

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) : RELISHING TIMELESS LITERATURE THROUGH CONTEMPORARY FACILITIES

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Abstract

Technology and the knowledge world are inseparable today. Information Communication Technology (ICT) provides a variety of tools that enhance and enrich the charm of delving into the manifold experiences of literary pursuit.

Audio- visual aids such as CDs, projectors, sound amplifiers, voice recorders and multimedia options (graphics, animation, videos, book reading software, ebooks, etc.) are a few of such tools. Literature is a treasure trove of not only creativity, narration and emotions but also an invaluable vault of vocabulary, stylistics and linguistic enrichment. ICT enabled facilities are a boon to suburban and rural students too as classes aided with visuals allow for a richer learning opportunity.

This paper studies the various ICT methods that are highly instrumental in bringing the teacher, student and the literary work closer by creating a different world of learning experience that today's technology offers.

Key Words:ICT, audio, visual, multimedia, ebooks, literary, literature, stylistics, linguistics, vocabulary, teaching, learning

In the present high-tech 4G world, student community relates to a life where in Technology is the key word. With Technology becoming pivotal in every section of learning, the notion of Information and Communication Technology plays a crucial role in education and life today. This system facilitates an audio visual treat to the students and at the same time exposes them to an enriching learning experience.

Technology and the knowledge world are inseparable today. Skills pertaining to different fields are reinforced with the technological march that contemporary research and development provide. Information Communication Technology (ICT) provides a variety of tools that enhance and enrich the charm of delving into the manifold experiences of literary pursuit. ICT, therefore, can be most intelligently and interestingly used in bringing the students closer to understanding and relishing timeless literature through contemporary facilities. Looking at English from two

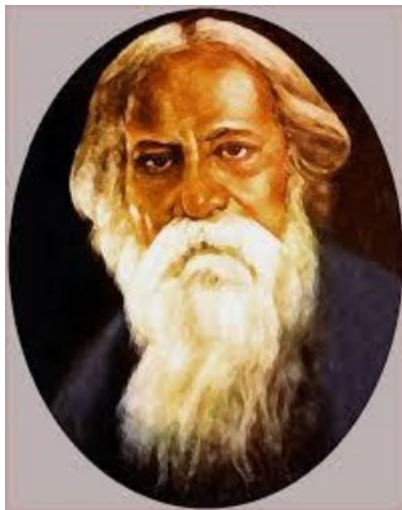
perspectives, language and literature, this paper aims to study both from the ICT application point of view.

Literature, perse, is today isolated from language learning. In technical and professional colleges, stress on language development is high. However, language is interpreted as vocabulary, sentence correction, common errors, reading comprehension, etc., excluding the literary element of the text that adds humanistic value to the reader's personality. The parts are concentrated upon, forgetting the living whole. Literature in its various genres is a treasure trove of not only creativity, narration and emotions but also for the Language enthusiasts an invaluable vault of vocabulary, stylistics and linguistic enrichment. In this context, the tools of ICT would render a great service in bringing the ageless works of literary art to the students in an interesting way and facilitate learning language through literature.

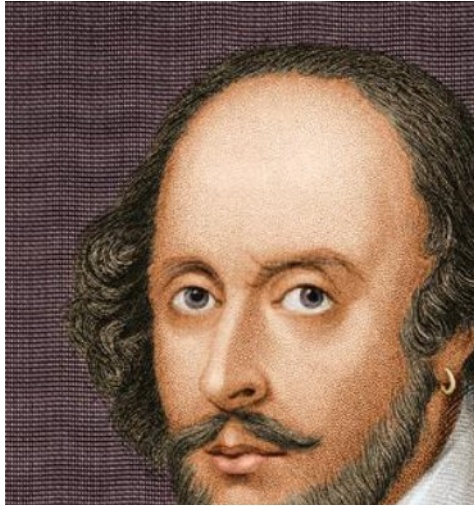
The various literary genres are available and can be relished through various forms of ICT. Audio- visual aids such as LCDs, sound amplifiers, voice recorders and CDs are some of the modes of facilitating the present day technology-fed students to feel the pulse of a literary work. Moreover, computers and internet offer other modes such as multimedia options (graphics, animation, videos based on literary works, book reading software, ebooks, etc.).

As a case in point, I would like to take the examples of the **on screen adaptations** of evergreen classics 'Gone with the Wind', 'Sound of Music' or in particular 'My Fair Lady' the famous rendering of 'Pygmalion' by George Bernard Shaw, the highly successful movie based on the play 'A Street car named Desire' by Tennessee Williams. These classics in combination with present day ones like 'Beautiful Mind'; or 'In Pursuit of Happiness' or Tolkien's 'Lord of Rings' will definitely contribute to the listening and speaking skills of any student apart from instilling in them values for life. Interspersing conventional teaching with broadcasting the whole or important segments of these movies leads the students to a holistic experience. Most of Shakespeare's trove is transformed into onscreen sagas that appeal to the senses of the viewers with auditory and visual effects.

Moreover, **animations and dramatized** videos of classics are available for students to relish and learn from (<http://www.sparknotes.com/sparknotes/video/romeojuliet>). **Designated Websites of Literature and Popular websites**, such as you-tube, also offer the opportunity of buying, renting or downloading classic plays of the past and present to appreciate both at



institutions and at homes. They can be easily downloaded on to one's personal computer, for instance the website to watch the classic play of Arthur Miller one can visit <http://www.digitaltheatre.com/production/details/all-my-sons>). In a true sense it becomes infotainment and edutainment. Now a days, **textbooks come with CD ROMs** for aiding the teaching learning process. These aids help to supplement the learning and teaching material by including animations and exercises that ignite the spark of attention in the students and readers. A literary work can also be presented using Power Point Presentation with inbuilt audio-video clippings that allows both information with a simultaneous facility for real time experience. Photographs of authors and relevant works can be projected for students to relate to the particular writer.



formats like vlc and mp3, mp4 There may be individuals who enjoy reading and absorb the beauty of verbal visuals or imagery. For those who still intend to read without the audio-visual effect, there are various options, the more famous being e books that are facilitated through **book reading software** like **Kindle or Hamster** applications. Literary works as soft copies and electronic versions can be downloaded, uploaded or shared from any place. The reading process may be enjoyed uninterrupted. The additional benefit is that one need not carry multiple or heavy volumes. The books of different writers and of different genres would be available for random selection and retrieval in a single tool. Works by famous poets, novelists, dramatists and other writers are available in various **audio-visual** formats that arouse poignant feelings and increase the enjoyment quotient for the student. For instance we can play the evergreen poem of Robert Frost “Stopping by Woods” as a sample.

[Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost](#)

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow...

The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Speeches by famous orators and writers, either in their voice or others (Swami Vivekananda’s ‘Chicago Speech’, Jawaharlal Nehru ‘Tryst with Destiny’, Winston Churchill First *Speech* to the House of Commons as Prime Minister) can be broadcast over microphones and audio-systems. Students can be encouraged to practice the same, their voices recorded and played for them to hear.

Excerpt from Swami Vivekananda’s : “It fills my heart with joy unspeakable to rise in response to the warm and cordial welcome which you have given us. I thank you in the name of the most ancient order of monks in the world; I thank you in the name of the mother of religions; and I thank you in the name of the millions and millions of Hindu people of all classes and sects. My thanks, also, to some of the speakers on this platform who, referring to the delegates from the Orient, have told you that these men from far-off nations may well claim the honor of bearing to different lands the idea of toleration. I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true... Sectarianism, bigotry, and its horrible descendant, fanaticism, have long possessed this beautiful earth. They have filled the earth with violence, drenched it often and often with human blood, destroyed civilization, and sent whole nations to despair. Had it not been for these horrible demons, human society would be far more advanced than it is now. But their time is come; and I fervently hope that the bell that tolled this morning in honor of this

convention may be the death-knell of all fanaticism, of all persecutions with the sword or with the pen, and of all uncharitable feelings between persons wending their way to the same goal.” As the speech is played, the picture can circulate and be projected for even better impact.

This helps the student to empathize as a human, upgrade his or her knowledge and improve one’s speaking and listening skills as a learner. **Mobile Apps and video games** using characters from literature is a fun way of introducing the protagonist, antagonist and key characters of a literary work particularly to students of secondary level. Due to the extensive scope offered by ICT, now, it is more commonly implemented in institutions for effective Teaching Learning experience. Universities are advising affiliated colleges to integrate ICT in their institutions. ICT enabled facilities are a boon to suburban and rural students too as classes aided with visuals allow for a richer learning opportunity. The voice player and recorder have become a definite feature in every lab. English labs have become an imperative and integral part of education. With the global world becoming a village, the common tongue of English is finding its roots strengthen and becoming robust to support the tree of English knowledge. One has to stress that the various ICT methods are highly instrumental in bringing the teacher, student and the literary work closer by creating a different world of learning experience that today’s technology offers.

Various Government schemes like NCERT, NPTEL, NMEICT, also offer modules that allow teachers and students to receive technology enhanced and enabled learning. Through video conferencing, the students will be able to interact with experts and receive hands on live experience. e-learning classrooms are encouraged in educational institutions. Several vendors offer ICT tools, that cater to various needs. In spite of the varied options available in ICT, the role of the teacher can never be understated, in imparting the text.

“A teacher had a dream in which she saw one of her students fifty years ahead. The student was angry and asked a number of questions complaining of the irresponsible teaching and unripe education. What pinches more is the following extract. “With ever greater anger, the student shouted, ‘You helped me extend my hands with incredible machines, my eyes with telescope and microscopes, my ears with telephones, radios and sonar, my brain with computers, but you did not help me extend my heart, love and concern for the human family. Teacher you gave me half a loaf.’ (an extract from the paper on ‘Education for Peace’ by NCERT (2006)). “The role of new technology becomes more responsible and serious because it works sometimes as dummy teachers. There requires a collaboration of ICT and value based education, collaboration of technology and tradition and collaboration of virtual effects and virtuous personality.” Mohammad Shaheer Siddiqui, “Virtual Effects with Virtuous Personality: A Sufi Approach to the Ethical Aspects of ICT in Education”.

The human element is the crux of the subjects of humanities and with changing times, man and machine have to work together if the goods are to be delivered better. “As old order changeth yielding place to new...lest one good custom should corrupt the world”, it is required for teachers to incorporate these new age tools into conventional teaching methods. This gives value addition, without tax, to the knowledge of students and the up gradation of teachers.

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