

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSROOM: A STUDY BASED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

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Modernization has introduced many technological aids into classrooms. Thus, Blackboard/Whiteboard and paper oriented teaching and learning methods have become outdated. Present classrooms are equipped with a number of modern technological aids such as computers, projectors, speakers, interactive white boards, audio players, mobile phones and tabs, to make teaching and learning more effective. Second Language classrooms are especially technologically equipped, to make students more familiar with the pronunciation, culture and the background of the target language. However, still, in Sri Lankan in second language classrooms, the usage of technology is at a minimum level compared to other countries in the world. Thus, with the aim of familiarizing technology in language classrooms in the Sri Lankan context, the research study tries to investigate how effective the use of technology is in a second language classroom. Two Language Classrooms from the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Kelaniya were selected for the research study. The two selected language classrooms are from the Department of English Language Teaching and the French Unit of the Department of Modern Languages. The two teachers from the respective classrooms were interviewed while the students were given a questionnaire to collect data regarding the effectiveness of technology usage in the language classroom. The collected data from interviews and questionnaires was analyzed using statistical analysis and thematic network analysis. According to the findings the use of technology in the second language classrooms can be considered to improve the effectiveness of teaching and learning. Further the study reveals that the use of technology makes second language learners participate in lessons and there is evidence that their language acquisition increases.

Keywords: Modernization, technology, technological aids, Language classrooms, effectiveness

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