



ICT and Second Language Teaching in an Albanian Context

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Abstract

Despite attitude great desire and high motivation of Albanians to learn foreign languages, second language teaching and learning has been a challenge for the Albanian context. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, Albanians have shown real interest and serious engagement in learning and mastering classical and/or western languages. However, over the decades, the willing desire of both Albanian teachers and students has encountered various challenges.

In the more recent years, a new phase has come for the teacher and learner of a second language. With the advent of highly developing technologies, teachers face the challenge of keeping up to date with their pupils' or students' natural inclination towards using technology even in the process of teaching and learning. For several reasons which will be treated in this article, this new 'thing' has met with resistance on the part of the more traditional teachers. There is constantly attitude mixture of feeling associating the use of technology in the classroom. Some are not well trained to do that, others fear it will take more time to prepare, and still others see it more as a threat than as an ally.

This article will focus on another group of teachers who find technology very advantageous for the teaching and learning process. This aims to point out the most significant advantages of using the ICT in the classroom in an Albanian context. This paper will consist of threefold focus: firstly, it will provide a brief history and a background to the topic, secondly it will focus on the fears of using ICT in the classroom and thirdly, it will explore and recommend the advantages of using ICT in the foreign language teaching classroom. Theoretical observations focus on the universal aspects of ICT use in the classroom whereas surveys and recommendations for teachers and students will be mainly related to the case studies of Albanian education in general and the Shkodra region more particularly.