

## **EFFECTIVENESS OF E-LEARNING IN ACQUIRING ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS – AN OVERVIEW**

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### **Abstract**

Language is a prominent aspect of human association and connection. Although all species have their own ways of communicating, humans are unique in their own way. Technology today contributes a lot to enhance the language skills in humans. It enable teachers to adapt classroom activities, thus enhancing the language learning process. As English is considered to be the global language, the ability to speak and write in English helps an individual to achieve great in his profession. After reviewing various articles, the authors discovered that previous researchers defined and investigated effectiveness of e-learning modules contribute to the acquisition of language skills –Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing in multiple ways. This attempt highlights how e- learning is helpful to acquire listening, speaking, reading and writing skills? The paper also portrays the definition of e-learning along with the merits of acquiring language skills using e-learning. This overview also provide the ways how e-learning contributes for the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

**Keywords:** language, effectiveness, e-learning, listening, speaking, reading, writing

### **Introduction**

Language is considered to be a valuable ornament for man. It is the tool which is used by human race from birth to death and also from dawn to dusk. To lead a successful life man needs good language skills. It is noteworthy that whether a person is rich or poor, literate or illiterate, knowledgeable or a moron, everyone in this globe requires

language for the purpose of communication. Acquiring a language is an art. Any language can be acquired by practicing the four skills, viz. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Acquiring English language also involves practice in the above four skills. When a person is continuously practicing these skills he acquires knowledge on the language aspects like grammar, pronunciation, stress, intonation, rhythm, diction, vocabulary, sentence structure, etc. Once in a traditional classroom situation all these language components were taught by the teacher orally. But today things are different and technology plays a pivotal role in improving the learning outcomes of a language. Both teachers and students of 21<sup>st</sup> Century is comfortable with technology. Hence the advancements of technology has played a dominant role in the act of teaching and learning. Use of technology in education results in increasing the effectiveness of learning. E- Learning is a part of technological advancements and e-learning modules are available in plenty today which enhances the language skills by using the modules effectively. This Paper tries to bring out the role of e-learning modules in enhancing the language skills – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

### **Introduction to e-learning**

Rosenberg (2001) defines ‘e-learning as the use of Internet technologies to deliver a broad array of solutions that enhance knowledge and performance.’

- (Dubey Madhuri, 2011)

E-learning outcomes may seem the attributes of software applications. Till recent days one need the knowledge of programming to develop a content. But today due to the advancements of user–friendly features, a person can work with commercially available authoring tools or free or open source tools. In total the process of developing e- learning content and software development is similar and same. In the process of e- learning various tools viz. synchronous communication modes like videoconferencing, virtual classroom, e-tutoring, etc, Asynchronous communication modes viz. e-mails, etc, Webinars, Interactive web pages, social networking, assessments, rapid e- learning, etc

are involved. There are different types of e-learning which includes online learning, blended learning, virtual classroom and mobile learning, etc. All these types helps to acquire the language skills in one way or other.

### **Effectiveness of e-learning**

When designing e-learning instructions, instructional designers, instructors, and e-learning developers have a learning outcome in mind that they want to accomplish. Their aim is to develop instructions and use technologies to create learning environments that are effective in fostering learning. The effectiveness of e-learning is marked by its ability to achieve statistically significant effect on improving learners' knowledge or skills. It's no doubt that e-learning helps the learner to adopt self – study techniques, motivates learning, have flexibility in using media, etc.

### **Role of e- learning in enhancing listening skill**

The term listening means 'to pay attention to'. This is the language skill which a child involves in first. The new born baby pay attention to the happenings around. The things which are listened will be stored in the mind. The child listens to the voice and sound around him and acquires the pronunciation, intonation, stress, and all other language aspects through listening. By listening to e- learning modules the learner,

- Understands the everyday English which he intends to speak
- Understands the concept of constructing English sentence structure
- Differentiates the vowel and consonant sounds in English
- Acquires knowledge in stress, intonation, etc

### **Role of e- learning in enhancing Speaking skill**

The child starts speaking after listening to the parents and neighbours around him. The child also develops the art of narration, description, defining, requesting, suggesting, comparing, classifying, etc after listening to someone. E-learning module helps to

- speak English like the native English speakers
- develop an international intelligence in his presentation

- have proper stress and intonation in speech
- communicate easily with rich language abilities
- enhances the ability of expression in simple language

### **Role of e- learning in enhancing Reading skill**

This is the third language skill which a student practice. Usually the students learn reading by listening to their teachers. In lower classes the students get practiced in listening to loud reading by the teacher. But in higher classes they will be listening to different types of reading like skimming, scanning, extensive reading, intensive reading, etc. With the help of e-learning the students get exposed to visualize various language experts involving in the art of reading. E-learning modules help to enhance the reading skill of the learner in following ways.

- Read at a normal speed
- Read with proper eye- movements
- Acquires knowledge in silent reading, loud reading, model reading, extensive reading, intensive reading, skimming, scanning, etc.
- develops the habit of attention and get trained in absorbing ideas quickly.

### **Role of e- learning in enhancing Writing skill**

Writing is an art. It is evidential hence all the documents, records, rules, regulations, etc are in written form. Writing needs lot of practice and requires creativity and critical thinking.

Writing is defined as “a graphical representation of language”

- (Halbe M, Malathi, P- 85)

E-learning modules helps to develop this art of writing in various ways. There are various contents and presentations in the content form. This e- learning modules provides idea to

- make different shapes of the letters.
- use proper capitalization, punctuations, etc
- organize sentences, paragraphs, compositions, etc

- overcome grammatical errors in writing
- build vocabulary.

### **Merits of acquiring language skills using e- learning**

ICT is playing a prominent role in learning. ‘ICTs do not produce learning: technology is a tool that can be used in many ways, to enhance learning. There are three major categories of instructional use for computer – based technologies: these are i) learning from technologies: ii) learning about technology: and iii) learning with technology’.

*- (Das Manoj Kumar, P- 5)*

As e- learning is a component of ICT, adoption of e-learning by teachers and students today is at varied levels. E-learning helps the learner and also the teacher of a language to acquire language skills through various ways. Few of the merits in using e-learning materials are:

- Helps the teacher to integrate technology with classroom teaching
- There is possibility for the students to acquire language through self-study technique.
- The students get exposed to various sources like e- books, printed materials, CD’s, audio and video based contents, etc to enhance their language skills.
- The students have the freedom to evaluate and select the correct and useful content for his language development.
- The pupils are fortunate to acquire language skills from the native English speakers.

### **Conclusion**

A person becomes effective and efficient when he is having a strong language skills – LSRW. e-learning modules help in the process of designing, developing and delivering the language activities which enhances the four skills. After reviewing few identified articles, it is found that e-learning modules were useful in enhancing the

language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing. All the studies reported that there was a significant effect of e-learning on knowledge and skill acquisition. Therefore it is an effective method to educate and train the language aspirants to enhance the language skills viz. LSRW. The above mentioned suggestions will contribute for the acquisition of language skills.

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