BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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We are living in an ever-changing world. The rapid development of learning never stops and so as the strategies and approaches in teaching the 21st century learners must also change or even upgrade from time to time. They often rely their everyday living in technologies wherein they usually and easily get information, learnings and even skills that they will eventually adapt. All the things than can be seen particularly in social media has a great impact in students’ way of living and learning. Thus, this so called “digital learning” is a must in the Philippine classrooms since our today’s generation is already in a new era.

Nowadays, teaching the English language in the Second Language Learners (L2) is one of the challenging tasks of the English teachers to face. It is a problem not only to the students but also to the teachers on how they will teach the language in a more appropriate and engaging way. According to Asher (1977), language classes were often the focus of too much stress and anxiety of some students. Due to this, students end up hating the class or sometimes just memorizing the lessons without even comprehension and retention to them. They are just learning the said lessons just for the sake of their compliance in that particular subject. There are many ways, strategies and approaches to learn the English language without hesitation. Since our today’s generation is in a digitalized era, we may use these technologies as part of their learning process.

Blended Learning is the mixture of online educational methods (e-learning) with traditional in-person practices. This is a combination of technology and teacher’s presence that will surely provide an engaging and appropriate learning classroom wherein
students will definitely learn the language. It requires the physical presence of both teacher and students to discuss about some of the elements of student control over time, place, patch, or even pace. In addition, this approach is a growing evidence and proof that it surpasses traditional methods in teaching and provides individuals the opportunity to learn as well as enjoy the best of both worlds (real-life and online world). 21st century learners already have the teachers to facilitate and guide them in a real-world classroom setting as well as the online multimedia as their materials in learning while they are exploring the world of language. This will become effective to the students since they are more capable of learning while they are using their gadgets particularly their mobile phones.

Therefore, with the aid of these e-learning, this will be a greater advantage in the teacher’s part since they can easily catch the students’ interest to learn the language because of the different strategies such as adding not just texts and pictures but also video clips and graphics that will make them easier to visualize things. Also, the teachers could create games and activities that consist of different levels ranked from easy to difficult and after passing each level, they will get rewards and prizes. Through this, students are more excited to do the activity. It is both beneficial to students and teachers. Aside from the fact that they are already learning, they are also enjoying.

References:
