MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN LINGUISTICS

LEARNING COMPUTER ASSISTED SECOND LANGUAGE GRAMMAR

(A study of teaching different types of Comparative/ Superlative forms
to Sinhala students learning English as a second language)

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Abstract

This research is aimed at showing that computer assisted learning (computer + multimedia + internet) is more effective than traditional method (chalk + talk + text book) regarding second language grammar. The teachers of English in Sri Lanka have been using traditional chalk + talk + text book method to teach English grammar. But when students reproduce language, recurrence of grammatical errors is observed.Therefore it is anticipated to bring out the tremendous potentiality and extensive effectiveness of the computer technology on English grammar learning. In the research, 60 Grade 12 students of Polonnaruwa area were divided into two groups of 30, and were applied with two different strategies. The first 30 students were applied with traditional method followed by computer assisted method. Test – teach – test method was used with them. The second 30 students which consisted of controlled and experimental groups were applied with traditional and computer assisted method respectively.Descriptive statistics was used to analyze data. The results proved that computer assisted learning is more effective than traditional method regarding second language grammar. It was evident thatEnglish teachers cannot be replaced by computers thoughcomputer can be used as a complementary tool. Moreover it was proved how CALL developed learner autonomy and flexibility. The learners are highly motivated by the novel method due to maximum interaction and compatibility. **The students with little prior knowledge are highly motivated than the students with much prior knowledge.Finally this research brings out that Traditional method is also an effective method although Computer Assisted method proved to be more successful on English grammar learning.**

Keywords -   CALL, English, Second Language, Grammar, Motivation