

Course Name: Language across Curriculum

Course Code: EDU272

Unit-IV

Topic: Language Laboratory- role of language laboratory in developing language skills

Language Laboratory

Through originated in the USA, Language laboratory rapidly gained ground in UK in the 1960's. Now it forms an important technique of teaching in several countries and especially in the teaching of foreign language. Essentially language laboratory is a self learning device. It enables the learner to hear the language spoken from recorded tapes and to practice speaking in the same manner. The language laboratory concentrates on listening (understanding) and speaking, leaving the other two processes reading and writing to be developed later. While speaking, it aims at the development of correct pronunciation, intonation and accent. It also develops an ability to use the words, idioms and phrases in the language in the correct way. Finally it helps the learner to communicate his ideas effectively in the language. It enables the use of same material by a group of about 20 learners at a time.

❖ Role of language laboratory in developing language skills

A language laboratory recognizes the existence and prevalence of wide-spread individual differences in language aptitude even among the average and superior intelligence. Its approach is essentially individualistic. A language laboratory allows much time for oral and auditory experiences. It affords the opportunities for students to hear the language spoken by a native and to practice speaking in the language themselves. A language laboratory provides for a well designed and carefully produced pattern of drills and thus relieves the teacher of endless repetition of patterns.

Language labs are becoming **highly valued** because they offer students a structured **eLearning** environment that is **successful** and **reliable**. New technologies are increasingly more present in **classrooms** as they facilitate the **teacher's role** in creating a more attractive learning environment for the student and can offer their students more practice hours and up-to-date exercises than can be found in language books.

1 A language lab is practical

Learning a new **language** just by studying the theory is not enough to guarantee a successful **language learning experience**. Language labs provide practice in an entertaining and interactive way to acquire the 4 main language skills: **listening, speaking, reading, and writing**. Students learn more comprehensively through a language lab,

Self-learning: The student progresses in a self-guided but structured and progressive training to achieve the goals and objective set by the school or educational body.

- **Complimentary:** Language labs allow students to reinforce material learned in class by putting them into practice through interactive activities.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Teachers know the progress of each student and receive reports of strengths and weaknesses to better adapt the classroom activities.

2 Students learn much faster in the language lab

Practice leads to language learning **success!** Language labs' **interactive** courses help students learn much faster than in a **regular classroom** setting. The **methodology** of the classroom language network uses a progressive model to promote natural learning, where students learn the different concepts of language in an **intuitive** way. The **language lab** **boosts** the **motivation** of students achieving higher levels of language retention and progress.

3 The teacher takes on a more important role in the language lab

There is a big fear in the **education** world that technology will **replace** the **role** of the **teacher** and the position will become obsolete entirely. The language lab **debunks** this **myth** because it provides **supplementary materials** that only **facilitate** the role of the instructor rather than compete with it. The teacher can then focus on the **important** parts of the course rather than waste time explaining everything. The structure of the language lab courses also facilitate the work teacher puts in when preparing lessons and allows them to prepare them in less time and with a greater volume of interactive resources. The course then collects the student information and provides **instantaneous reports** of the lesson's progress against objectives; the teacher uses this information to **guide** the direction of the class.

4 Use more resources and varied activities than in a traditional classroom

Language labs allow students to practice the language with a much wider **variety** of **activities** and **exercises** based on the computer. Learning occurs in a **structured** way, in a **real context** and visually **attractive** way that immerses the student in the language learning environment and **promotes** language use. The students can watch videos, practice their **pronunciation** through a speech recognizer, learn new vocabulary, and much more.

5 Language labs allow for diversity in the classroom

Language laboratories provide teacher **attention** to students, especially in the case of schools with different levels because as **interactive** courses, language labs are **tailored** to the **individual needs** of students. On the other hand, thanks to **monitoring** and **evaluation** in real time, the teacher knows exactly what course objectives pose major difficulties for the student time and can reinforce the class accordingly.

6 Labs foster communication in the classroom

Language labs also **encourage communication** student-teacher as well as student-student with activities and exercises essential to oral communication and the understanding of the language.

The labs include tools for creating **groups**, host conversations via **chat**, promote messages on the **board**, access to a **community** of students who are also studying the same language, etc.

7 Language labs are an intuitive tool for both the student and teacher

This method of learning does not **require professional technical** skills for use in the classroom, the teacher only needs basic computer skills and students will welcome the added technology they are already so adept with.

8 language labs optimize computing resources

Both **universities** and **colleges** have classrooms with computers there for students to complete school works or study other subjects. There are also a number of faculty computer labs or office computers for administration also available. Language labs essentially recycle resources an **educational institute** already has and adapts it to the language course.

In short, language labs are a very **comprehensive** and **cost-effective** tool for **educational institutions** to **monetize** their language training and also offer students effective language learning via the latest technology and educational content. They are the perfect solution for designing a **structured academic curriculum** in accordance with the objectives of an educational center with an international vocation audience that seeks the **highest quality** in teaching.

Conclusion

The language laboratory is a very helpful tool for practicing and assessing one's speech in any language. It provides a facility which allows the student to listen to model pronunciation, repeat and record the same, listen to their performance and compare with the model, and do self-assessment. Since the language laboratory gives every learner of any language freedom to learn at their own pace, it is flexible and does not necessarily require a teacher all the time. At the same time, it is possible for teachers to provide assistance individually and collectively. The language laboratory allows every participant his or her privacy to speak and listen.