantages and disadvantages. Even though technology is good to use, students and teachers should pay attention to the type of technology and information. For example, there are many English grammar teaching websites, but some of them make students confused. If the technology is used in a better way, it will help learners to improve their English skills. TELL keeps students motivated and has a positive attitude. Using TELL with textbooks together is very important to support teaching and learning. It provides a lot of different learning styles to support learning the target language. TELL can be used in the classroom or in students' homes which helps students improve their English skills by developing their vocabulary, spelling, and reading comprehension. However, the Cost of buying technologies and changing devices is quite high, beside this, the Cost of training teachers and buying some media and software is also an obstacle to TELL. Teachers using TELL can do many things to make their instructions more effective. Firstly, using sounds or audio in classrooms such as CDs or broadcasts. In listening classes, these recorded audios are very helpful to improve the student's listening skills. The main focus of language learning is practicing pronunciation and verbal communication. Secondly, using short video clips, interviews, and songs from YouTube assists in teaching and learning. Short films are considered very useful to provide examples to students. This type of media can be applied in grammar and reading classes. Thirdly, use images, charts, or posters for visual learners and provide examples. This type of media is helpful in reading and vocabulary classes because teachers can provide the meaning of some words in pictures instead of oral learning. Lastly, teachers can display texts or articles for students in a PowerPoint

presentation. Also, teachers can use different types of media, websites, or apps to students practice in English. These activities such as essays, journals, and online discussion forums.

### **Distance learning:**

Distance education is a concept that has gained significant popularity over the past few years. Distance learning programs have helped many students who are unable to attend campus-based or full-time courses to realize their educational aspirations. With distance education, learning instruction is disseminated over the internet through an online learning portal or video conference software. Such video conference software as ezTalks Cloud meeting offers robust tools that can help instructors deliver full lessons to students from all over the world. But just like any other education program distance learning comes with a set of pros and cons. Distance learning might not be the best choice for every student seeking to pursue a college degree or university program. Thus, understanding its advantages and drawbacks can help one decide whether or not it is the right program to pursue.

With distance learning programs, students can pursue and complete their desired courses from anywhere with the use of a computer and internet connection. A larger percentage of those that enroll for distance education are actually persons who are working. Distance learning takes place online, which means students don't need to spend money and time commuting to and from class venues. Students can take lessons and complete assignments from the comfort of their homes. The cost of online-based education programs is generally lower compared to brick-and-mortar institutions. Undertaking an online course or program also eliminates the costs associated with commuting, renting an apartment, and/or getting meal plans. For most working-class students, going back to the classroom is rather intimidating. Asking questions about a hard concept about a given topic can also be embarrassing for shy students. The disadvantages of Distance learning are that there is a lack of Social Interaction. Learning in a brick-and-mortar institution presents students with the opportunity to meet and interact with people from different locations on a personal level. In Distance learning there are high chances of Distraction with no face-to-face interaction with instructors and other students, those who are enrolled in an online program might find it hard to keep track of their coursework and assignments. Any student seeking to enroll in a distance learning program needs to invest in a range of equipment including computers, webcams, and a stable internet connection. There is absolutely no physical contact between students and instructors as instruction is delivered over the internet. This overdependence on technology is a major drawback to distance learning. However, distance education limits social interaction involves the use of complex technology and has a negative perception among some employers. Any student wishing to enroll for a distance learning diploma or degree should weigh its pros and cons to determine whether or not it's a good option.

## **Flip Classroom:**

The conventional learning environment is reversed in a flipped classroom. In-class time is set aside for class discussion and participatory projects, while lectures are sent for individual review as homework outside of class. It is a blended learning strategy where face-to-face engagement is combined with individual study, which is typically done via technology. Traditionally, students read textbooks, solve problem sets at home, take tests and listen to lectures in class. In flip teaching, students first learn the material on their own, generally through YouTube video courses, and then apply it in a class by working through exercises and conducting practical tasks.

Due to the pandemic, there was an increase in the adoption of the flipped classroom model as teachers and students could no longer simply rely on in-person interactions. Using a flipped classroom strategy has several advantages for both teachers and students. Every learner is able to learn at their own pace because videos can be rewatched. Students are more prepared to participate before entering the classroom, which makes it more efficient. Since interaction is essential for language learning, the class is made richer by having extra time for group projects and activities. Pupils can assist one another while working on assignments in class, which is advantageous for both more advanced and less advanced students.

There are some drawbacks as well though. Technology-related issues will always exist. Students may sometimes require a high-speed connection and specialized software for devices other than computers, such as cell phones and tablets, and technical problems inevitably arise. Students may occasionally require a high-speed connection and specialized software for devices other than computers, such as cell phones and tablets, which is not always an inexpensive option. Additionally, some teachers struggle to use technological devices, and some struggle to adjust to the changes. As a result, they are unwilling to try such novel things. Apart from these, no immediate feedback is available. When a student does not comprehend something after watching a video, they occasionally do not receive immediate feedback instead they must wait until class.

In conclusion, educational technology encompasses both the tangible tools and the conceptual underpinnings that enable the language learning and teaching process. High-tech devices are not the only form of educational technology, anything that improves classroom learning, activities, or engagement through the use of blended, in-person, or online learning is considered educational technology. We may not even be aware of the language learning process as educational content is widely integrated with items. Smart learning is the combination of adaptive learning, employing a customized user interface and materials, and ubiquitous access to digital resources and language learning opportunities in a variety of settings and at various times. A part of the idea of a smart nation is smart learning. It saves time for both teachers and students and aids in the development of a productive teaching and learning environment.

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