



## Online English Education: A Paradigm Shifts in Education System and Its Challenges

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### ABSTRACT

The pandemic Covid-19 has made the world face one of the greatest challenges we have ever experienced over a century. Every sector (health industry, education, aviation, navigation, agriculture, media) is confronting such potential catastrophe that all are struggling to survive in this new normal. Due to these unavoidable trying times, there is a paradigm shift, a transition in every sphere. The education fraternity is considered the platform to build up the future generation is suffering the most because of the campus closure where other sectors are allowed to continue their activities so far. It has gone through several transformations from (traditional way of online teaching) to cope up with the situation and still struggling to reach up its goal. There was a chance for loss of the academic year if there was no online education, no transition from the traditional way of the teaching-learning process. This paper is an attempt to focus on the transition of the English teaching-learning process for the continuation of academic performances, the features of online English education, the types of online English education, the role of English teachers in this regard, strategies to make an effective online English class, challenges that we are encountering and some recommendations that are needed for the continuation of English teaching-learning performance during future trying times like epidemic, pandemic, war and so on.

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### INTRODUCTION

Pandemic Covid-19 is one of the most powerful strikes in all aspects of the human being. One aspect that faces the difficulties is also the world of Education. The rise of technology and digital platform bridging the continuity of teaching and learning especially in the

English Language. Facing Covid-19 for the English Teachers is a momentum to upgrade and update the teaching skills by adopting product of technology. The modern teacher will adopt the modern way of teaching in providing the best teaching and learning for the students.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study tried to describe the overview of Online English Education: A Paradigm Shifts in Education System and its Challenges. A literature review and analysis were conducted with covering journal publications that focus on the transition of English teaching-learning process for the continuation of academic performances, the features of online English education, the types of online English education, the role of English teachers in this regard, strategies to make an effective online English class, challenges that we are encountering and some recommendations that are needed for the continuation of English teaching-learning performance during future trying times like epidemic, pandemic, war and so on.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

A clear description based on a social phenomenon that happens in the Pandemic Covid 19 era. The discussion will be broken down based on several key factors below.

### **Features of Online English Teaching**

The environment, as well as the pedagogical approach of online English class, differs from the traditional classroom. In online English class, there is no physical presence and verbal communication, flexible schedules here teacher fails to understand the caliber of each student's lack of visibility lead the learners to feel isolated sometimes and a passive role in the online English class thus develop a critical attitude towards the effectiveness of the language learner. On the other hand, English e-learning promotes autonomous learning, it

supports self-regulated learning where students learn from their personal space and pace. As each student has a different cognitive level, caliber, and need so online education provides the opportunity to learn at one's own space, a pace that is not attainable in the face to face learning.

There is various kind of feature that can be used by the English Teacher to support the language learning while pandemic, all that the teachers need to do in adopting and imitating the apps that ready to use in teaching English for the students. The most difficulties for the English teachers in supporting the students are located on the internet connection and the comprehension of each digital apps that they can use. Many training and also online workshop will help the conventional teacher to conduct a proper Online English teaching and learning process.

### **Role of English Educators**

In every type of education either traditional or virtual, English teachers play a pivotal role. Now the teaching fraternity is going through a tough phase due to covid-19. It is missing its lively traditional classroom, face-to-face interactive teaching, and learning which has turned into e-learning. As our English teachers are not used to such a mode of instruction so they have to be updated and upgraded, they should be familiar with the digital tools to make an interactive classroom.

Hence, they have to be self-motivated and creative to create e-content such as videos, quiz slides to make the classroom interesting. An English teacher must motivate the students for self-learning. A teacher's role

now has shifted from the sage of the stage to the guide on the site. As a teacher he or she must act as a facilitator instead of a controller of the traditional classroom who would inspire and instill the love for learning to the students otherwise online English class would not be meaningful (Izzah et al., 2019; Subramani & Iyappan, 2018). Moreover, being an English teacher in the online setting one should be able to accept the value of the learning as equivalent to the traditional means of education. If the teacher feels online English education is not effective and the only way of effective learning can be possible through face-to-face classroom only, then the person is not fit to be a good choice for the online paradigms.

The government and also all educational institutions should provide the training and also workshop to make sure that the majority of English teachers familiar with the digital platform and also get used to managing online English learning. Without preparation and training, there will be a massive failure in Online English education and will lead the language learning process to become a boring and ineffective situation. All processes that should be taking care of as the one that has the policy in providing alternative teaching and learning especially in the pandemic era, the government need to make sure that all elements of an educational institution already aware of online education.

### **Types of English E-Learning**

Online English education is usually managed by synchronous learning as well as asynchronous learning. Synchronous learning refers to one type of online education that happens in real-time with

live lectures, TV channels, streaming, video live, or YouTube which is practiced nowadays. Direct communication, exchanging opinions, and giving feedback instantly are the features of synchronous learning on the other hand asynchronous learning describes learning through pre-recorded video and lecture, giving homework, assignments, using a discussion forum, also by transferring files, email exchanging.

Here language learners can learn at their own pace and space. It provides more opportunities to comprehend the message. It creates a bridge between the teacher and the students. When English teachers are not participating online, students don't feel isolated. They know their teachers are accessible. In addition to synchronous learning and asynchronous learning blended or hybrid learning can be also a good option to facilitate the learning process. Blended learning can be a panacea for solving the learning crisis in trying times. In this uncertain closure of the campuses, it is a balance of both traditional as well as online education. It gives a scope of having more control over time.

Tucker (2020) in her book "Balance with Blended Learning" provides teachers with strategies to actively engage students in setting their objectives by monitoring progress, reflecting on growth using feedback, guidelines, accessing student's quality and ability, and communicate with their parents. It includes practical strategies for teachers who are overwhelmed by their workload. It also provides the guidelines that are necessary to transform the classroom from teacher-centered to learner-centered so, it is very much

necessary to continue the blended learning; the balance of both traditional classroom and virtual classroom. Because we are uncertain, can't predict when the virus will disappear. To deal with trying times blended learning can be the best option that can be used to facilitate English teaching-learning progress.

There are plenty of apps and English learning resources that can be accessed freely for the English teachers to provide their students with online English teaching and learning. The teachers need to choose the most specific and proper one that can be used for their students. Types of online English education simply based on the online and digital form as the key factor for the successful online English education (Altunay, 2014; Berge, 1995; Garrison & Kanuka, 2004; Khabbaz & Najjar, 2015; Makoe & Shandu, 2018).

### **Strategies for Effective English Teaching**

Covid-19 pandemic has compelled us to modify the whole teaching-learning performance. It has brought a transition in teaching and learning spaces as well as teaching and learning methods and strategies. As online English education is almost a new phenomenon for us so it would take some time to be familiar and comfortable with this machine-based learning. So we have to have some patience to deal with this new normal. If we use our traditional methods of teaching like giving lectures and providing homework and ask the students just to send their activities by mail or messages, then the desired outcome of online classes will not be achieved and it would consider a worthless way which will bring boredom

in the learning process. Thus, we have to adopt some strategies to make online teaching and learning effectively. Here are some strategies that we should consider in terms of online English Education.

#### ***Consistent***

Consistent interaction is considered the essence of effective online education. To divert the attention of the learners, teachers have to involve them to participate actively in the class by asking their opinions, arranging group discussions, engaging them with problem-solving activities, and so on. Interaction between student to students, between teacher and students, creates a positive environment for online education.

#### ***Effective Communication***

Communicate with English language learners regularly is very important. The teacher can communicate with learners individually or in a group. There should be quick and spontaneous responses, constructive feedback so that the students will not feel isolated and feel that teachers are always there to guide them and they are accessible. The main aim to learn the English Language is to use it in the communication process, often students practicing their learning results will learn the English language more effectively and efficiently.

#### ***Collaboration***

Collaboration motivates English language learners towards online education. Peer reviews, positive feedback, sharing ideas on a particular topic, transferring images, files, audio-video clips, working on the same project

and assignments, project-based learning such things develop collaboration and strengthen the abilities of learners to deal with their real-life problem-solving skills.

### ***Assessment***

Assessment regularly (such as formative assessment, self-assessment, peer assessment, portfolio assessment) can be considered as one of the effective strategies for online education. Making a judgment on one's performance, critically evaluating self's works help the learners to identify the gaps in their understanding and knowledge. This self-realization helps them to set their goals towards their progress and motivates the students towards autonomous learning.

### ***Brainstorming Activities***

English Teachers have to make the students understand that they are responsible for their learning and teachers are there to show them the guidelines and give them instructions so that they can complete their assignments by very important brainstorming. If we could engage them in brainstorming and project-based learning, problem-solving activities, critical analysis, and interpretation then they will be more enthusiastic for self-learning. Once they get the opportunity for brainstorming it would help them to generate ideas and perspectives that enhance their cognitive skills as well.

### ***Freedom of Expression***

English Teachers can also engage students in a presentation, discussion forum where they can comment, explain, discuss and solve different problems that are encountered by them. Students can

express their feeling in any learning setting, to make sure they enjoy the teaching and learning process.

### ***Amalgamate Technology***

Technology plays an important role to continue academic activities during this lockdown. Technologies such as live streaming, audio-video clips, messages, web pages' various apps make both students and teachers media literate. It helps the English language learners to be engaged with their teachers as well as different activities such as submitting their works, polling, quizzes, practicing worksheets, and assignments. Technology makes the lesson more interesting. The colorful images, audio-video clips attract the attention of the students more effectively. They become more interested to explore new things instead of confining themselves to textbooks and teachers' lectures.

### ***Alternative Options***

Giving students options and choices instead of confining them into a particular topic or assignment is very much necessary for English e\_ learning. They should get the opportunities to choose a topic for their assignments, project work, and presentation. It would help them to explore new and innovative things. It would also help them to be confident to take their own decision. Once they get the opportunity for brainstorming it would help them to generate ideas and perspectives that enhance their cognitive skills as well.

### ***Digital Platforms***

Digital literacy has become a need of our English teaching-learning process.

It makes the learning process interesting and fascinating. The audio-visual clips, images are considered powerful materials to create a deep and long-term impression on learners' minds. It motivates the students and attracts them and engages the students who are needed to explore something new and extra. It is helpful to transform the role of students from passive to active enquirer and discoverer. There are some useful digital tools and platform which are listed here to enhance the teaching-learning performance.

- a. WhatsApp/Messenger group
- b. Kahoot(Game-based learning platform)
- c. Google Classroom
- d. Prezi
- e. Podcasts
- f. Mentimeter
- g. MOOC'S
- h. Moodle

Using various kinds of applications will help the students and teachers to get connected and build the learning environment in positive vibes (Izzah & Hadi, 2018). While the students feel bored, the teachers can use apps that contain games, and when the students need to get evaluated, the teachers can simply switch using the quiz apps that are freely used for them.

### **Challenges in English Teaching**

Online English education has become an inseparable part of our life for the continuation of the English language learning process. But it is full of challenges. There are several drawbacks which should be mentioned to get the best and most of it. English Teachers were not ready as well as interested to deliver

quality teaching instructions remotely. Maximum of them digital literacy. The sudden transformation from the traditional classroom to the virtual classroom makes the teaching-learning experiences somehow uncomfortable and different. Our traditional mindset finds online education quite difficult and ineffective. It failed to adopt this new mode of learning initially. However, with time, they have accepted it and realize the advantages of e-Learning.

Lack of resources, lots of students in both urban and rural locality do not possess their computer, laptop, desktop, smartphone. They are less privileged who have those. It is creating discrimination. Moreover, most of them are not facilitated with a strong and high internet connection which is mandatory for online English classes. Especially, students from village and rural areas cannot enjoy the benefits of e-learning.

One of the greatest challenges for online English education is not everyone can enjoy internet access, the unlimited access which is compulsory for online classes. Those who can join the classes facing technical difficulties, the health problems such as headaches, eye pain, and so on because the maximum time of four to six hours continuously are stick with the computer which affects their brain and eyes.

As none of us were ready for such an undesired situation so it is found that teachers are not interested and ready to conduct the online class. They are somehow reluctant because online classes need extra effort, preparation, and homework from the teachers' part. Moreover, teachers are not skilled in ICT. Sometimes recorded lectures create

boredom and students lose their interest towards study. They act passively most of the time. They need continuous motivation in this regard which is not possible every time for the instructors because of the unavailability of an internet connection (Rossett, 2018). Besides this psychologically we face difficulties like identity theft. It is seen that apart from university/college students junior grade students use the mail account of their parents to join the classes in google meet, Google classroom. Thus it's easier for hackers or criminals to steal the identity to gain control over the financial property or other useful information of the account owner. Sometimes there are lucrative offers for the lottery for iPhone winning which asking the ATM or credit debit card number details. Innocents learners easily get trapped in it. There are also sympathy gaining tricks to collect donations, offering jobs, and call for an interview which has become the obstacles now for both students and teachers.

Another crucial problem is the "evaluation system", how to assess students' academic progress. There is the risk of cheating in tests and examinations that are taken virtually. All these challenges are imposed on the education industry due to covid-19 which are also the causes of the closure of lots of educational institutions by now

### **Recommendation**

Based on the findings that the study puts forward and the number of recommendations to continue online English education effectively. Teachers should be trained up to enhance their digital literacy in this regard we can

arrange workshops, a training session on the national level for teachers and academic administrative to introduce the digital tools and their implementation. Internet connectivity should be strong and powerful.

There should be the free package for students and teachers otherwise many students who cannot afford the internet connection has to end up their academic life. Financial support and a stipend system should be there. Evolution is considered one of the concerns in this regard. The evaluation system should be changed to assess our students' caliber. Peer assessment, self-assessment, portfolio assessment, project assessment including the traditional test and examination to gain the desired outcomes. We should also introduce and stick with blended learning to deal with the post covid situation because we can't predict how long this dangerous virus will be reigning in the world.

### **CONCLUSION**

We should take the advantages of English E-Learning in good light and eliminate the drawbacks which are pulling back many of our students and institutes from achieving excellence in education due to the COVID-19 pandemics. At this juncture it is high time for both government and non-government organizations to introduce more technologically equipped education sectors, to arrange workshops and training sessions to acquaint with English E-learning tools and their usage to teachers and institutions.

There should be aware and explain the advantages of online English education to the parents who are not

ready to pay tuition fees, doubting the effectiveness of this machine-based learning. And also ensure strong high-speed net connectivity in remote locations so that students wouldn't be affected by this type of educational disruption again. This way we will be able to encounter trying times caused by epidemics, pandemic, war, political unrest, natural disasters, and so on.

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