Developing English Language Teaching Through Call
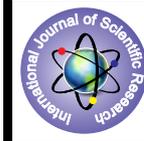
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ABSTRACT
Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) program was started during 1960. The development of personal computer application, including games, and word processor opened up new technological possibilities for CALL. Computer assisted language learning and teaching is a new and rapidly evolving field that explores the role of information and communication technologies in language learning and teaching.The field CALL is inherently multidisciplinary. It applies research from the fields of second language acquisition, linguistics, and natural language processing to second language pedagogy. It melds these disciplines with technology related fields such as computer science, artificial intelligence and media/ communication studies.

Introduction

Computer serves as a communication between the programmer and the user. By applying the use of computer skills, one can learn more. Hence the use of computer in Language Teaching will enhance the quality of teaching-learning process. A well designed program may help the users to solve their problems. Learning language through computer will help the learners as well as teachers.

With the advent of multimedia and the internet, the role of computers in language instruction has now become an important issue confronting large members of language teachers throughout the world. In the field of language learning, the computer could interact with the learners. There are many packages for teaching language available in the market; each one has its own merits and demerits.

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Natural Language Processing (NLP)

Natural Language Processing is a cover term which refers to the computational processing of textual material in natural human languages. Two primary motivation of NLP are listed below;

1. Natural language interference to databases.
2. Machine translation system.
3. Text analysis and generation system.
4. Information retrieval system.
5. Computer aided instruction system.
6. Question- answering system.

Cognitive science motivation is to gain a better understanding of how human communication using natural language and thereby to build artificial intelligence for the purpose of building up expert systems.

Computer in Language Learning

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CALL Training Packages

Looking at the learners and the function of CALL, three important categories can be distinguished.

Basic Training

Training for CALL can take place in schools, colleges and universities. Schools are the main place for the basic training of CALL packages. CALL packages are not fully fit for the specific requirements of school education. Syllabus, teaching methods and school environment vary from one country to another. So, it is difficult to design CALL package for schools for the world wide usage.

Continuous and Vocational Training

Computer Aided Language Learning packages are used for the purpose of vocational training in companies. Some of the world wide exporting firms have lost their business of poor linguistics ability. Assuming this, each company, which has been affected by this problem, has installed CALL packages in their companies.

The demand of English language learning in larger companies is naturally defined by their tasks and need to communicate with the partner or customer in other countries, which applies to international companies and export departments. The large companies mainly make use of custom-made products, which are defined to train special skills. An important consideration is that for large companies, developing CALL packages in house may be much cheaper than spending employees to language training centers.

Personality Motivated Training

It is also known as individual learning. Home use of multimedia is growing faster than office use, largely because of the increasing offer of CD-ROMs for entertainment and edutainment. This can be done through individual learning.

Individual Learning through CALL packages

The computers are ideas for individualized learning, when personal computers become more common and less expensive. The major criticism is that even after several years of instruction; the students have difficulty in using English for communication. In class rooms, the same information is given to all students and everyone studies in the same way. The same rule applied to all

students, and exceptions are made in few cases. Students are expected to learn the information from the textbook and teacher's lecture.

Individualized instruction means giving a suitable instruction to each student. It is not a teacher-centered because different students learn using different methods and at different paces. It is a student centered education, and its purpose is helping students to learn what they need, using their learning independently. This can be done through the CALL package effectively.

Learners and the functions of CALL can be distinguished in three important categories. They are:
1. Preparation of learning materials which covers linguistics and communicative aspects of learning.
2. Inclusion of grammatical aspects of language.
3. Preparation of lesson plan, drill, tests and evaluation.

Advantages of CALL Packages
CALL packages obviously offer interesting alternative to the traditional classroom environment. CALL programs provide immediate, fair and unbiased feedback to the users. CALL packages offer practice in specific area of language. Training in technical language is provided by the CALL software. Some programs are designed to prepare the students for special examinations focusing on the knowledge needed. CALL package offering integrated consulting feature are time saving, in comparison with the normally spent by using dictionaries and grammar books. Students with special educational needs gain an improved access to learn language through CALL.

The learner's productivity by using CALL system. For teachers the support of recording and reporting student's progress makes it easier to setup more effective learning programs. Language learning system through CALL makes it entertaining,

because many things can be presented by the CALL packages. It provides a well designed and nice looking graphical user in order to make teaching language.

Problems in Using CALL Packages
There are some demerits or problems in using CALL packages. The students who use CALL package may complain about

1. Inadequate user interfaces and the general lack of user friendliness
2. The lack of adaptivity
3. The restricted menu of exercises
4. The lack of adequate language processing methods

Conclusion
Apart from these complaints some people simply dislike or mistrust computer in general. This problem is obviously caused mainly by computer illiteracy. As far as language learners and language teaching centers are concerned, there are a number of language centers avoiding English language teaching through computers. They are:

· In the past, policy makers have given a low priority to CALL
· The lack of quality of software
· Many languages teaching centers didn't have the equipment to run CALL program
· High hardware cost were an additional against introducing CALL into the curriculum
· CALL based language preparation generally does make more time than preparing normal courses
· Authoring tools are still too complicated to be used by people who lack programming skills

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