

ICT for Language Learning

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Abstract

Educating the youngsters today seems to be more difficult goal each year. Students change from a generation to another and it is very important for the teacher to adapt his teaching methods and approaches in class to new needs. The classic traditional class approach of assessing students from the previous lesson and then teaching the following one is no longer working nowadays. The modern language teacher needs to change his strategies and be creative in class in order to accomplish his goal and attract the students' attention and involvement in the activities he proposes. The easiest thing to do in order to have an interactive class and in consequence good results in achieving your purpose of teaching students a foreign language is to use something very familiar to them – the computer..ICT is a valuable tool in the way that it offers a wide range of activities already designed by others from which the language teacher may choose, but it also gives him the freedom of creating his own materials using his imagination. A survey done among the 1500 students of "Iuliu Maniu" Technical College in Bucharest, Romania shows that 70% of pupils choose the use of ICT in class as a better option than books, hand-outs or other type of material. As homework is concerned a computer-based project of the type power point presentation in which they work in pairs and show their creativity is preferred to solving exercises that may be dull. The real problem in Romania is still with the rest of 30% that do not have daily access to computers because of living in the country side and having a difficult financial situation. Thus, assigning a computer-based task may become a stressor for some children in a class and may affect their behavior compared to the others. Poor computer knowledge these days among teenagers means not being like all the others and being isolated from the rest of the class. What should the Romanian language teacher do? Should he make his classes as attractive as he can using ICT and risk losing the interest of some of the students that do not have computer skills or should he choose a traditional lesson that proves to be outdated many times? The chance to education and information should be equal to all the students because ICT is the future especially in the field of language learning, but in Romania we need to change first the economic situation in order to change the rest.