

The Role and Importance of E-learning to Acquire the Skills in English Language

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Introduction:

E-learning is currently one of the fields that are witnessing rapid growth as a result of scientific and technical developments with the aim creating a generation capable of dealing with the educational challenges, and this has led to a growing need to use information and communication technology in the educational process.

E-learning represents an interactive educational style based on the learner and depends on the design of an educational environment in a way that facilitates the process of education by using and employing modern technical means of communication such as computers, various networks and multimedia of sound, static or moving images, graphics, search mechanisms, texts, electronic libraries, as well as Internet sites (Glenn Kleiman, 2001) whether it is a distance education or in the classroom. This means the use of advanced technology of all kinds in the educational process and the delivery of information to the learner in the shortest time, less effort and greater benefit. They display the scientific material on the screen based on the student's response or request and provide him with more information and the appropriate material based on his response. The scientific material and accompanying tests can be simple - as in the traditional lesson - but it is in the form of an educational program on the computer. E-learning may consist of a course that includes lectures through video conferences on the Internet on specific dates, as in the traditional

lecture. It could be a web page with additional material including videos of previous lessons, out-of-class discussions via e-mail, and electronic exams whose results are automatically recorded in the student's records (Paul Carliner 1998).

E-learning is an important opportunity that can be invested in an ideal way to face the educational challenges that the world is facing at the present time, especially the period of Corona pandemic, relying on E-learning as a new educational method that relies on electronic technologies and programs that allow the learner to obtain educational content with ease, as well as immediate feedback. Bosman defined E-learning as that type of web-based learning in which the educational institution designs its own site or specific programs and materials for it, and the learner learns through modern technological means and through which the learner can obtain education, review, analysis and conclusion. It must be done according to schedules of the educational program in a specific time, so that the learner can reach what he is learning.

E-learning includes two types, the first is synchronous E-learning and the second is asynchronous E-learning. In the first, all students enrolled in the class log in to the school at the same time, where discussion, analysis, inquiry and explanation begin at the same time. In the second, students enter the classroom at any time they want according to his need and the appropriate time to see what has been discussed and dealt with in terms of themes and scientific material. Concerning this educational system and (the teaching, the learner, the educational institution, home, the community and the environment) develop the skills and abilities of students in general and the English language learners in particular and create their personalities to prepare a generation capable of communicating with others through modern technology and the developments of times, referring to the continuous awareness of this type of education and not standing against it and providing a wide space for the development and training of learners using the Internet.

This education needs training, a continuous support, the spreading its contents on high level of quality and modification of all the old rules and methods that delay the use of the developing new ways that support advance in every place and time to develop education and demonstrate efficiency and ingenuity which facilitate the process of E-learning with high technology (Al-Mubarak, 2020).

The Main Features of E-Learning:

- 1- Interaction: E-learning changes the image of the traditional classroom (reciting by the teacher and listening by the learner) to an interactive learning environment between the learner and the various learning sources and between him and his colleagues and his teacher. Recalling information depends on all our sensory abilities, while the response depends on the characteristics of each student and on motivation. There must be a method that provides the learner with the possibility of repetition and the opportunity for the learners to interact instantly electronically with each other on the one hand and between them and the teacher on the other hand through E-mail, discussion boards, dialogue rooms and the like, a possibility rarely provided by traditional educational methods(Meloni, 2019).
- 2- Investment of the time: E-learning saves the learner's time and effort by focusing on the information and the arranged scientific material without searching for it to overcome the conditions that surround educated individuals, especially in Corona pandemic.
- 3- Easy access to curricula: E-learning curricula are available all the time to allow the learner to follow them at any time he thinks appropriate and to avoid the restrictions of place and time in the educational process.
- 4- Enhancing participation: E-learning theories emphasize participation and educational interaction among learners, which constitutes a vital element in the learning process. E-learning provides such participation

through virtual educational classes, chat rooms, emails and video meetings.

- 5- Integration: E-learning provides the learner with knowledge and educational resources in an integrated manner through assessment tools that allow the analysis of the learner's knowledge and progress achieved. Thus, ensuring the availability of the educational standards, as E-learning is not only limited to providing lessons and content, but also takes care of all elements of the educational curriculum: (objectives, content, evaluation, methods and activities) (Paul Carliner 1998).
- 6- Flexibility: The learner can communicate with a large number of teachers he knows and other professors around the world at any time and in any place that suits him, and thus he can learn at home or in the workplace or anywhere where he is allowed to use the Internet. That is why E-learning is one of the most important and flexible education systems that works to increase educational experiences and develop skills in dealing with knowledge sources and with high efficiency using a variety of different and more accurate methods.
- 7- Considering the learner's situation: E-learning provides the possibility of using several educational methods in which various methods are adopted to provide knowledge to different learners making it more effective. Thus, it enables the student to receive the scientific material in a manner that is appropriate with his abilities through the method, considering the individual differences between learners and enabling them to complete learning processes in environments suitable for them and progress according to their own abilities. The use of electronic notebooks which are regarded as means of recording and taking notes and important points for the learner to enable him to refer to the given scientific material and benefit from it (Teeter, 1997).

- 8- Providing a rich educational environment with multiple sources, which encourages communication between the parties to the educational system. E-learning contributes to modeling education and presenting it in a regular form, as well as preparing a generation capable of dealing with technology, armed with the latest skills of the age (Carliner, 1998).
- 9- Fading: it refers to the gradual decrease in the assistance provided to the learner in order to match his individual capabilities, especially when his ability to learn increases. The higher the learner's educational ability, the lower the amount of assistance provided to him (Alessi, SM, Tropllip, 2012).
- 10- Constant diagnoses and assessment: the continuous assessment of the learner's level of understanding is an essential point for E-learning. It requires not only knowledge of the task, its components, and the objectives to be achieved, but also continuous knowledge of the learner's abilities while the learning process continues. Thus, it provides the learner with appropriate methods and strategies for education (Alessi, SM, Tropllip, 2012).
- 11- E-learning provides learners with the skill of searching on the Internet in a creative, creative and productive way to develop their mental abilities to explore information on their own (Piskurich, 2020).

The Benefits of E-learning

1. Developing positive tendencies for educated students towards modern sciences and technologies on one hand, and towards learning on the other, helping expand the methods used in teaching in a way that suits the individual differences among students, as it breaks the routine followed in the educational process to make the learner fully prepared to learn (Teeter, 1997).

2. Making the learning process easier by following the modern educational technology, which is able to raise the efficiency of education process, saving time and effort, as well as developing the skills of using modern information and communication technology, raising the learner's efficiency in performance, developing his personality and creating self-reliance.
3. Reducing the difficulties of linguistic communication between the student and the teacher.
4. Increasing the possibility of communication among students and between the students and the teacher in several ways such as discussion boards, E-mail and dialogue rooms to increase and motivate learners to participate and interact with the topics.
5. Contributing to the different viewpoints of the educated students to provide opportunities for exchanging views on the topics, which increase the chances of benefit from the proposed opinions and proposals and merging them with the views of the student. It helps in forming a hard base for the learner through what he has acquired of knowledge and skills through dialogue rooms.(Alessi, SM, Tropllip, 2012).
6. The equivalence: This feature is more useful for learners who feel fear and anxiety because this method of teaching encourage students in expressing their ideas searching for facts than if they were in traditional classrooms. This type of education provides a full opportunity for all students because they can send their opinions and ideas by various communication tools.
7. Easy to reach to the teacher: E-learning provides a way to reach to the teacher in the fastest time without the official working hours because the learner is able to send his inquiries to the teacher via E-mail or various electronic communication tools (Meloni, 2019).

8. The possibility of modifying the teaching method: It is possible to receive the scientific material in a way that suits the learners. Some of them suit the visual method or the audio or read method and the other suit the practical method. E-learning and its sources allow the application of the sources in many different ways to allow change according to the best method and the best for the learner (Al-Otaibi.2015).
9. Suitability of the various teaching methods: E-learning allows the learner to focus on the important ideas while writing and gathering the lecture or lesson, as well as allowing students who have difficulty to concentrate, organize tasks to get benefit from the material. It is arranged and coordinated in an easy and good way.
10. Repetition: This is an additional advantage for those students who learn in a practical way. Those teachers who teach the curricula to express their ideas, they put them in certain sentences, i.e. they repeat the information they trained on, as students do when they prepare for a specific exam (Joffe, 2000).
11. The curricula which are given electronically are always available: This feature is useful for the students who want to learn at a certain time as a result of their exposure to circumstances that prevent their presence, as well as for those who bear personal burdens and responsibilities. This feature allows everyone to learn and obtain information at a time that suits them.
- 14- E-learning is an effective device to help learners to expand the scope and areas of their learning to accommodate the most complex areas of knowledge. It also takes many forms and different strategies that help the learner to achieve the highest level of understanding of the content provided to him such as providing instructions and supplementary tools. It is also represented in variety means of providing knowledge and training language in order to improve the learning process through these tasks (Dabbagh, and kitsantasm, 2013).

The Use of E-learning to Develop the English Language

According to the recent crises that the countries of the world are facing, especially the Corona pandemic, which forced education systems in various parts of the world to use E-learning instead of the traditional face-to-face education. It has become imperative for researchers to work and to reveal the most prominent requirements to use E-learning in educational process according to the educational environment, the curriculum, teacher's training, and other requirements that determine the effective way in teaching English. The emergence of the Corona pandemic forced educational institutions to use E-learning, as 1.5 billion teenagers in 188 countries around the world were deprived of the opportunity to teach in their classes since their educational institutions were closed their doors. It is important to find an effective way to teach using modern technology and communication as an alternative way as the educational institutions are exposed to various crises (Halaby, 2015).

The importance of E-learning remarks its ability to use technology and enables students to keep in touch with the different and new ideas in the educational field, providing the opportunity to find several sources to their educational requirements and scientific curiosity. Some thoughts require support services and provide a multi-source environment to fully adapt them such as the English language which requires a great effort from the teacher and the learner to achieve the goals. Because of the importance of the English language and the need to master it, as it is the global language of communication in all fields, schools must use appropriate strategies and devices to enable students to acquire this language to use it in all scientific and educational fields. English language in particular needs to include teaching strategies and techniques capable of getting rid of the traditional understanding and memorization of the subject and concepts. Thus, the traditional methods of teaching and changing the role of the teacher from a knowledge provider to a guide and assistant for the students to get

knowledge, changing the student's role of the student from a receiver of information and knowledge to a researcher, participant and active user (Al-Rimawi, 2014).

The reason of the increase in the number of teachers and students using the modern technical means and the Internet in learning process is due to their positive effects, especially in learning foreign languages in general and the English language in particular. In a study conducted by (Joffe, 2000), students in university are asked to get their opinions on three technology-based teaching methods. They described that E-learning was fun and interesting achieving the desired educational outcomes, where they were able to learn the concepts and apply them better. They also stated that the learning outcomes of the E-learning materials were better than the traditional learning materials. (Reis, 2016) remarks that the use of the Internet with modern and multiple means of teaching English has achieved the desired goals. In a study by Teeter on an experimental group of students who studied texts and lectures, participated in discussions, performed written assignments directly, took exams and visited websites related to the curriculum, showed that their motivation to learn English increased (Teeter, 1997). They were informed of many foreign sources, and their ability to discuss, analyze and conclude solve written assignments. (Meloni, 2019) reported that the use of the Internet in classes increases learners' motivation to learn providing them with real use of the language and making them aware of the world around them as well as communication, relationship field, discussions and participation from all over the world where they have the opportunity to learn about the different cultures. Joffe added that E-learning provides students with the opportunity to learn the scientific material in general and the English language in particular, in addition to learning the skills of the modern methods used, such as writing skill, the use of supplementary tools in printing, the spelling checker, and the grammatical errors checker in the English language are among the most

important of those tools that have the greatest impact on the writing accuracy of these students.

E-learning programs that replace the traditional curriculum are characterized by flexibility providing opportunities for improvement and revision. The teacher can use multiple teaching methods such as simulation, learning by discovery, learning based on experience and individual therapy. If he uses well-designed exercises and tests, he will be able to diagnose the difficulties that prevent students from mastering the skill of a certain point. They have additional or alternative explanations and exercises until that point is mastered (Carliner, 1998). E-learning is also characterized by the presence of scientific material and lectures continuously so that the learner can view and use them at any time, day or night, and anywhere in the world for several times, which increases the process of interaction and communication between the teacher and the learner with each other. The student has a positive and active role in E-learning, as it contributes to the success of the educational process and the presentation of the scientific material in terms of defining discussion topics, expressing his opinion on the topics of the study, and commenting on what other students provide. It has become the axis that must have features and skills and has become the focus of the educational process. In terms of participation, interaction, analysis and conclusion, it is no longer a passive recipient, it has become active and positive and education has centered on the learner not on the teacher (Azmy, 2019).

Some of the features that the learner must have to complete his role in E-learning system and the educational process are:

Motivation.

Self-confidence

Perseverance

Commitment

Reading Skills

Writing Skills

Computer Skills

IT Skills.

Effective Communication Skills

Time Management Skills

Responsibility

Critical Reading Skills

Information Retrieval Skills.

Effective Record-Keeping Skills.

Dealing with E-Learning Resources.

Research Skills.

Instructional Decisions.

Diversity in Education according to the Individual Differences of learners.

Self-Assessment

Planning

We conclude that the E-learning system has a positive impact on students' feelings towards studying the English language as it helps to teach them developing their skills and improving their performance in the first place. The number of topics written in an environment does not aim to catch errors as well as other skills such as reading, spelling, computer typing, correcting errors using an electronic dictionary, using a spell checker, and daily communication in a pleasant environment that encourages viewing topics from daily life, using modern technological means, and browsing through multiple pages on networks, the internet and E-mail. The external links that included websites related to the curricula contribute to expanding the learners' information and consolidating it in their minds, led to the development of their motivation to learn the English language and give a positive self-esteem raising their motivation and their sense of improvement and success (Huang, 2018).

E-learning is not only concentrated on the learner, but also on the teacher. His role is no longer limited to teaching and giving information to learners, but rather his role has become focused on many things to overcome the difficulties facing the learner in understanding facts and data that are difficult to understand or comprehend. It does not mean abandoning the teacher's role and the traditional education, but rather supporting it. His role has become more important and more difficult, he is a creative person with high efficiency. He is the leader and the guide who manages the educational process with a high distinctive ability to achieve the goals of teaching progress and technology (Al-Mubarak, 2020). The teacher's role in E-learning and the educational process can be summarized as follows:

1- A Process Facilitator:

The greatest role of the teacher through online educational curriculum is to confirm the occurrence of some targeted educational processes while students practice their activities and interaction with each other to learn materials themselves without interfering with other factors.

2- A Content Implementer:

The teacher has a cognitive role, but the nature of this cognitive role is different from what it was in the past, so that the focus is on providing the student with the appropriate knowledge, facts and concepts for the continuous cognitive science and the practical skills, values and trends associated with this knowledge. It enables them to deal properly with this knowledge and the techniques associated with it since they help these students to understand the details of future and information society participating in its invention and providing learners with an information culture (Al-Mubarak, 2020).

3- A Researcher:

It is not enough for the teacher to make decisions, but he must also evaluate his effort and the technical research is a means to achieve this goal. It also provides the opportunity to gain knowledge and skill in research

methods and methodology. He is aware of choices and possibilities of change, as he gains a contemplative and critical view of his performance and the teaching process. This approach is considered one of the best opportunities for the professional growth. Teaching via networks is not without difficulties. Therefore, when the teacher seeks to research the problem in order to identify its causes and results, following the scientific methodology in its study. This helps him first and the entire education process, which requires continuous development as a result of development (Al-Mallah 2010).

4- A Technologist:

With the developments in the field of technology, the traditional role of the teacher began to change. There is an abundance of information, and the role of the teacher according to this abundance is to help learners to learn information choosing the most appropriate and critical analysis and including it in their vision. Technology contributes to changing the ways in which he trains and the methods of teaching students (Alessi, SM, Tropllip, 2012).

5- A Designed for the Educational Experiences:

The teacher has a key role in designing the educational experiences and the educational activities managing some of them according to his experiences, inclinations and interests (Al-Mubarak, 2020).

6- A Director of the Educational Process:

In traditional education, the teacher exercises his role in controlling the classroom controlling everything that happens in the classroom. In E-learning, the teacher is the director of the entire educational process, where he determines the numbers of those registered in online courses, the dates of effective meetings on the network, methods of displaying content, methods of evaluation and other elements of the educational process. The teacher who plays the leadership role in the virtual classroom makes it work with

effectiveness and high ability. He dedicates the students' interests to achieve the desired goals (Teeter, 1997).

7- A Guide and An Advisor

One of the most important roles the teacher shows is to provide advice to learners, and he has to be in constant connection with everything new in his specialization, in teaching methods, and developments in his society. His local and international community are of improvements so that he can meet the needs of his students and their various inquiries providing them with science and knowledge (Azmy, 2019).

Conclusion

Because of the modern technological revolution, the students are no longer depend on the traditional methods of learning and education, but they are mainly depend on the so-called E-learning indicating. It is necessary to know what is meant by E-learning and it's effective role and impact on learners in general and the English language learners in particular, and the teaching process as well. As a new technology in teaching and learning is completely adopted, a new and a different style of communication has been constituted to be an important turning point not only in the field of learning and education, but also in the various areas of life.

This study sheds light on the importance of using E-learning and its effective role as an alternative solution during crises in various educational institutions and teaching bodies that were forced to change the education system from traditional to electronic improving the level of learners, their development and the extent of their interaction. The English language, which can be provided as a basis for ensuring the effectiveness of E-learning and for various study materials, even after the end of the Corona pandemic.

Consequently, this study concluded that E-learning is a type of positive and successful education that can be relied upon mainly to achieve the desired goals, as well as its effective impact on learners who were eager to use this technology to motivate them improving their skills.

The study recommends the need to generalize the use of E-learning system in teaching English because of its great impact on the learner and the necessity of training English language teachers to use E-learning in all its forms and patterns in teaching English even after the end of the Corona pandemic to face the challenges and crises facing the world as an educational advanced method based on modern electronic technologies and programs. In order to implement this goal, whether in a university or in a school, it is more important to make sure of holding courses or workshops to provide an educational awareness environment while learning to get benefit from the experience, knowledge, and skill of other countries to reach the goal.

Notes:

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