

# THE PLACE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE LESSON PLANS FOR LEARNERS

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## **Abstract**

To achieve success in any English language teaching and learning situation, effective planning and delivery of a functional lesson is a necessary ingredient. Consequently, teachers should employ appropriate techniques and commit human and material resources. ICT, which has made the world a global village, is the best recent facility employed nowadays to facilitate effective teaching and learning. This paper considered ICT, its importance, components and problems. Lesson plan, its importance, components and the importance of ICT in language teaching. It later came up with a number of recommendations and a conclusion.

## **Introduction**

The desire of every good English language teacher is to impart knowledge on students in any teaching and learning situation. To make this a reality, the teacher should plan ahead of time. This is because failure to plan is planning to fail. Therefore, the teacher should be well armed with a well prepared lesson plan which will guide him/her in the delivery of his /her lesson. Traditionally, the teacher goes to the class with an exercise book containing his/her lesson plan to teach with the aid of some instructional materials. The advent of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has assisted educators / teachers in planning and delivery of lessons to the extent that teachers have been relieved of the burden associated with the traditional mode of lesson delivery.

## **What is ICT?**

ICT is an acronym for Information and Communication Technology. It has turned the world into a global village where everybody can access anywhere within a short period of time. It is a process of transmitting electronic information from one place to another. There are three key words:

- Information** – which means data  
**Communication** – a process of transmitting  
**Technology** – practical application of science (Ayelaagbe and Abidoye, 2007)

## **Types of ICT**

Ayelaagbe and Abidoye (2007) group ICT under three umbrellas. Namely:

- Information Technology– the use of computers
- Telecommunication technology – these include satellite telephone and television
- Networking technology– these are based on internet

## **Importance of ICT**

The importance of Information and Communication Technology cannot be emphasized. Dangana, (2005) highlights the following

- It increases sources of information.
- It facilitation correct selection of information.

Apart from the above, other importance of ICT include:

- Getting information is fast through ICT
- Getting information is cost effective.

### **Problems of ICT**

Information and Communication Technology is not without its attending problems. They include:

- erratic power supply
- computer illiteracy
- invasion by computer viruses
- scarcity / non-availability of spare parts

### **The English Language Lesson Plan**

The English language is a second language in Nigeria and as a result of overlap there in *linguistic interference*. According to Akindele and Adegbite (1999).

Interference is a term which refers to a situation whereby two different languages overlap. In such a situation, the linguistic system of one of the languages is transferred into the other in the process of producing the latter which is the second language or target language.

Linguistic interference gives birth to errors in the spoken and written English of learners (Adepaju, 2008). These errors are the major causes of failure in English language in both internal and external examinations. Therefore, teachers should make frantic efforts to reduce (if not total eradication) errors. This can be done when teachers prepare adequately for teaching. The best known way is the preparation of a good lesson plan. A good presentation of a lesson depends on a well-arranged lesson plan (Oyekan, 2000)

#### **What is a Lesson Plan?**

It is pertinent to consider the two concepts, lesson and plan before an attempt is made to define lesson plan.

Lesson – A lesson is what is supposed to be learnt by learners.

Plan – A plan is an outline of a project.

Therefore, a lesson plan is an outline of what is supposed to be taught to learners. Oyekan, (2000) says:

Lesson plan is an outline note that guides the presentation of important learning topics.

One can then say that an English lesson plan is an outline of the item(s) that guides the teacher in his teaching. Onyemerekeya (1998) and Oyekan (2000) highlights the following importance of lesson plan among others.

- It encourages the teacher to consider teaching techniques appropriate for effective delivery of lessons.
- It promotes organization of lessons.
- It promotes consistency in presentations.
- It makes the teacher to identify areas of difficulties.
- It reminds the teacher what to teach.
- It makes sure that nothing is left.
- It promotes judicious use of available time.

In planning a lesson plan, Onyemerekeya (1998) says the planner must bear in mind four questions.

- Whom does he want to teach (Learners)?
- What does he want to teach (topics / items)?
- How will he teach (techniques and instructional materials)?
- How will he know whether he has taught (assessment)?

In planning and delivery of English lessons teachers should bear these questions in mind and allow them to guide them.

### **Elements of a Good English Language Lesson Plan**

A lesson plan that shows the aim of the lesson, the resources to be used and the steps of presentation is a vital aid the teacher needs (Wilkins, 1975). Oyekan (1997) identifies the following as components of a lesson plan.

- General details of the class. These include average age of learners, number on roll, period, duration, name of the class etc.
- Instructional / learning objective. This refers to what the teacher want to achieve by the end of the lesson or what he wants learners to learn.
- Instructional materials. These include items to be used and reference materials.
- Lesson presentation. This is what guides the teacher in lesson presentation Wilkins (1975) says presentation should include introductory step, subsequent step and conclusion.
- Summary of salient ideas. This is a short statement that presents the main idea. Main ideas should be written in clear sentences.
- Evaluation. This is an assessment of learning outcomes. It tells the teacher whether teaching / learning has actually taken place or not. It also allows the teacher to assess the strength and weaknesses of his techniques.
- Assignments. These are learning tasks given to learners to accomplish at home or after the lesson. It helps to assess learners.

In planning and delivery of a good English language lesson the teacher should carefully incorporate the above-discussed elements in order to achieve the desired goal.

### **Importance of ICT in Planning and Delivery of English Language Lesson Plan**

Information and Communication Technology can be used in various ways to teach English. Common among them are:

- Displays on screens can be used to teach organs of speech, places and manner of articulation. Drawing these merely on chalkboards will not facilitate learning. It will be abstracts. But when learners see with their eyes the organs, manner and places of articulation, it will look real to them. Ayelaagbe (2005) says educational median provide increased interest in learning.
- Phonemes of English can be taught by using tape recorders. When this is used, learners will listen to correct pronunciation of these phonemes especially when earphones are used. Learners will be spared the problems associated with oral pronunciations which can be affected by noise interference. Apart from this learners will not listen to pronunciation that is riddled with linguistic interference.
- Vocabulary development can also be taught by using ICT. This can be achieved by learners where they come across new words / concepts in the process of browsing. They simply look up their meanings and add to their existing vocabulary.

- Distinction between two similar sounds can be taught using ICT. This is useful in developing the listening skills of learners. *Minimal pairs* such as pale/bale could be taught using ICT. William (1990) says minimal pairs are useful in teaching the distinction between two sounds.
- In setting and typing questions computers are very useful in the sense that they can accommodate a lot of information and mistakes made could be corrected easily. At times, the system identifies mistakes for users.
- Teachers can use computer to typeset their lesson note and effect necessary corrections / adjustments before going to the class.
- Display cards can be produced from computers by teacher and use to facilitate teaching and learning in classrooms. These cards can be used to teach vocabulary development.
- The curriculum of examining bodies such as the West African Examination Council could be downloaded from the internet to extract necessary contents for teaching.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Therefore, teachers should plan and deliver good lessons with the aid of ICT for effective delivery. It is believed that if this is done the desired goal of English language teachers will be achieved.

ICT facilities should be made available by governments and philanthropic organizations so that students we have access to them.

Computer Education should be encouraged.

### **Conclusion**

English language as a subject is compulsory in secondary schools and offered as compulsory General Studies' courses in higher Institutions. Effort should be made to teach it effectively and this can only be done if teachers plan good and functional lesson plans.

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