

The Role of Electronic Dictionary in Learning Process

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ABSTRACT

Dictionary is the treasure house of any language. Language learning by acquiring language skills is assuming more important in learning. If one could acquire listening skills, one could achieve other skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Listening skill can be developed by using technical gadgets. In this new scenario using technical gadgets such as e-library, language laboratory and e-dictionary to acquire knowledge in language felt easy. But learners are still frustrating in learning a language. If learners are attracted by teaching methodology, they will acquire the knowledge in language easily. Learners must be motivated to use technological gadgets to learn language and can be given opportunity to develop their vocabulary by using electronic dictionary. The Modernity in language learning depends on introducing electronic medium for the learners to get accuracy, aptness and to save their time. This paper emphasizes on using electronic dictionary to learn a language.

KEYWORDS: Dictionary, Language skills, Technology, Language learning, Online education

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1. INTRODUCTION

Technology – Enhanced learning has taken huge leaps in the present context. Online educational resources are drawing popularity day by day. Among the online educational resources e-dictionary is an important tool in the learning process. Language learning is mainly for proficiency and fluency in communication in the speaking and graphic form. Therefore, depending on compiling the manual dictionaries could not satisfy the present need of the language learners and researchers. In this technological scenario learners should be motivated to learn the language easily by using electronic dictionary in the class room because it provides an easy and accessible way of learning words. It is a powerful learning aid that promotes the better understanding and stimulates a desire to learn the language independently.

The word dictionary is taken from Latin word 'dictionarius'. It is derived from the word 'diction' which means 'style'. Lexicography deals with the practice of compiling dictionaries. To acquire language skills, learners use electronic dictionary in learning process. Learners could be motivated themselves by improving vocabulary by referring to

the different dictionaries which come under the reference materials. Learning process has to be done in an interesting way. Learners could be attracted by the teaching methodology using technological gadgets in the classroom. The role of dictionary is to express the semantics and to expose the etymology of a word. Dictionary functions to accumulate word power, the modelling of using an apt word in the apt place and the usage of the word in different occasions and periods. No manual compilation could be vast and vivid as the expectation of the learners, moreover, using manual dictionary which is full of time consuming and laborious. But giving semantics, syntactic and etymological form of lexis by electronic dictionary can be much more beneficial and very quick access to learners. Therefore, introducing e-dictionaries are welcoming factor in the language learning especially in English. Learning English is found to be deteriorating in stranded with reference to vocabulary and structure among the students seeking higher education. The Dictionary words are arranged in the alphabetical method with phonetic symbols, synonyms, order of words or phrases with meaning and information. Dictionary gives not only meaning

for each word but also tells how the words in a sentence and phrases are used both in the archaic and modern times.

1.1. Types of Dictionaries

In general dictionaries are categorized into following

1. Traditional or printed dictionary
2. Electronic dictionary / e- dictionary
3. Daniel jones phonetic dictionary
4. Mobile dictionary
5. Online dictionary
6. Thesaurus and
7. Encyclopaedia

Of these dictionaries, the present paper lays emphasis on electronic dictionary.

1.1.1. Electronic Dictionary

Electronic dictionary is a dictionary of digital form which can be used to access any number of words or lexemes. It can also be said as the dictionary in the digital form. At present, there are different types of dictionaries which can be downloaded in the smartphones or tablets as apps. It is a user easy and friendly to learners to learn more words within the short time. It is better and faster for class-based activities. The electronic dictionary is more useful in the classroom teaching than paper dictionary, even though it may create a great distraction in the classroom teaching. We have more than one-million words in e-dictionary with different meaning. It is easy to update with new word. While we teach the grammar elements in English such as verbs, Idiomatic phrase, sentence structure, etc, it is easy to interact with the learners and easy to search a word for meaning.

1.2. Overview of Literature

There are some works carried out by the scholars pertaining to Electronic dictionary

Aust, R. et al. (1993), view that An electronic dictionary is “an electronic aid that offers immediate access to reference information with a clear and direct return path to the target information”

Hulstijn et al. (1996) confirmed that learners checking dictionaries are to find the meaning of words which have reading and listening leading to learning vocabulary. They highlighted the vocabulary learning strategies which illustrates that language learners can find out new vocabulary on their own by using dictionaries

Stirling (2003) Kobayashi (2006) as cited in Rezaei and Davoudi (2016) have compared with the bulk of paper dictionaries and slow retrieve, the increasing popularity of electronic dictionaries can be credited to better readability and their ease of use, which makes the consultation process less time-consuming.

Neubach and Cohen (1988) cited in Kobayashi (2006) reported that consulting a dictionary improves the retention of learning the terminology. They are of the opinion that there is a growing interest in the role of electronic dictionaries for learning foreign languages. According to Dashtestani (2013), there has been an increase in student's use of electronic dictionaries for EFL purposes.

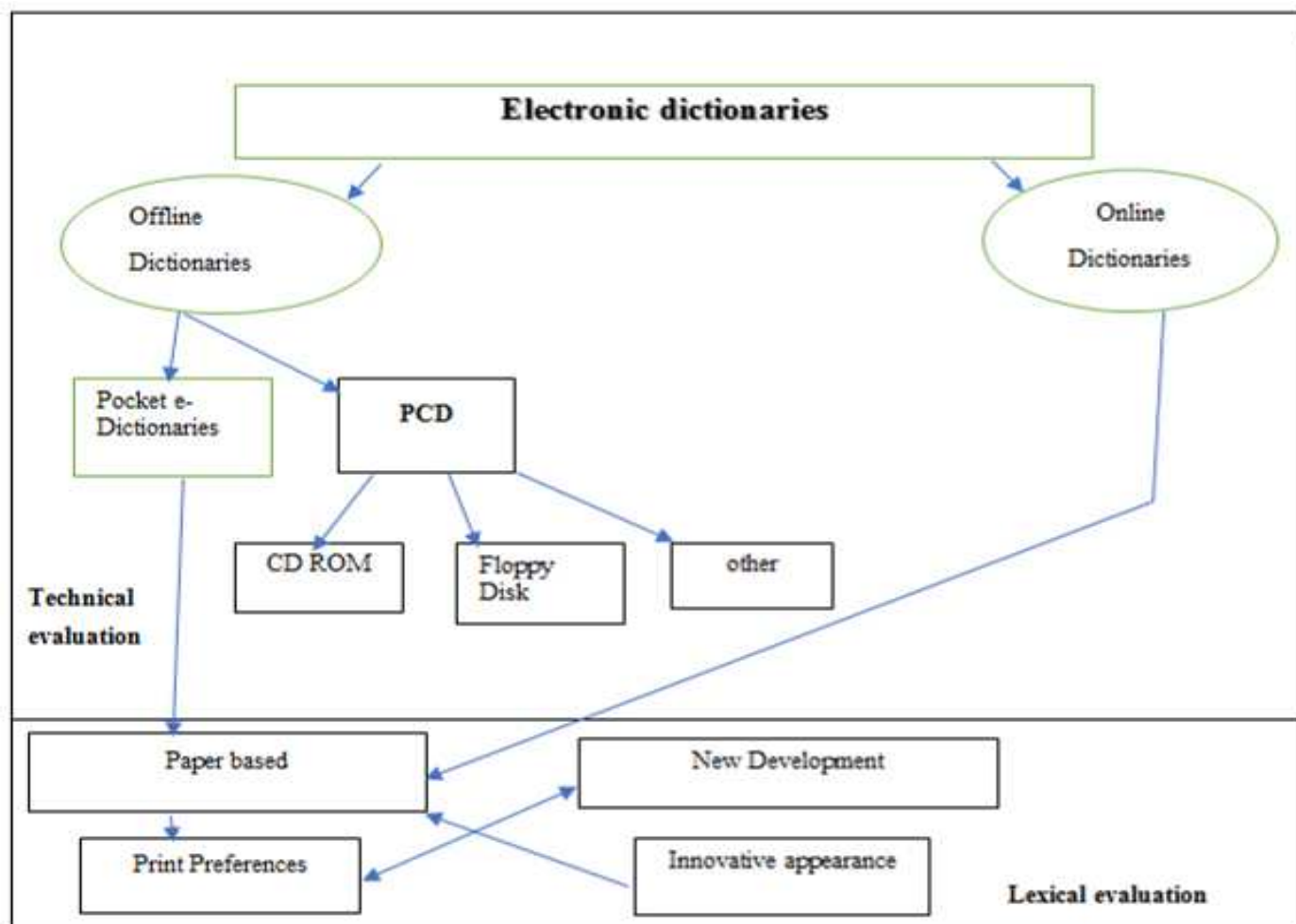
According to Dashtestani (2013), while conducting comparison survey to compare between EFL Iranian student's and teacher's perspectives on the role of e-dictionaries, came out with the findings that faculty and students held moderately positive attitudes toward the role of electronic dictionaries for learning EFL.

Rezaei and Davoudi (2016) opine that electronic dictionary have advanced rapidly in the last three decades. Electronic dictionaries are made available in CD-ROM, small hand - held calculator-type reference works and online (Nesi, 2009). Moreover, CD-ROM and hand-held devices used by researchers show interest in online dictionaries due to the rapid advance of the Internet, Smartphones and Ipads (Rezaei and Davoudi, 2016). Electronic Dictionaries used more broadly by language learners are becoming a new technological tool of vocabulary learning among second language learners.

From those works reviewed, it is understand that Electronic dictionary offers immediate access to obtain information and it consumes less processing time for the learners or users. In EFL classroom, the use of electronic dictionary is more helpful to the learners. Thus Electronic dictionaries used by language learners as new technological tool of vocabulary learning are more growing in the academic area.

1.3. Classification of Electronic Dictionary

The development of new technology and the Internet have progressively the dictionary concept. Electronic dictionaries can be classified into various types according to different norms. An Electronic dictionary typology is that by Schryver (2003, p.148). He focuses on technical and lexicographic evaluation. He distinguishes between offline and online dictionaries based on technical evaluation. Offline dictionary embraces printed electronic dictionaries and personal computer dictionaries (PCD). Based on lexicographic evaluation, this typology distinguishes between electronic dictionaries based on their paper versions and also newly developed electronic dictionaries with both innovative and printable appearances. The following diagram shows the classification of electronic dictionaries.



1.4. Speed of an Electronic Dictionary

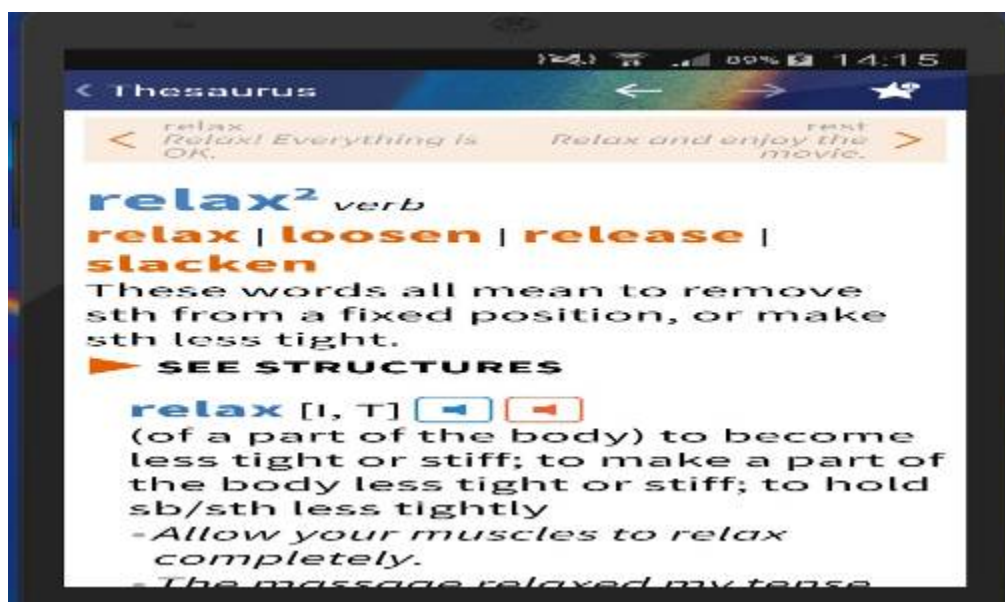
Electronic Dictionary provides users with a stronger search function in the digital form. Speed is seen as one of the main advantages of using electronic dictionaries in particular those online and CD ROMs. Wescher and Pitts (2000, p.1) are of the view that electronic dictionary is speed of the unknown words (searching words), students are looked up by the users and the students can find quickly the words faster with a electronic dictionary than with a paper dictionary. Speed is often perceived as an advantage of Electronic Dictionaries but it has been recommended that speedy reading must therefore be observed as a deliberate activity.

1.5. Use of Electronic Dictionary

It helps to develop learners' knowledge in language learning and enhances the learners to develop receptive skills. Individual attention can be given by the teachers while using electronic dictionary in the class. It helps to learn more Indian languages apart from their mother tongue and many volumes get compressed into one electronic dictionary. Learners educational qualification level can be raised. It is a boon for language learners and also brings out the hidden talents of the slow learners. One can easily update some of the brands by using internet and software. E-dictionary provides storage and retrieval become quick and easy, active learning opportunity, tension free environment and gives feedback immediately.

As far as the learning situation is concerned, E-Dictionary is used in the following domain. They are:

1. The electronic dictionary extends educational opportunity to develop new ways of learning and increases the array of learning opportunity.
2. It inspires the students in finding, evaluating and sharing information.
3. It provides proper motivation and instil interest towards the self-learning.
4. The leaners can learn at anytime, anywhere without other external help.
5. This enables the leaners to learn more depending of their aptitude, attitude and also ability.
6. It encourages cooperative attitude among users because a view of the screen is more easily shared than a view of the page.
7. Providing users with authentic recorded voice facilities for better pronouncing.



1.6. Suggestion for using electronic dictionary in the classroom teaching and learning process

Language should be taught with proper phonetic sound. An electronic gadget such as language laboratory and e-dictionary, etc, help the learners to learn the language properly. Opportunities should be provided for using technological gadgets to the learners to learn the language effectively and properly. Language class must be provided with digital board, electronic dictionary, language laboratory and internet facility, etc. More exposure should be given to the learners to use technological gadgets in learning language.

1.7. Conclusion

Electronic dictionaries may not replace the traditional paper dictionaries but they can surely supplement the paper dictionaries. Electronic gadgets are valuable in teaching and learning process. Using e-dictionary is considered as a skill and dictionaries are considered as pillar of language learning. The present situation, the language learners need not carry any dictionaries along with them and where ever they go. The E-dictionary revitalise and helps to overcome from the formal learning to informal learning. The ordinary library functions in certain period of time, but the E-dictionary helps a lot 24x7 and whenever we need to refer the study materials. Even in the Covid19 pandemic situation. This could help the language learners in different levels of vocabulary learning and also used both in class and outside of the class. So, preparing and learning the E-dictionaries can surely be an unconventional and fashionable trend in language leaning. The E-dictionaries will help a lot for the language learners and particularly for the school going students.

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