

## THE ROLE OF ICT IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

**Nematova Sabina Olimovna**

*Student of 11-19ING group of foreign Languages*

*Bukhara State University*

*Saabina854@gmail.com*

**Abstract:** *ICT has become an important part of learning languages all over the world. The use of digital tools help students to gain knowledge with different ways. As ICT provides access to a wide range of educational materials and interactive activities. It also helps language learners to communicate with teachers and native speakers across the world. This article gives information about the importance of ICT in L2 learning and explains how technology improves the learning process.*

**Key words:** *ICT, education, develop, technology, improves, learning process, crucial role, world, tools, computers, students, educational materials, lesson, information, educational materials, technological tools, teachers, students, language learners.*

### INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays crucial role in the field of education, especially in language learning. Nowadays in digital era, students have many opportunities to develop their language skills by using digital tools and online sources. ICT has greatly changed the style of learning. With the help of digital tools like: computers, internet, mobile applications, and multimedia resources. ICT provides L2 learners with different opportunities to practice reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. That's why ICT become integral part of Language learning process.

The history of ICT in language learning:

Before the computing era (or at least before computers became readily available and affordable), technology in teaching typically encompassed the use of television and video resources, language laboratories, cassettes and – perhaps – an overhead projector. It might also have included the use of a photocopier. In many schools and teaching centres these still make up the greater part of those tools regularly used for both preparation and teaching, but the quiet revolution of technology has meant that many teachers around the world are more likely these days to be found blogging and updating their wikis than they are cutting pictures out of magazines and sticking them on sheets of paper, or creating a new podcast for their learners rather than lining up the next listening exercise on the cassette or CD. This is the first of a series of three articles looking at the past, present and future use of technology in language teaching. First Generation Computers The period of first generation was from 1946-1959. The computers of first generation used vacuum tubes as the basic components for memory and circuitry for CPU (Central Processing Unit). Therefore, they were very expensive and only large organizations were able to afford it. In this generation, mainly batch processing operating system was used. Punch cards, paper tape, and magnetic tape was used as input and output devices.

**Second Generation Computers** The period of second generation was from 1959-1965. In this generation, transistors were used that were cheaper, consumed less power, more compact in size, more reliable and faster than the first-generation machines made of vacuum tubes. In this generation, magnetic cores were used as the primary memory and magnetic tape and magnetic disks as secondary storage devices. In this generation, assembly language and high-level programming languages like FORTRAN, COBOL were used. The computers used batch processing and multiprogramming operating system. Students at the University used this programming languages to do the computing assignments.

**Third Generation Computers** The computers of third generation used Integrated Circuits (ICs) in place of transistors. A single IC has many transistors, resistors, and capacitors along with the associated circuitry. This development made computers smaller in size, reliable, and efficient. In this generation remote processing, time-sharing, multi-programming operating system were used. High-level languages (FORTRAN-II TO IV, COBOL, PASCAL PL/1, BASIC, ALGOL-68 etc.) were used during this generation.

**Fourth Generation Computers** The period of fourth generation was from 1971-1980. Computers of fourth generation used Very Large Scale Integrated (VLSI) circuits. VLSI circuits having about 5000 transistors and other circuit elements with their associated circuits on a single chip made it possible to have microcomputers of fourth generation. Fourth generation computers became more powerful, compact, reliable, and affordable. As a result, it gave rise to Personal Computer (PC) revolution. In this generation, time sharing, real time networks, distributed operating system were used. All the high-level languages like C, C++, DBASE etc., were used in this generation.

**Fifth Generation Computers** The period of fifth generation is 1980-till date. In the fifth generation, VLSI technology became ULSI (Ultra Large-Scale Integration) technology, resulting in the production of microprocessor chips having ten million electronic components. This generation is based on parallel processing hardware and AI (Artificial Intelligence) software. AI is an emerging branch in computer science, which interprets the means and method of making computers think like human beings. All the high-level languages like C and C++, Java, .Net etc., are used in this generation.

ICT provides all language learners with dozens of opportunities to learn language more effectively. By online platforms such as: google classroom, Ibrat Academy, Duolingo, Khan Academy, MOODLE and etc. These resources help them to understand grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation more easily. In addition, students can communicate with teachers or with native speakers by video calls, online chats, and social media platforms. This helps them to practice all their skills in real life at the same time they can develop their confidents in using the language. There are a lot of ICT tools that can support and improve language learning.

**Importance of using ICT in language learning for teachers:** Using of ICT as a teacher helps to create an interactive and effective learning environment for students or pupils. ICT is not only develops language learners motivation but it also provides more opportunities for independent learning. ICT helps you to provide lessons more interactive and interesting. Teachers can use presentation tools like Canva, Genially, Prezi, Gamma and ect, or videos

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and online exercises to explain grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. These tools contribute students to understand the material much more clearer and actively participate in the language learning process. Moreover, it provides teachers with different type of tasks and achievements. For example, students can use listening audios, and they can practice these at home, and it helps them to be independent.

### **CONCLUSION**

Overall, ICT is crucial part of modern language teaching and learning. From a teacher`s perspective, it helps create more dynamic and effective learning atmosphere. By using various technological tools, teachers may make lessons more engaging and at the same time ,it helps students to develop their language skills successfully.

### **RESOURCES:**

- 1.[https://www.academia.edu/2005195/A\\_potted\\_history\\_of\\_technology\\_in\\_language\\_teaching\\_the\\_past](https://www.academia.edu/2005195/A_potted_history_of_technology_in_language_teaching_the_past)
- 2.<https://ict.uonbi.ac.ke/basic-page/brief-history>
- 3.[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346892681\\_ICT\\_and\\_Foreign\\_Language\\_Learning\\_An\\_Overview](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346892681_ICT_and_Foreign_Language_Learning_An_Overview)

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