



SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGIES TO TEACH TECHNICAL ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to present a feasible approach to the dilemma of having to cope with technical language in specific English teaching. Teaching English with Technology, a resource created to help technical students and Teachers, English and Language Arts teachers incorporate technology effectively into their courses. Find resources for English and Language Arts lesson plans, activities, projects, games, and quizzes that use technology. Explore inquiry-based lessons, activities, and projects. Learn about web technologies such as blogs, podcasts, wikis, social networks, Google Docs, e-books, online maps, virtual field trips, screen casts, online posters, and more. Explore innovative ways of integrating these tools into the curriculum, watch instructional video tutorials, and discover how others are using technology in the classroom!

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction to Teaching English for Technical Purposes is now established as one of the leading training courses for teachers of Technical English. It aims to provide experienced, professional language teachers with the skills they need in order to be effective teachers of Technical English. Innovation in technical education has always been a major concern for Acharya Nagarjuna University. But educational innovation involving new technological media needs to take into account sound pedagogical criteria in order to be properly implemented. English teaching unit has implemented the pedagogical use of core information and communication technologies in the field of English for specific purposes, for engineering students. Knowledge of the English Language is nowadays a must for the future engineer, who is

also required to be an efficient user of the new technologies (mostly computers and the Internet). Therefore, the language teacher working in this technical teaching environment must meet these needs.

Technical English: English based on technical subjects like engineering, which is relatively more complicated and science-oriented.

ENGLISH AND ENGINEERING

English has become the ascendant language internationally, being the most widespread. This will influence the language of communication between professionals internationally. In this age of globalization, the number of international projects is increasing, and cross-cultural communication and collaboration is on the rise; this is particularly so for the now international practice of engineering.

Important Skills Needed To Technical English Teacher

An English teacher needs a variety of skills and traits in order to teach effectively.

A love of literature and language: being able to convey a passion for literature and the main facets of the English language is vital. This includes a solid command of grammar, punctuation and basic writing skills, along with skills in reading and comprehension.

Personality: Being able to create a positive learning atmosphere and develop a good rapport with all students without showing favoritism. Having the ability to engage and involve students.

Patience: For a variety of reasons: the student might learn more slowly than you expect; he/she may lack motivation (i.e. Their employer or parents have sent them to your class); or you might have a 'needy' student - always asking you what you feel are irrelevant questions.

Knowledge: Being able to answer questions in a clear and concise way.

Good organization: Being on time, turning up with the right materials, producing well-planned lessons with suitable material.

A good sense of humor: The ability to laugh at yourself helps you to stay sane (you don't have to be a clown, but a little humor seems to go a long way).

Adaptability & Resourcefulness: On some occasions, you might find yourself without any books, tapes or boards. This can be especially true of developing countries that have limited resources.

Imagination: First of all in terms of creating and adapting teaching materials and secondly being able to empathise with your students (imagine yourself in their position and how they might feel) will help build rapport.

Not afraid of looking silly: Role-playing works especially well with lower level learners. A good teacher should be able to demonstrate things to the class by miming or drawing things on the board (a simple stick figure can convey useful concepts).

Tact and Diplomacy: You have to be careful when interacting with members of a different culture - an ironic remark may seem very rude, and the misunderstanding may be blown out of all proportion.

This can be prevented by developing an awareness of the idiosyncrasies of cultures different from your own.

Adaptable: You might be immersed in a totally different culture.

Great English teachers are more important than they realize. They teach the most important skills within the most important subject. They remind us of the power of language and the delights of literature. They help students to mediate a bewilderingly complex world, standing for certain values - for the confidence to ask questions, for the security of knowing there aren't always simple answers, for being prepared to argue your case, and doing so in a style that is powerfully appropriate. Great English teachers do all this and more.

Great English teachers get nervous on the day of exam results. They don't need to, but they do. It's a sign of their concern that their students should do well in exams, as well as enjoy their subject. It's a sign also of their accountability: great English teachers don't automatically blame their students if a result is disappointing: they live the exams along with their students

Communication skills include many things – using the target language effectively, the way in which to the person we are speaking to, our body language including facial expressions, pitch and tone of our voice, interpersonal skills and a lot of other things. Effective communication skills are now required in each and every aspect of our life. Teachers of English are expected to have good command over the language and possess excellent communication skills

TECHNOLOGIES

Technology can have a reciprocal relationship with English language teaching. As the number of English learners is increasing different teaching methods have been implemented to test the effectiveness of the teaching process. Use of authentic materials in the form of films, radio, TV has been there for a long time. It is true that these technologies have proved successful in replacing the traditional teaching. The rapid rising and development of information technology has offered a better pattern to explore the new teaching model. As a result technology plays a very important role in

English teaching. Using multimedia to create a context to teach English has its unique advantages. The

Divisions of the technology

Computer and other information technologies are used in many technical educational institutions in a number of different ways to aid instruction and learning. Uses of technology for teaching and learning can be divided into technology-assisted learning, tool applications, and computer and information science.

IT-assisted learning: This category includes three different uses of IT to directly support learning.

Computer-assisted learning (CAL) is the interaction between a student and a computer system designed to help the student learn.

Computer-assisted research is the use of IT as an aid to doing library and empirical research.

Distance learning is the use of telecommunications *designed to facilitate student learning.*

Technology-as-a-tool: This includes a large array of hardware and software-word processors, graphics packages, scanners, digital cameras, presentation applications, databases, spreadsheets, and more.

Computer and information science: IT tools include a level of programming in the form of scripts and macros that automate task. (David Moursund, Talbot Bielefeldt, 1999). If teaching methods are proportional with equipment then teaching will be easier. Trainers must be aptly rewarded to maintain the quality of trainee and its impact on the trainees. The advantage of teaching facilities and equipment can be; Increase in learning; Reduction of time; Decrease in costs; Increase of productivity; Reinforcement of memory and prevention of forgetfulness in trainees.

Types of Teaching Aids:

- Non- electronics and Non-mechanical facilities (which can be included of chalk piece, white/black board, sketch pen, chair and desk, books, notes, paper, poster, etc.)

-Electronics and Mechanical facilities (Fax, computers, internet, e-mails, video conferencing etc.,)

Based on this review of the literature on technology and learning, these recommendations can be stated as follows:

Institution should engage in technology planning that focuses not only facilities but on the integration of IT in teaching and learning. Connect the use and study of learning technologies to good, sound pedagogical and cognitive principles.

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