

INTEGRATING COMPUTER-ASSISTED LANGUAGE LEARNING (CALL) IN ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (EFL) CLASSROOMS

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In recent years, computers have become increasingly prevalent in the educational process, highlighting the importance of computer literacy. Language instructors have begun incorporating modern technologies as effective pedagogical tools in foreign language teaching. The term **CALL** stands for *Computer-Assisted Language Learning*, which broadly refers to the use of computer applications in acquiring a second language. Initially, CALL programs were primarily focused on text and sentence manipulation. However, in the 1990s, the introduction of CD-ROMs containing full encyclopedias or language courses with multimedia elements such as graphics, audio, video, and animations brought a new dimension to language classrooms. Today, computers and the internet facilitate the integration of diverse online resources through hyperlinks, a feature widely used in online research and other digital applications.

Hagen (1993) notes that computers contribute significantly to language learning and enhance the overall learning experience. Similarly, Oxford, Rivera-Castillo, Feyten, and Nutta (1998) argue that technology is effective in language teaching when it is used in ways that increase learners' motivation. Raschio emphasizes that CALL allows students to personalize their studies and progress at their own pace, a view supported by Yi-dong (2007), who highlights the constant improvements in hardware and software, along with the growing acceptance of technology by both teachers and students. Levy (1997) defines CALL more broadly as the study of computer applications in language teaching and learning. Research shows that students who learn foreign languages through CALL tend to achieve better results than those taught using traditional methods. Overall, CALL is an engaging and effective approach that boosts learners' motivation and enables them to develop language skills independently.

Moreover, computer-assisted language teaching makes classroom instruction more effective. Computers help motivate students by providing concrete and easily understandable learning experiences. Traditionally, language teaching relied on teacher-led instruction, with students passively learning through tools such as blackboards, chalk, notebooks, recorders, and videos. This conventional approach is increasingly insufficient today. With computers, teachers can present visuals, videos, reading materials, PowerPoint slides, and text with or without audio, making learning

more realistic and interactive, which reduces boredom and encourages student participation.

CALL also plays a multifaceted role in language classes. It can function as a teacher, tester, tool, data source, communication facilitator, and assessor. Specifically:

CALL Role	Explanation
Teacher	Provides instruction and information on various topics.
Tester	Evaluates students' language knowledge, skills, and competence.
Tool	Assists students in completing communicative, individual, or authentic tasks.
Data Source	Supplies information needed for task completion.
Communication Facilitator	Enables interaction with others in different locations.

CALL offers numerous advantages, including:

- Access to diverse resources;
- Personalized learning in large classes;
- Engaging and enjoyable learning experiences;
- Development of real-life computer skills;
- Opportunities for exploratory learning using extensive language data;
- Encouraging students to take responsibility for mastering content;
- Promoting active participation in learning activities;
- Enabling imaginative experiences through computer simulations.

However, CALL also has certain limitations:

- High cost of computer equipment;
- Teachers' lack of training in using CALL tools;
- Limited variety in exercise types;
- Absence of face-to-face interaction;
- Dependence on stable internet connections.

Effective use of CALL requires an understanding of how languages are learned, as language acquisition is fundamentally a cognitive process. CALL provides both teachers and learners with a range of activities, including:

Blogs (weB LOGS) <http://www.wordpress.com>;

Chat online <http://get.live.com/messenger/overview>

Hotwords <http://www.languages.dk/tools>

Podcasts

http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba/foghlam/learn_gaelic/an_litir_bheag/

Subtitles <http://www.divxland.org/>

Tandem <http://www.languages.dk/methods/tandem.html>

WebQuests <http://webquest.sdsu.edu/webquest.html>In conclusion, the

integration of CALL in language education significantly enhances students' language skills. Computers serve as an effective tool to stimulate learners' interest and motivation, making them an indispensable component of modern language classrooms.

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