Application of Information and Communication Technology Tools for English Language Teaching in an Omani Context

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Abstract
ICT (Information and Communication Technology) has become a significant domain of learning in the field of teaching and learning. Recently, educators have shown overwhelming interest in incorporating computers and Internet to improve the effectiveness of education at informal and formal levels of Education. ICT with its numerous tools has immense potential in the field of English Language Teaching (ELT) in terms of facilitating the teaching and learning of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.The article summarizes some of the merits and the demerits of the use of ICT tools, and the concept of using ICT in ELT based on the researcher's review of recent studies. It also highlights the findings from the researcher's own study on the effectiveness of the application of ICT tools on the EFL (English as Foreign Language) writing performance of Omani EFL learners. The study focuses on effectiveness of Moodle Forum treatment on the quantity of EFL written output in terms of number of words, Language Units and Clauses. The study is considered to be significant in the context of Omani learners being exposed to increased ICT intervention in their social and academic life. A quazi-experimental study was conducted among diploma level students (N=28) at Al Musanna College of Technology under Ministry of Manpower, Oman. The findings and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data revealed that Moodle Forum intervention can have significant impact on the participants' EFL written output. The study recommends that students and teachers should integrate ICT tools in ELT appropriately.
Keywords: ELT, ICT moodle, Oman, writing,