

## RESEARCH ARTICLE



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**DIGITAL LANGUAGE LABORATORY –A VITAL ROLE IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING****DIPIKA S. PATEL**Assistant Professor, Department of English, NaranLala College of Professional & Applied Sciences,  
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**ABSTRACT**

Digital language laboratory plays a vital role in 21st century language learning, and bears little similarity to the antiquated labs. In fact, for students who are part of the video game / internet / cell phone generation, modern language labs play a major role in grabbing student attention and keeping students motivated to learn. This paper examines the role of the language laboratory in language teaching as it is helpful tool for learners to reinforce in certain areas, in which they are experiencing some difficulty such as the internalisation of correct grammatical structures, pronunciation, and listening comprehension.

**Keywords:** Language Laboratory, English language skills**@ Copyright KY Publications****INTRODUCTION**

The English language is generally acknowledged as a global language, in view of its numerous functions and preference over several other languages around the globe. For a high-quality and pensive communication, there has to be proficiency in the English language. This proficiency is not easy and is not acquired in a day. There has to be constant practice and urge to learn English language comprehensively. For motivating students, a teacher or trainer should have some interesting propositions for the students to keep their interest permanent and on-going. English language acquisition and

learning is becoming important for Indian students today, owing to their great demand in the world. During the history of language teaching, technology has always played a key role. In the twentieth century, a wide variety of electronic devices had been used in order to make the process of learning a foreign or second language easier due to a new approach.

**2. Language Laboratory:**

The language laboratory is very useful for assessing student's speech. It provides students with the technical tools to get the best samples of pronunciation of the language. The electronic devices used in the laboratory will

stimulate the eyes and ears of the learner to acquire the language quickly and easily. The laboratory's collection is designed to assist learners in the gaining and continuation of oral comprehension, oral and written proficiency, and cultural awareness. The language laboratory offers broadcasting, television programmes, web-assisted materials and videotaped off-air recordings in the target language. In short, a learner can get the experience of having interaction with native speakers through the laboratory. Hence, the language laboratory has become the need of the hour in any language learning process for communication.

## 2. Classification of Language Laboratory

Scientific advancements have produced a number of innovative products to assist the learning process. Innovative products such as digital multimedia control, wireless headsets and microphones and the interactive response pad are very useful for students learning languages.

### Conventional Laboratory

This is the primitive form of the language laboratory. It has a tape recorder and a few audiocassette of the target language to teach the learners. The teacher plays the tape and the learners listen to it and learn the pronunciation. This type of laboratory is no longer common.

### Lingua Phone Laboratory:

Again this is a traditional type of laboratory with a little modernization. It has an electronic device which has two functions. It works as a cassette player with all the features of a normal cassette player on the left side and as a repeater on the right side that helps one to record one's voice and play it back for comparison.

### Computer Assisted Language Laboratory (CALL)

CALL plays a crucial role in language learning/teaching as it makes use of a vast wealth of teaching and learning materials that are offered free of cost through computer and

information technologies. It helps the teacher to give practice in particular aspects of language. It enables even shy learners to be actively involved. Currently, CALL interactions are likely to include sounds, animation, video and communication over local area networks, e-mails and internet chat lines.

### Multimedia Language Laboratory

There is a lot of software available on the market that can be used in the multimedia language laboratory, for example:Globarina, Console OCL-908W,HistudioMHi Tech Online Software

## 3. Modern language Laboratory in general offer the following

- Text, images, audio and video can easily be integrated; teachers can alter materials to fit their requirements
- Learners can record their own voice and play back the recordings, interact with each other and the teacher, and store results
- Teachers can intervene and control the learners' computers via the teacher's console, track of learner's work, etc.
- Self-access for independent learning which includes access to resources outside class

The purpose of a language lab is to involve students to actively participate in language learning exercises and get more practice than otherwise possible in a traditional classroom environment.

## 4. English Language Laboratory in Enriching Communication Skills

An English language Lab is a facility where a student can learn a language with the help and guidance of a teacher through a system, to improve his/her speaking and listening capacity. The Language Lab can receive inputs from recorded tapes, audios and videos, CDs, etc. A proficient teacher in the English language is the only external requirement to monitor the students during the learning process. Students

will automatically receive pre-recorded lessons from the master source through the teacher while logging in and can use these lessons for practice. Students can be subdivided into small groups to either listen and respond to the instructor's program material or interact with each other in conversational exercises. These labs have advanced remote monitoring facility, which enables the teacher to monitor all a master control.

#### **4. Benefits of using English Language Laboratory**

**Acoustics:** English Lab provides an opportunity to all learners to listen the instructions. Each learner can listen to the lesson material at a level set by the Instructor and also receive guidance from the teacher. Individual headsets give the students the accurate and correct pronunciation.

#### **Developing Listening Skills**

It is obvious that listening skill is very important aspect in language learning. Language lab helps learners to develop good listening skills. Learners hear the correct language patterns all the time through their headsets. The students might be attentive towards the sounds in the lab more carefully than in the theory classes

**Privacy and Effective Learning:** Individual headsets provide learners with a psychological privacy. They promote not only speaking ability but also effective learning. It encourages the students to speak so that the mute and shy people including other students get benefited from it. They can practice the sounds according to British pronunciation which help them to speak with correct pronunciation. The shy learners can get more benefits from the lab. Students can be supervised individually by the monitor so that their doubts can be clarified easily. In theory classes, the students usually stop speaking when teacher communicates with an individual learner but in a lab they will continue working without interruption. The

students can improve their language skills effectively by listening the material in the lab.

**Overcoming Shyness:** The use of language learning system encourages the learner to talk freely and lose their shyness when talking in front of the people

**Attention and Concentration:** Since the language lab allows the learner to listen to the program individually, each individual learner's attention may be focused on the program material being studied. The attention and concentration to students by lab make them learn more things in the lab.

**Oral Testing:** The students can test their voice by producing the sounds. The testing will make the students speak without fear and bring the students on one path which focuses on learning English.

**Record / Comparing:** The learners have the ability to record their own voices along with the master stimulus. Each learner can be working interactively on different segments within the same program or be working with completely different program material.

**Role Playing Exercises:** Using the random pairing/random-grouping feature that all advanced modern language learning systems incorporate, instructors can generate a variety of exercises structured around role-playing. Learners can be grouped together in small numbers and hold conversational practice with each other.

**Teacher Monitoring:** Since the instructor is not concentrating on producing the next question or drill, he/she can concentrate more on the student responses. The instructor has more time to produce materials and oversee class activities due to the automatic, rather than manually, controlled instructor console features.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

A language teacher acts as mentor, trainer and aspirant because his/her primary goal is to train students to become entrepreneurs and be

conscious of their social roles. The use of Language labs are considered to be a far-reaching budge from the teacher centred approach to an independent and enjoyable learning experience .A language lab acts as a platform for learner through interactive lessons and communication mode of teaching.

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