Research Paper Engineering

# Integration of Technology Into ELCS Labs: An Overview on CAll Software Modules

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**ABSTRACT**

This present article throws light on the integration of technology into ELCS labs and some of the major CALL software modules used in language labs in engineering and professional colleges .Now-a-days technology has become an essential resource in many models of English Language Communication Skills Lab. Technology promotes various patterns of communication skills. The idea of English language Laboratory emerged during early twentieth century and in the year of 1955, language lab was originated.

**KEYWORDS** Integration of Technology-ELCS Labs, Major CALL Software modules,

## INTRODUCTION

The language laboratory both the language lab (Multimedia Language Lab)) and communication skills lab (Interactive Lab) is enormously affected by the technology. This offers full-fledged freedom and abundant opportunities for students to acquire a variety of self-learned materials of communication skills. The constant developments in technology have brought different software packages of language labs.

## TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION-A PART OF TODAY'S ELT

The need for Information and Multimedia Technology (IMT) into Language Communication Skills Labs has been emphasized by the academicians, ELT experts and researchers. Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) has become a part of skills acquisition in recent times. Many universities in the state of Telangana, besides other universities in India have been implementing the technology based language labs for the larger benefits of the professional students.

## ELCS LAB RESOURCE

➢♦ **Technical Resources**

ELCS Lab facilitates various modules of communication skills and related practice materials for all students of engineering irrespective of branches they are studying. Accordingly undergraduate students, faculty members, lab assistants all required attending the lab activities.

➢ The environment of ELCS lab has undergone several changes. The nature and scope of the lab has got the model change from traditional blackboard classrooms to computer labs and in this environment the role of the faculty underwent a significant shift from a knowledge giver to a facilitator. The students are given the tasks and responsibilities for their own language learning and they are expected to become active and self-sufficient learners.

➢ The language lab adopts the time-tested and proven formula of–Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing and Understanding .This helps the user to grasp and retain the ability for a long time.

**Listening** Listen to Speaker's Voice

**Understand** Track the speaker's voice and recognize the style of speaking as it is representing detailed.

**Record** Listen to the recording carefully .When there is an exercise, which requires for the students, the record button will permit automatically and the voice is recorded into the microphone.

**Compare** Students can compare the pronunciation with that of the facilitator, visually as both the voice will be represented graphically and also by listening to the student's own voice.

In language lab each user is provided a system; the students receive recorded lessons through headphones and can even hear his/her own voice by this. The students therefore, analyze their own performance that is to compare their own speech with that of the speaker's voice.

## TYPES OF LANGUAGE LABS SOFTWARE

From the viewpoint of many career experts and techs in the channel to identify the need and importance of developing communication skills for the students because it is the foundation year for their career and their ability to relate to others while acquiring communication skills depend on many factors. To make best use of the advice of the experienced to develop professional skills and advance career of the engineering students from the first year level .It is very important to take essential care and include extra activities to the language labs to be strictly implemented.

## A BRIEF REVIEW ON EXISTING LANGUAGE SOFTWARES USED IN ELCS LABS OF ENGINEERING COLLEGES IN TELANGANA

1. Globarena software
2. K-VAN software
3. LEARN TO SPEAK software

As far as the engineering first year ELCS labs are concerned, the researcher would like to present that there are only four multimedia language lab softwares are being used in the engineering colleges. After conducting the survey the researcher came to know that the existing multimedia language lab which is part of the ELCS lab, equips with learning software materials are useful to students to impart language and communication skills effectively but could not fulfill the needs entirely. There are certain drawbacks discovered in not functioning of the ELCS labs in the district.

The major reasons are 1.these softwares are not provided in some of the engineering colleges in the district and 2. Proper updates have not been done in the existing learning softwares by the respective managements and faculty members.

## GLOBARENA TECHNOLOGY MULTIMEDIA LANGUAGE LEARNING SOFTWARES USED IN ELCS

Globarena software is widely used in ELCS labs, as it is related to one of the best among all the softwares. Globarena is a part of Chary group which has business in bio-technology, VOIP-Telecom, High-End diagnostics, software development and learning solutions. Globarena technology is promoted by a set of professional who have held very senior executive posi-

tions with the best organization in the world.

**Globarena English Lab**
English lab is designed to enhance students' language skills, communication skills, vocabulary, listening skills, and pronunciation accuracy and eliminate MTI. English lab is fully computerized client server application that can be run LAN. It has an easy to use console displayed on the desk top if the server to facilitate the faculty to conduct the course. Students would access the courseware through client systems.

**GLOBARENA MULTIMEDIA LANGUAGE LEARNING SOFTWARE**

| Globarena Multimedia Language Learning Software Console | |
|---|---|
| Etiquette (Business/social etc) | IQ/EQ/SQ/AQ |
| Goal setting | Thinking skills |
| Perservance | Time management |
| Proactiveness | Negotiation skills |
| Interpersonal skills | Stress management |
| Tolerance | Conflict management |
| Team skills | Assertiveness |
| Problem solving and decision skills | Feedback question/answer session |
| Team roles | Leadership and motivational skills |

**FEATURES**
**Employability Enhancement Skills**
1. Recruitment patterns of various companies
2. Group discussions
- Topic based group discussions
- Case based group discussions

**3. Interview skills**
- Introduction and purpose of the interview
- Interview patterns

4. Resume preparation
5. Aptitude

**ADDITIONAL FEATURES**
This software provides ample examples of employability skills, stress management, maintaining relationships.

- This software consists of video clips of many language items. These video clips help the students to get an idea how to go about group discussions, interview skills, debates etc.
- This software facilitates the teacher to share the desktop, transfer the data and video clips and control the students systems with the help of teacher's console.

**K-VAN SOLUTIONS LANGUAGE LEARNING SOFTWARE**
K-VAN solutions English language learning software Material which is used in the English language labs of engineering colleges focuses on the production and practice of the sounds of English language familiarizes the students with the use of English everyday situations and context. Some of the salient features of the software are presented here. These softwares are developed as per JNTU syllabus. These softwares are intended to help students improve their communication skills (both verbal and written). The software is developed in such a way that the users will become confident communicators in English within a few weeks. By implementing this educational software in colleges, every student will have access to world class training facilities.

**K-VAN MULTIMEDIA ENGLISH LANGUAGE LAB V 6.0"**

| K-VAN Multimedia English Language Lab V 6.0" B.Tech First Year Student Console | |
|---|---|
| Introduction to Phonetic Symbols | Situation Dialogues |
| British Phonetics | Role Play |
| American Phonetics | Information Transfer |
| Practicing Vowels | Just A Minute (JAM) |
| Practicing Consonants | Describing Objects/Situations/ People |
| Practicing Accent, Rhythm And Intonation | Oral Presentations-Prepared And Extempore |
| Wave Analyzer | Debates |
| Contact Teacher | Telephoning Skills |
| Word Dictionary | Giving Directions |
| Listening Skills | Idioms |

**Here are some striking features of teacher console:**
- Voice chat
- Text chat
- Voice conference
- Recording the conversation
- Broadcast

**Features**
The researcher has found that the K-VAN solutions are in one of the best used softwares in the engineering colleges of Andhra Pradesh. This software has got many salient features which would enable the students to learn and practice English language and communication skills.

- The researcher has found that the K-VAN software primarily aims at the phonetics aspect of the English language. A provision is there for the students to learn and equip a good practice of vowels, consonants, stress, intonation and rhythm.
- The students are facilitated with well-designed contents on various modules in the prescribed form of the syllabus according to the university norms.
- Situational dialogues are presented in the form of Role-Plays which would be convenient for the students to learn in the easy manner.
- The topics on oral presentations prepared and extempore are arranged in the striking manner to incorporate communication skills among the students in the interesting manner.
- The topics giving directions, telephoning skills, debate, information, idioms and dictionary are some of the highlighting features of this software.
- No doubt this software gives a good provision for many topics. But this does not have the required resources.

Apart from this multimedia language learning software materials the researcher mentions some other suggested and supporting softwares for imparting effective language and communication skills for the learners. They are:

a. train2success.com
b. let'stalk.com

These softwares are available for the students to extract sufficient information directly from the internet sources to enrich their communication skills.

**LEARNT TO SPEAK ENGLISH Software**
According to E. Suresh Kumar and K.V. Madhavi (2010) "Learn to Speak Personalized Learning Technology (PLT)" is a language learning program was being introduced in GITAM University for the larger benefit of students. It is a language

learning program that focuses on building skills by practicing various lessons, exercises and drills. This program consists of Audio, Video texts and online instructions. The learners can participate through visual auditory and interactive methods. The software runs on 166Mhz Pentium processor or equivalent windows 2000, Xp along with 32 MB RAM, 125 MB free hard disc space, 256 color SPGA, 4X CD ROM Drive.

The learners improve their conversational and pronunciation skills with the help of the four CDs of this software.

**CONCLUSION**

The multimedia English lab software of ELCS is presented. They help the students to acquire and develop the language and communication skills. However the ELCS labs need to have effective language items to support and to provide information as is expected by engineering students and the teachers. Though the ELCS lab software materials have useful features, they provide more theoretical than practical knowledge. More activities need to be developed to impart useful and effective skills to provide the best career and employability skills for the students and more care should be taken care for the students who particularly belong to the rural engineering colleges.

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