



SELF-LEARNING OF ENGLISH USING MOBILE APPS

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ABSTRACT

In many countries, English is a second language and preparing the learners for a successful mastery of it is not a simple process. An opportunity to cultivate everyday communicative ability applying the four skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing is targeted by the proficient teachers. Though the teachers integrate various methodologies to impart English, the students are reluctant and docile in learning of the language. The usage of books by the students is piteously less. The teachers and students are in a stage to modify their teaching and learning of English. Now it has become the trend among the students to keep using the electronic devices for all kinds of entertainment as well as academic work including the learning of English. Nowadays, data package is available at an optimum cost. So, English can be learnt through internet using mobile phones. To impart English, a range of apps proposes English learning at diverse levels – beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Each app contains lessons that focus on specific grammar/vocabulary areas. English is taught with many free audio and video files incorporated in the apps. Certainly, audio and video files are enjoyed by the learners as they are more appealing and interesting. English learning has become a pleasant experience with easily accessible tools enabling incorporation of self-study into their busy lives, accelerating their development and assuring enhanced outcome. The usage of mobile phones for English acquisition results in productive learning at an augmented rapidity and retention of the information.

Key words: Self learning, mobile Apps, interactive interface, Appealing and enhanced learning methods

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In many countries, English is a second language and preparing the learners for a successful mastery of it is not a simple process. It is well known that a new second language is fostered well by providing opportunities to learn it at an early age along with emphasizing the development of one's native language. So, more and more countries are introducing English language instruction earlier in school. But irrespective of when a child instigates learning English, the paramount approaches try to give it a pleasant learning with well-crafted engaging

materials. An opportunity to cultivate everyday conversational ability applying the four skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing is targeted by the proficient teachers. English is taught using different approaches at universities and colleges. However, many a time the internet provides abundant resource for knowledge enrichment along with the teachers who are no more the only source of information as it was in the olden days.

When the teacher addresses a group of English learners in the class room, it is not possible

to concentrate on the needs of the individuals and the specific skills which need deliberation. The number of technology-enabled classroom has increased in the past few years and it evidently designates the decisive role technology plays to impart English authentically. However, these classrooms do not enchant the students. Though the teachers integrate various methodologies to impart English, the students are reluctant and docile in learning of the language. They nitpick that English is taught to them in an incomprehensive and lackluster manner. To get away from such situations, the students have to advocate some other way of learning English on their own. Instead of blaming the teachers and the methodologies, the students can involve themselves in active, independent and effective mode of learning of the language. They hold their own responsibility in educating themselves. Till this day, examining how students can be active and independent in studying English is a question of predicament. However, Self-studying English is essential and possible in this current educational scenario. It is possible in India because the Indian government has accepted English as the second language and most of the state governments provide English as one of the subjects in the regular curriculum. So, the Indian students are in a very comfortable position to initiate self-learning as the basic knowledge of English is inculcated in them by the schools.

There are various tools and technologies to impart English to the students. Numerous books on language skills and grammar are available to elevate the students towards perfect English. Yet, the usage of these books by the students is piteously less. Now it has become the trend of the day to keep using the electronic devices for all kinds of academic work as well as entertainment. The learners always prefer to carry their laptops or tabs or mobile phones. The dawn of mobile phones has altered the technique by which people access information. Almost everything we necessitate is obtainable at our fingertips and accessible on demand. The actuality that the current students are comfortable using new gadgets shows that the influence of technology on English learning is mandatory in the forth coming years. Sometimes, it is apt to say that they understand the world

through the e-sources and prefer to read or communicate electronically, particularly through mobile phones. So, this craze for electronic sources can be exploited to congregate towards English acquisition.

The entire avenue to English learning using technology must be specified to the learners to provide the best ambiance to learn English. It is the duty of the teacher to lead them through the right path in the mastery of English as mobile devices are often distractive. During the learning process of English, objective has to be structured and has to be reviewed clearly so that the step to acquire the learning of language doesn't lead to a no-win situation. In the expedition of self-study, periodical recollections of why they want to learn English have to be made to support them acquire a steady progress. At the same time, it is appropriate to analyze and find the most comfortable method they can adopt as well as adhere to make their learning enjoyable. If they want to do self-study insouciantly, they must explore attention-grabbing and hilarious ways to learn English. However, the passion for English should always grow without diminishing. So, students must select a suitable platform to keep them on the track of learning English. They can start with simple, realistic tasks and proceed with undemanding activities in English.

The students carry the mobile phones with them everywhere and use the internet productively. The play store market is full of apps that make any classroom an attention-grabbing place for both students and teachers. From easy-to-use user interfaces, to customizable characteristics that suit individual requirements, these apps have been designed to deliver great user experience. The students should be introduced to some of the astounding apps available and encouraged to learn in an itinerant way. There are many apps that help to learn English in a funny as well as productive way. The apps can be downloaded on Google Play. Instead of visiting the tutorial centres to improve their English and there by wasting their money and time, students should spend just five or ten minutes a day on English using their mobile apps. And it will work. Nowadays, there are hundreds of mobile phone apps available and it's possible to find free

options suited to students on a budget. Data package is available at an optimum cost and it will not be a burden for them to spend money on it.

As everyone knows, vocabulary is the basic need for all language learning. The learners must focus on acquiring new words in English because words are the basic tool of expression. If they lack words related to the concept they like to express, they will not be able to express the idea they conceive. In order to encourage the vocabulary learning, in some apps many languages are focused including funny and easy learning of English. For example, 'MyWordBook 2' focuses on imparting important English words sourced from Cambridge University Press' learner dictionaries through interactive flashcards with picture as well as sounds and sentences so that the words is retrieved in mind for ever. In addition, the learners can create their own flash cards to establish their learning. Some apps have over 100 lessons providing a basic vocabulary. They help users learn words needed to fluently speak short sentences in real- world situations. 'Fun Easy Learn English' is an app providing vocabulary which has more than 6,000 words in its database. There are variety of apps catering to the specific needs of the learner taking into consideration the age, the previously known English vocabulary and the field of specification like job interviews, business, science, research etc... The vocabulary is presented through illustrations, recorded pronunciations and native language translations, different games leading to effective learning of English. Most of the app doesn't require an Internet connection. 'Cartoon- Free English' lends a hand to learn new words through the use of a method called word cards. It uses pictures to illustrate meaning.

The way in which the mother tongue is learnt is quite interesting. No basic grammar is taught to the child. However, it imbibes grammar naturally and absorbs the patterns in sentence structure smoothly. Efficient communication is not possible if the essential principles of grammar or syntax are not known clearly. To impart grammar, a range of apps proposes English learning at diverse levels – beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Each app contains lessons that focus on specific

grammar/vocabulary areas. As their name suggest, the following apps like 'Language Verb Trainer', 'English Irregular Verbs', 'PvP- Phrasla Verbs', 'Question Tags', 'LangLearner', 'English Idioms' and 'Guide to English Idioms' and a lot of other apps focus on the various aspects of grammar. 'Phrasal stein' targets at one specific element of English grammar, namely phrasal verbs. The app has 100 phrasal verbs that are taught through humorous animations. The app provides meanings and example sentences. 'English Grammar Book' is the best way to improve our English Grammar' at home, and at anywhere. 'English Grammar Ultimate' Grammar is the study of words and the pattern in which words work collectively. 'English Grammar Test' app is the best way to perk up your English grammar knowledge. Spectacular minimalist design and clear user interface make it easy to test the English competence. Practice English Grammar App develops English grammar with more than 1000 questions, 750 flashcards and 100 games.

English is taught with many free audio and video files incorporated in the apps. Certainly, audio and video files are enjoyed by the learners as they are more appealing and interesting than the text books which according to some are dull and prosaic. 'Two min English' is a free video and contains more than two hundred two-minute video lessons on a variety of topics e.g., social English, business English, travel English, common mistakes in English, idioms and phrases. The app named 'Busuu' also provides comprehensive audio visual learning material with photos and recordings by native speakers. It is a primary community of language learners online. It provides extensive vocabulary practice. 'LearnEnglish Audio and Video' is an app introduced by the British Council which delegates us with everyday English conversations to improve listening skills. Each video and podcast appears with audio scripts and comprehension exercises. 'Duolingo' is a stunning app that was awarded with the 'Best education start-up award'. It's planned like a game and is rather addictive. It's free, and is very efficient. Game to learn English 'Powowbox' is a multi-level game. Once downloaded, it appears as English tracker. Fun English Language Learning Games is

an English language learning app that teaches kids through charming erudition games and activities with amusing English Stories and videos. LearnEnglish 'Elementary app' is a series of English learning podcasts to practice and learn hundreds of words sportily. Some of the apps that provide language games are 'Fluent U', 'Duolingo,' 'Memrise', 'The Pimsleur', and 'Babbel'. There are numerous apps to enrich people with King's English. The number of names of the apps mentioned in this paper is negligible. There is an overwhelming list of beneficial apps to learn English using audio and video along with testing at various skills.

The English language games offer a lively and self-motivated learning atmosphere, so it really comes down to the game player who benefits from playing the game. The game can be played when the time works best for the learners. They can enjoy the time in learning the target language. So, rather than conscious standard learning, focus is on doing well in the game with strategic thinking. Instinctively, the player can improve their proficiency. Due to this psychological status of the learner, games also provide a great personal way to learn the language without any fear of making mistakes with the language in public. The free games for mobile phones, such as Scrabble and crossword puzzles, engross a spotlight on language. They encourage students to engage the learners with the target language, and to do so in the context of entertainment. Once students determine that their phones have the capability to play games, it is their decision to download and install the programs and enrich their language. The students commented that they enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere the games provided, as well as the competitiveness and motivation that games brought to the learning environment.

Whatsapp is a mobile messaging app which allows the learners to exchange messages. Users can form groups, and send each other limitless images, video and audio media messages over an internet connection. The teachers can be the anchor and the students can be sent short news articles or podcast and asked to send answers summarizing it in their own words. Students could circulate photos with captions to illustrate different tenses. They could

depict their daily habits or routines, or create a set of instructions, make a short business presentation or reviewing a movie/book or TV show in their own style of writing and get the opinion of the teacher or the group members. Students could create video or audio using smart phones and publish it through Whatsapp and get their language honed. Whatsapp, the teacher can set a research activity, make students to interview people and record and edit their interview with their own creativity involved in it. They could record the lesson and send it to students. The students can post quizzes and grammar tips, share book reviews, and brainstorm ideas about different topics and themes. They can create a place to interact with you and with each other outside the classroom.

To conclude, English learning should be a pleasant experience with easily accessible tools enabling them to incorporate self-study into their busy lives, accelerating their development and assuring enhanced outcome. The usage of mobile phones for English acquisition results in learning at an augmented rapidity and retention of the information compared to learning through rote methods. It is an exceedingly welcomed break from the usual method of educating a second language learner. It is advisable to use the language learning apps because they are time effective providing fun and enjoyment as well as momentous context for language use. They motivate the learners to promote communicative competence with less anxiety of making errors. They create positive attitudes towards learning by integrating all linguistic skills like reading, listening, speaking and writing. They redefine their language skills with vocabulary, pronunciation, spelling, grammar and syntax all at leisure time. The mobility of the mobile devices provide students with the chance to study/review any day, any time, without the need to remember to bring their books or class materials. Most apps are immensely user-friendly and well-organized into topics. So, students need not waste any time looking for what they want to practice. Language learning apps are the ideal tool to engage learners who are very tech-minded and naturally enjoy using gadgets.

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