



## Significance of Language Laboratory in Learning English as a Second Language

### KEYWORDS

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#### Introduction:

Mastering a language requires considerable and continuous efforts. That too, to gain mastery over a second language (English), one has to put deliberate and conscious efforts. As the learner has already acquired the first language (Mother tongue), it may be difficult for him/her to acquire second language. Because, the factors like, vocabulary, accent, time constraint, motivation, situations etc., do influence the learning of second language. Hence, for effective and efficient communication in any language (English), one has to undergo a particular language learning process. This process may be assisted by the production of innovative products such as multimedia control, wireless headsets and microphones, the interactive responsive pad, language laboratory etc.,

One among these innovative products is language lab which plays an important role in the language learning process. The language lab is a teaching room with electronic devices for recording and reproducing speech. It has a number of advanced facilities that can help a student to learn a language with proficiency to communicate. In other words, it provides students with the technical tools to get the best samples of pronunciation of the language.

#### Significance of language laboratory

The language lab is an exclusive result oriented and efficient one to enrich the English language learning process. The plethora of its usage could be seen in different fields. By using its technology, one could communicate well and teach a number of languages effectively. Richards (2001) explored that to acquire a sensibility for the sounds and rhythm of a language, one has to hear the best samples of a spoken language. It is also proved that one can learn all aspects of phonetics of a language such as pronunciation, accent, stress etc., in a language lab. Moreover courses for various groups of people like students, faculties or for any other groups of interested people could also be conducted. It is known that in this era of competition, students need to take some courses or classes. Hence, programmes such as short-term and long-term coaching classes for international examinations like IELTS, TOFEL and other competitive examinations could be organized. Apart from this, online courses and pa-

perless examinations could also be conducted. In addition to this, all forms of documentation such as general documentation, classroom and examination related documentation and software and technical documentation could be done and preserved. The setting up of news magazines and teaching materials may also be generated. More over, for creating and editing scientific and technical materials, for teaching language, the language lab could be utilized. Apart from this, effective communicative training programmes could be offered for the other general public, private and corporal sectors, junior and senior level officers.

#### Conclusion:

Though the lab presents lot of advantages like independent learning, Joyful learning, auditory oriented, better attentions and interaction, self evaluation etc., it is still an expensive proposition. Only a small percentage of public schools have it. Moreover scarcity of availability of trained experts is one more problem to the institution.

In the present educational system in India, only those who study science subjects have practical work in a laboratory where as those students who study arts subjects do not have a laboratory session. Hence, a laboratory for language learning to our students, which is very common in western countries to train children is the need of the hour. Though the language lab is believed as self-learning accessible we need an expert to handle the classes. Thus, a trained expert who teaches the faculties and the students to know how to equip and use the language lab need to be appointed. Here due attention should also be given to the rural students. In other words, the teachers are expected to take initiation in this regard. They must motivate the students to learn the language in the lab which stimulates the eyes and ears of the learner to acquire the language quickly and easily.

Thus, the language lab enhances not only language teaching but also classroom grading and distance learning. In other words, the language laboratories assist the learners in the acquisition and maintenance of aural comprehension, oral and written proficiency and cultural awareness.

#### REFERENCE

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