

# The Computer-Based Grammar Teaching in Acquisition of English articles

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## ABSTRACT

Computer technology has become a most ubiquitous technological influence on our lives in the last part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This paper will briefly discuss those features of computer technology which are relevant to acquire the difficult area of language with the help of visual impact.,e. g. grammar. It will mention the results of some recent experimentation on the use of computers to remediate various language problems and will recommend some specific computer help (slides on articles with pictures) which should be taken into consideration while teaching. The researcher created her own PPT for the class. A power-point can be constructed in advance with every student in mind. Power-point has been an invaluable classroom tool. It is very helpful for the introduction with the visuals to understanding. Technology is inherent more engaging for students of every age than lecture. It is useful for stimulating visual reinforcement.PPT is a powerful tool for learning .It is basically electronic slides where a person can embed files such as texts, music,pictures,diagram,or whatever else you like.The benefit is that you are engaging students not just through words but also through visual. Some students learn better by hearing,but other students learn better by seeing.It also creates an excitement in that it breaks down the daily routine of lectures.I think the PPT is an amazing tool that provides teachers great access to wonderful learning opportunities under the three styles of learning : auditory,visual,and kinesthetic.

In the present age of globalization and liberalization English is the only lingua-franca for the entire world but students and teachers of English face numerous problems related to the study and teaching of the language. English is taught across the country. It is found that users of English and particularly those for whom it's a second language often go wrong in respect of the proper use of articles – articles are misplaced, omitted where necessary and inserted where they are not required. Most of the time it is found that these are the neglected areas in teaching-learning process in schools and colleges although these are integral and important parts of the sentence. The English article system consist of four items 'a', 'an', 'the' and  $\emptyset$  (zero article). It can be acquired through natural exposure to the language (e.g.Dulay, Burt and Krashen , 1982). In Maharashtra Marathi learners of English as well as undergraduate learners of English face many difficulties in learning English. Students have difficulties in articles because these articles are not present in their mother tongue. The current study is related with the teaching method in relation with undergraduate students.

English has become the common international language in 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is the language most frequently used to communicate by people who are not the native speakers of the same language. Consequently, learning and using English of a great importance nowadays. Language is still taught as a traditional classroom subject, similar to Maths or Geography in countries where there is no population of native or English speakers. Technology, however offers opportunities for people from other cultures to interact with each other. It can be beneficial to language learners if technology is incorporated into the classroom (Chang and Lehman,2002) learning and teaching of English speaker outside the classroom. It makes EFL/ESL pedagogies enhance the quality of learning and teaching by applying technology in teaching.

Since providing an environment in which learners have the opportunity to interact in English is critical using technology is of great importance and can ease the second or foreign language learning. Technology also provides an environment in which learners increase their knowledge and creativity. The previous methods of teaching English focused on different aspects of language learning had provided related environment in which learner's and teachers role are defined as mentioned Shafaei (2008:109). Grammar Translation Method(GTM) was the first method of teaching in which teacher played the main role in the class. Since then different methods of teaching language have been borne based on different theories such as Direct Method, the Oral Approach or Situational Language Teaching, Audio/Lingual method, Total Physical Response, the Silent Way, Community Language Learning, Suggestopedia and Competence based Language Teaching. Since then teaching methods have changed over the years. They tend to be learner-centered with less focus on teachers. Therefore the main focus in modern teaching and learning environment is the learner himself. He can learn better if he has an active role in class. Moreover, with the significant growth of technology its application and importance in teaching and learning English has increased. Most of the new methods and theories focus on technology applications and investigate its effect on learning. One of the modern theories in teaching language is Constructivism theory which focuses on learning by doing and learning through technology. According to constructivism students learn most effectively when they are actively engaged in their education. They can perform better when they participate and are active in their learning process. Technology integration is a helpful tool which can be used in the classroom to promote learners involvement in learning. It can help learners to be responsible for their own learning by providing an independent learning environment.

In today's developed world computer is one of the most beneficial and useful tools in teaching-learning process. It is helpful to create stress free environment for learners and make them more responsible while learning. Therefore this research aims to tackle this issue and investigate the effectiveness of computer in an ESL context in relation to Marathi students who are from remote areas.

This study was undertaken with a view to collect relevant data to ascertain the approximate number and the nature of mistake of articles made by 1<sup>st</sup> year college students and at the same time the study helps to find out the importance of computer in teaching process as a part of teaching method. The researcher has also compared the results of pre- test and post-test and it has shown the tremendous difference in the result.

Roberts (1967:27) states that the articles are actually quite complicated and give a good deal of trouble to those who are not native speakers of English. People learning English as a foreign language often never quite get the hang of them.

Articles constitute one of the most neglected areas of language teaching and learning. In grammar classes the teaching of articles is considered to be an insignificant task. It is over looked or lightly taken by the teachers as well as the students; in fact it is one of the most problematic areas for the students. The students are often confused while using articles. So it is the teacher's responsibility to make the students efficient users of articles. The researchers never had any high expectation from her students. She supports Hill (1967:130) '.....as long human being remain what they are their will always be marked differences in any class, a few will be above average, a few will be below average, and the majority will be average.' Naturally, the researcher never expected 100% success from every student. She did her best for students improvement with the help of different teaching methods.... But after all the individual progress depends upon the student's brilliance, his interest in the subject, his attentiveness and his ability to grasp.

25 students from the first year arts class were given the tests (the pre -test and post- test) for the collection of data for this research. The main objective of conducting the pre-test was to judge the students' previous knowledge of articles and to test their ability of using them in different context. The result of the pre-test was not satisfactory. After the pretest the students were given a lot of visual practice and revision of rules with examples of articles for a period of one month. During this period they got revision of each and every rule by showing computer slides. At the end of the month a tremendous improvement was noticed in the use of articles because of the visual impact on the brain.

After the training on computers the students have shown a considerable improvement in their performance. With proper guidance & coaching with visual impact, even average students can improve their performance. Though regular practice and regular visual aspects, students can master the use of articles. In respect of learners errors there are two schools of thoughts. The first school of linguists consider errors to be assign of the inadequacy of our teaching method. The second school thinks that errors are inevitable and hence we should not opt for better teaching techniques for dealing with them after they have occurred. The researcher has followed the second school of thought and tried to find out an effective teaching method.

Before starting the actual teaching the researcher made a close scrutiny of the errors made by the student in the pre-test. The error analysis helped the researcher in understanding the weak areas of the students' performances. It also gave an idea of the students' competence in English language.

**Conclusion :**

It is found that than the traditional grammar teaching the use of computer slides are very much helpful. It is necessary to teach English grammar to the students in a very healthy atmosphere in which they will able to learn it without any burden, fear as well as any peer pressure. So teacher has to create such type of friendly and happy atmosphere in the classroom.

If we can provide proper attention to articles through appropriate teaching method that mean by preparing computer slides with pictures, by making it more interesting and attractive. Students will remember it forever and the effect of these visual aids will be life-long. In that sense the computers are very helpful not only in article teaching but that will also be proved helpful in grammar teaching. If teachers will use this visual aid (computer slides) since the childhood for the students, it will give better results.

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