Mobile Phones in Bangladeshi EAP Classroom: Issues and Possibilities

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Abstract

This study examined the issues related with using mobile phone to teach English in Bangladeshi university level EAP classroom, and its possibilities. Within the last few years, mobile phone emerged to be a very effective tool for communication in every field, such as education, business, personal communication and so on throughout the world. It has the potential to turn the nature of education by ensuring mobility, quicker communication, and helping to create collaborative learning environment. Integration of mobile phone services in teaching EAP courses is supposed to enhance motivation of learners while making a communal learning milieu between teachers and students. Role of teachers is very crucial to integrate and implement mobile phone services in English language teaching. Mobile phones are the most popular and fast means of communication in Bangladesh. This research was conducted very recently in eight leading universities of Bangladesh—four public universities and four private universities. It also took the currently available mobile phone services in this country and cost of them by relating them to the economic condition. Examining the perceptions and attitudes of EAP teachers and students while relating them to the financial factors, this study unveil an excellent prospect of integrating mobile phones to teach university level EAP programs of Bangladesh. It revealed that communication via mobile phone ease the relationship between the students and teachers that fosters a sense of cooperation and feeling less anxiety. The extensive availability of and access to mobile phones is giving benefit of fast communication and mobility that attracts the students of this high-tech age. Moreover, the multiple use and various features of mobile phone should help teachers greatly if they can integrate it effectively to teach EAP courses.

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