WEB BASED LANGUAGE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Web based language learning (WEB) makes the learner learn more effectively with the use of a computer. Through web we can access a very large collection of documents, pictures, sounds, etc stored on computers in many different places by Internet. YouTube website is one of the most usable online tools. It can be used to learn language effectively these days. This paper discusses how YouTube Language Learning Videos (LLV) in web based language learning can be used in addition to the English language classroom for effective language learning.

Keywords: YouTube Language Learning Videos (LLV), Digital literacy, Internet

Background to the study

Web based language learning (WEB) makes the learner learn more effectively with the use of a computer. Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) has a major role in web based language learning. Through web we can access a very large collection of documents, pictures, sounds, etc stored on computers in many different places by Internet. Learning English as a second language is becoming a need as the improvement in technology brings the whole world together. It is a process by which students acquire a second language in addition to his native language. Web based language learning provides new possibilities for educational technology. The internet is an important part in every individual life as English. Learning English through internet makes learning easy and effective.

Learner autonomy is a powerful pathway that web based language learning creates. Through this a learner can be aware of his learning needs by recognizing his own strength and weakness. A learner can also set his own language learning goals. Learner autonomy also guarantees a quantitative and qualitative language input and output, which makes the learners

select his own learning materials and methods. It provides an authentic interaction with the target language.

Web based learning does not make a schedule for a learner and ask the learner to fix into it rather it fits into the world of the learner. The learner has access to learning anytime as it has no restriction of time as classroom and library hours. Learners can learn anywhere from home, hospital, etc. Learners have access to learning through web anywhere anytime. This learning through the web is not time and space bound.

World Wide Web (www) is a most popular internet tool which makes language learning easier. YouTube website is one of the most used online tools. It can be used to learn language effectively these days. There are several Language Learning Videos (LLV) in YouTube through which a learner can improve his skills.

Hypothesis

The major purpose of this study is to know more about YouTube Language Learning Videos (LLV) in general and to discuss the different possibilities of enhancing his language skills in addition to the ELT classroom. It gives a complete knowledge about learning through the internet. In order to reach the aim the following has been discussed. Firstly a general note on the theory of Web based language learning has been discussed with reference to YouTube. Secondly the different types of Language Learning Videos followed by the different means of learning. Learners can use this as a medium to improve their learning through YouTube.

Theory of web based language learning

> As Garrison (2000:3) states, "It is a theory that provides a coherent ordering of relevant variables and relationships to guide both practitioners and researchers."

Web based language learning can be stated as an education that occur through the web and it has no physical learning material. YouTube Language learning videos (LLV) which comes under web based learning creates an environment that has no teachers and classrooms. It also engages the learner more effectively as a visual medium is more powerful than a verbal medium.

YouTube and Education

YouTube is a global video sharing website formed by three former PayPal employees. The purpose of the YouTube is to upload, view and if necessary download videos. Anyone can create a YouTube channel and can upload a video. People from any part of the world can

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access it with a help of an internet. YouTube contributes more to the global education. It has been increasingly used by educators to teach English language. If we subscribe to an educator's channel we will be updated with the latest video that has been uploaded. Education becomes so easy that a free subscription to a YouTube channel makes us learn a language.

YouTube is not time and space bound. We can access our educator's channel anywhere and anytime. It creates a possibility of living in past and present. A teacher's lecture in a classroom once missed is always missed. But once it is uploaded in YouTube we can access it even after years. Distant education is possible with the help of YouTube. A learner can learn from different part of the world. For example: a learner from India can learn English Language from the native speaker even if the native speaker is a thousand miles away. In other words, it can be said that YouTube connects learner and educator from different parts of the world.

Educators and Learners are strangers

In a traditional country like India, Gurukula is the oldest and the first method of education.

> *Gurukula (Sanskrit: गुरुकुल) is a type of residential school in India with pupils (shishya) living near the guru, often in the same house. Before British rule, they served as South Asia's primary educational institution. (Wikipedia)*

Effect of colonization which introduced Macaulay's system of education in the country has changed the total education system. It has been in practice for several years. But now in recent days, web based language learning that happens through YouTube LLV gives a novel teaching method that makes the learner and the educator strangers. The educator cannot have the possibility of knowing about the learner unless the learner introduces himself with the educator through a comment. An educator may have a million followers and there is no possibility of looking at the learner's profile without a learner's permit.

**Direct Method of Language Learning in YouTube**

On YouTube we can directly access Language Learning Videos. This Direct method should involve the following steps

1) Typing the exact keywords
2) Choosing the right videos
3) Looking for authenticity
4) Reviewing or Commenting
5) Saving the Video

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Typing the exact keywords

In order to use YouTube, we should be able to type the exact keywords and phrases. Even a mistake in a single word may lead to the wrong irrelevant video. We should be more specific about our need.

For example : If we type a word "Article" there are 3,060,000 results, if we add suffix "s" to it and search as "Articles" there are 1,750,000 results. An addition of a single word may cause such a change.
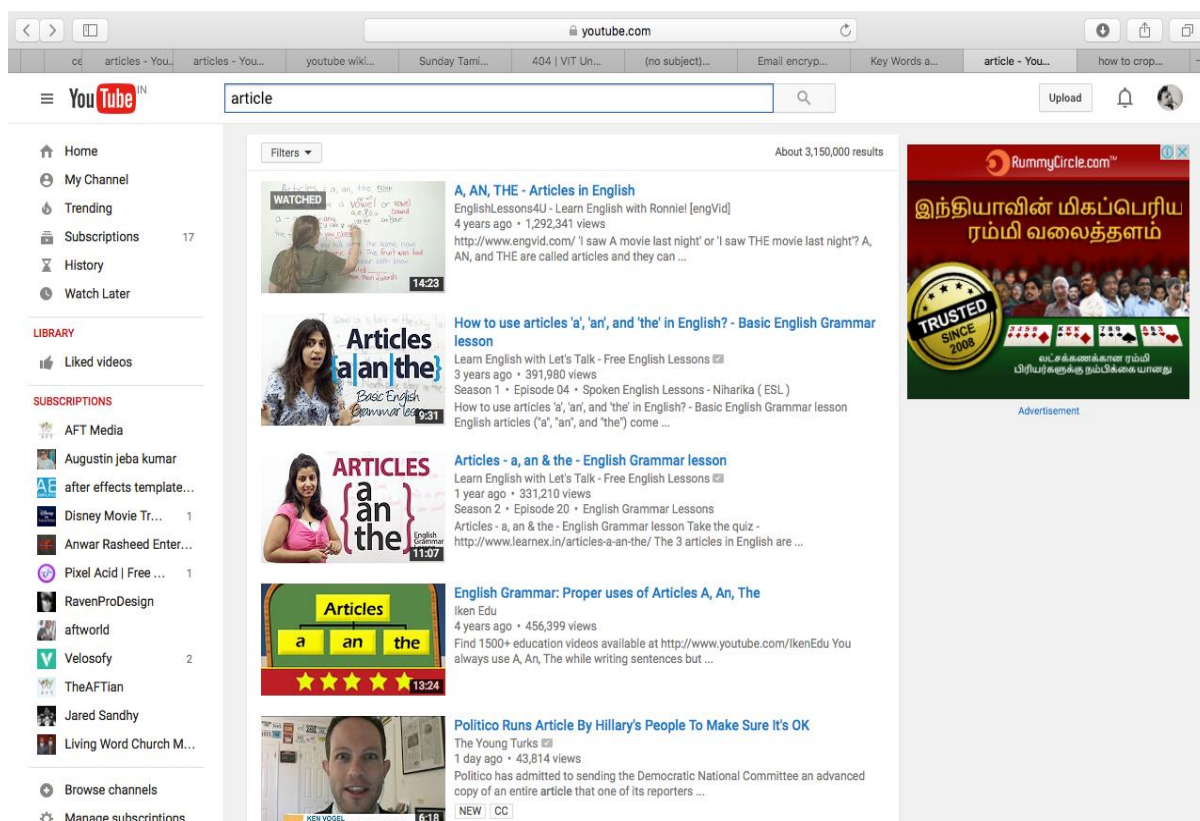
Choosing the right videos

The videos will automatically display below after typing the keywords. There may be more than three million and sixty thousand videos as mentioned in the above example. Here comes the learner autonomy in choosing the exact video depending on the need of the learner. It may be hard to select a video or few videos from million videos. But YouTube has helped us by creating a display order on the basis of most viewed or liked the videos.

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1) *How to use articles 'a', 'an', and 'the' in English? - Basic English Grammar lesson*
   https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=seg9jEcWIo4
   has 390,590 views
2) *English Grammar: Proper uses of Articles A, An, The*
   https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=qZyLP4ICGBw
   has 455, 301 views

Looking for authenticity

Authenticity is a serious problem in Web Based Language Learning. There may be several videos in YouTube regarding articles. We cannot assure that all the videos are authentic. As a learner it will be tough to find the correct video. Here comes the role of Digital Literacy which makes the learner to choose the right video. Firstly YouTube automatically provides us the most viewed videos in order. But it's learner's role to read carefully the description of the video. It may have several details. If we want to be more specific then he can also make a glance at the comments. Screenshot of the description is shown bellow.

Reviewing or Commenting

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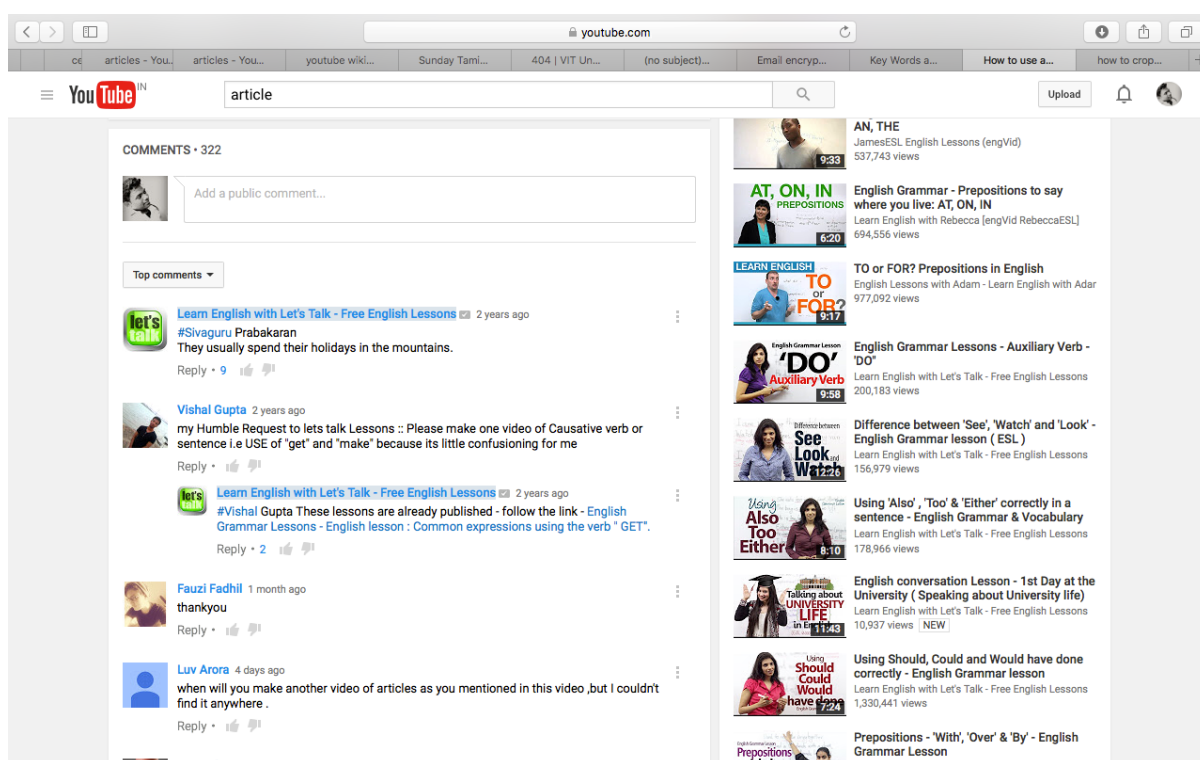
We can always appreciate the educator or even add our suggestions which may not be possible in a traditional classroom. If we find the video useful we can comment on the comment box below the video. Even if we are not satisfied we can say our suggestion and point out the mistakes. It will be surely helpful for the future learners.

Saving the video

Web based language learning is possible only with the help of internet. But YouTube makes it simpler that if we find a video more useful we can save it offline and can view it anytime without internet by downloading it with software. This download may take a few minutes, depending on the speed of the internet and storage capacity of the video. The process through which a YouTube video can be saved is found in this link http://en.savefrom.net/1-how-to-download-YouTube-video/

Indirect Method

While Direct Method helps the beginners in learning an English language, Indirect Method makes oneself a master in English language. Indirect method does not make the learner learn directly from YouTube lecture rather it makes the learner to learn the native speaker's accent, pronunciation, stress and other specific aspects. Direct Method makes the learner learn the English language for communication, whereas Indirect Method makes the learner learn the

specific aspect through songs, films, and other YouTube videos which can be discussed in the future research.

Summation

Language learning through YouTube LLV in web based language learning helps English language learner learn quickly and effectively. It cannot be said that English language learning happens only through web based learning, but it acts as a great support to English language learner in addition to ELT classroom.

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