

CHAPTER – 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

History of computer-based Learning Computer assisted learning, or CAL is not a new phenomenon. Computer Assisted Learning can be defined as a computer program or the file developed specifically for educational purposes. It is used throughout the world in a context, from primary school to university level education. In the 1980s, the first computer assisted learning became available to university students. Various Committees and Commissions have recommended the use of technology for enhancing teaching learning processes.

The various commission and committees reviewing education have also felt the need and importance of educational technology in the school curriculum. The National Primary Education has emphasized computer literacy. It states that

“As computer has become an important ubiquitous tool, a minimal exposure to computer and training in their use will form a part of professional educational education. Programs of computer literacy will be organized on a wider scale from the school stage.”

Computer literacy is defined as the knowledge and ability to use computers and related technology efficiently, with a range of skills covering levels from elementary use to programming and advanced problem solving. Computer literacy can also refer to the comfort level someone has with using computer programs and other applications that are associated with computer. Another valuable component of computer literacy is to know how computers work and operate. Having basic computer skills is a significant asset in the developed societies.

Computers are used to enhance a variety of skills among learners, including language learning. According to Tomlinson and Roadman (1974), language is the system by which sound and meaning are related; language communication and human needs are unquestionably linked. Human being has various needs – individual, social, economical, cultural and political. To fulfill these needs language is useful.

In the words of Barber (1965), “It is language more obvious than anything else that distinguishes man from the rest of the animals in the world.” More recently man has often been described as a tool-making animal, but language itself is the most remarkable tool that man invented and it is the one that makes all other possible.

According to Edward Sapir, one of the pioneers in the linguistics, “Language is the purely human and non instinctive method of Communication ideas, emotions and describe by mean of a system of voluntarily produced symbols.”

Language is the main medium for exchanging the feeling of human beings. It is essential for a person to learn and use such languages, which are being used by majority of population so that the sphere of interaction and exchange of information can be covered. Because of its advantages of going beyond time and space and adaptability to show numerous files simultaneously, through computer technology, language learning can be effective.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Effectiveness of a Computer Assisted Learning Package to Enhance English Language Proficiency of Pre-service Teachers

1.3 Rationale of Study

- As the nature of English is to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, it can be easily explained through CAL.
- As most of the Pre-Service teachers today have an operating knowledge of computer, they can easily operate the computer and CAL.
- The CAL satisfies the curiosity of the students.
- The CAL helps to achieve teaching learning objectives of English.

Hence, with the above objectives and keeping in mind the advantages of CAL package and need of Pre-service teachers, the researcher prepared a CAL package to implement it and study its effectiveness in teaching English to pre-service students.

Through his own personal experience and experience of his peers, the researcher had realized that CAL packages can be very useful to develop the understanding of the student-t teachers.Keeping this point in mind the researcher was

eager to know the effectiveness of a computer assisted learning method. Hence he thought of helping student teachers to develop their ESL competence through the help of the computer technology.

1.4 Delimitations

The study is delimited to pre-service teachers of English method of Gujarati Medium B.Ed. program affiliated to the Sardar Patel University.

1.5 Operationalization of Terms

1) Effectiveness

In this research, effectiveness implies the effect caused by the CAL package in terms the difference in the mean achievement scores of pre-test and post-test and noticed through observation.

2) Package

‘Package’ means a set of materials for teaching and learning.

In the present research, the learning package refers to activities and materials for 7 sessions, the content of which is based on some topics of the syllabus for the English method of Gujarati Medium B.Ed. course at the Sardar Patel University.

1.6 Type of Research

The present research is an experimental study. It is a single group pre-test post test experimental design.

1.7 Objectives of the Study

The research was carried out with the following objectives in focus.

- To study various Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) packages already prepared by experts with a view developing insights into preparation of CAL materials
- To develop a Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) package for teaching English to pre service teachers in Gujarati medium B.Ed. course
- To implement the Computer Assisted Learning package for teaching English to the pre service teachers

- To enable pre service teachers to use English
- To study the effectiveness of the Computer Assisted Learning(CAL) package in terms of achievement of pre service teachers through comparison of scores of pre and post tests.

1.8 Research Questions

The research was carried out with the following questions in focus.

- What are the benefits of a Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) package for teaching English to pre service teachers ?
- What are the characteristics of an effective CAL package for ELT?
- How can a Computer Assisted Learning package for teaching English for pre-service teachers be prepared ?
- How does technology enhance the effectiveness of teaching learning process?
- How can Educational Technology help the teacher to make the classroom more effective, interactive and lively ?

1.9 Hypothesis

The researcher was carried out the study keeping in focus the following Null Hypothesis.

H_0 = There will be no significant difference between the mean achievement scores of pre-test and post test of Pre service Teachers.

1.10 Variables

Variables are the conditions or characteristics that the experimenter manipulates, controls or observes. Independent variables are the conditions or the characteristics that the experimenter manipulates in his attempt to ascertain as their relationship to observe certain phenomena.

In the present research, 'Independent Variable' was the CAL package to teach English, i.e. Teaching through CAL.

Dependent Variables are the conditions or characteristics that appear, disappear or change as the researcher introduces, removes or changes independent variables.

In the present researcher 'Dependent Variable' was the achievement score measured at the end of the experiment.

1.11 Scheme of Chapterization

The dissertation has been divided into five chapters. The scheme of Chapterization is as follows.

Chapter-1: Introduction it is the present chapter. The chapter begins with an introductory note and states the problem of the study with the explanation of key terms. It also states the objectives of the study undertaken, hypotheses framed and rationale of the study as perceived by the researcher.

Chapter-2: In this chapter there are two parts: **Conceptual framework and Review of related Literature**. In the first part the focus is on the conceptual framework or theoretical background of the study undertaken. In the second part begins with stating the objectives with which review of related literature is done and then presents the different studies reviewed for the present work.

Chapter-3: Research Methodology The chapter focuses on the methodology adopted in the present study. It describes in detail about the research design selected for the present study, the tools used and the procedure adopted for data collection as well as data analysis.

Chapter-4: Data Analysis, Interpretation In this chapter the Data collected during the experiment has been analyzed and presented in a tabular form. Interpretations based on the findings have been presented and discussed in the light of the present study undertaken.

Chapter-5: Findings, Suggestions, Educational Implications and Conclusions is the last chapter of the dissertation. It presents the major findings of the experiment. Suggestions have been forwarded for further studies to be undertaken by researchers. Conclusions have been drawn from the present study. The chapter ends with a reflective note by the researcher on the research undertaken.