

ICT in ELT Settings and its Impact on Prospective Language Teachers: a Case Study

Hülya Küçükoğlu

Hacettepe University (Turkey)

hulyaku@hacettepe.edu.tr

Abstract

Internet and Communication Technologies has become an indispensable part of our lives in the last decade. Technological tools are being used almost every part of our lives. Especially in the last decade, our lives have gotten even more digitalized. The popularity of ICT tools in social context can easily be understood by a quick glimpse at the demographics of some of the most famed online metropolises—such as YouTube, Wikipedia, Facebook, or Myspace. ICT has also taken its place in the educational world and its value in language education is broadly recognized. However one of the handicaps of the situation is that; while the students of the modern days are, what Prensky (2001) calls, "digital natives", most of the teachers are considered as "digital immigrants". The situation is almost the same in education faculties, where future language teachers are getting their academic education. Most of the prospective English Language teachers are not aware of the ICT tools that they can use in their future language classes. In order to digitalize the future language classes and make our future language teachers "digital natives", we need to bring the awareness of these tools in education faculties.

The current study aims to find out the attitudes of the prospective language teachers towards ICT tools. In order to create awareness, a hundred and thirty- one, third year ELT students were tutored for a semester (14 weeks) by using different ICT tools as the medium of teaching in their "Literature and Language Teaching" course. At the end of the semester, the students were given open ended questions and were asked to comment on the tools they have used. They were also asked if they would like to use these tools in their future language classes. The result of the study shows that these students are in need of this kind of awareness and they tend to use these tools in their future language classes.