Technology Enhanced Language Learning on English Communication for EFL Learners

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Abstract:- Global advanced technology era is the most significant role for world population using Online Social Network (OSN) increasingly. It can be applied to multi-functioning purposes which are more essential for their life any situations for instance their society, study, and work. The integration of technology and English practicing skills has a lot good benefits for them to promote English communication among EFL learners. They are motivated and encouraged to practice their English skills more fluently and effectively. They also have good attitudes toward using the technology in their learning. Most of them are able to communicate in English with each other around the world. They also learn more culture and lifestyles in any foreign countries, especially in ASEAN countries. Thailand is one of the members in ASEAN Community that Thais need to communicate in English as a working language. They have to use English for their study and work in Thailand and other countries. It's very necessary to help them communicating in English direct oral conversations related to real work life with these foreigners rapidly. This article describes that Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL) impacts EFL learners as social media to improve their English communication. The Internet acts as an efficient tool to enhance language acquisition in English learning. Most of them use a lot of applications via smart phones for their English lifelong learning anywhere anytime. TELL assists them to practice more English communication skills which are important for their study and work life. They enable to learn all English such as vocabulary, grammar, expression, conversation, message, etc. They also develop their English communication skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing any situations. They will be able to communicate with Asians in English for further work in ASEAN Community effectively. They will cooperate to do business for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in the future successfully.

Keywords: TELL, English Communication, OSN, EFL Learners, AEC

I. INTRODUCTION

The new digital information revolution age in the 21st century surrounds people's everyday lives. The advanced global technology has become an essential part of the world population changing their lifestyles more rapidly. They need to communicate in English with all people around the world via modern technology all time which makes them connect with social network provided a virtual community website for people interested in a particular subject together, and allows them to communicate with both current and new friends, family, and acquaintances such as teleconference, facebook, twitter, e-mail, Skype, line, etc. The language teachers need to integrate technology into the language course development. Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL) is the use of computer as a technological innovation to display multimedia as a means of complementing a teaching method language teachers. It allows for multiple teaching approaches to be used, which leads to the creation of a learning environment where technology helps to boost students' performance without students becoming wholly reliant upon technology to create language [1].

The author has created and maintained more English teaching materials using TELL for 10 years to improve EFL learners on English communication skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing at university in Thailand. They also learn about the culture which is very important in language learning for meaningful communication and proper acquisition.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This literature review is a brief review on different applications of TELL tools in language teaching and learning courses showing that technology can handle a wide range of activities and carry out programmed functions in different situations.

Online Social Network (OSN)

Online Social Network (OSN) has been attracted for millions user worldwide. They can share personal information using OSN applications. They are able to create a network to represent their social relationships. Network has been an important part of daily life, now that more and more people are connected to the Internet,

their online counterpart are fulfilling an increasingly important role. Many OSNs facilitate uploading of multimedia content, various ways of communication and sharing many aspects of daily life.

A. Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL)

Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL) deals with the impact of technology on teaching and learning foreign languages. It provides a lot more flexibility and caters to more learning styles of the language learners, can be used alongside textbooks for a much more in depth learning experience, turns the classroom into a student centered environment, improves students' motivation, and develops better students' attitudes toward language learning. The TELL project enabled the students to experience new technologies, feel the pleasure of learning and increase their learning opportunities. The TELL project improved student knowledge of computers and other fields, developed their English abilities, expanded their interests, and broadened learning range and possibilities. Most learners were positive about the potential of the Internet and believe that it can promote and enhance language learning by blending synchronous and asynchronous communication tools, given appropriate design and proper functioning [2].

The main purpose of research was to investigate the impact of using the computer and the Internet on improving EFL learners' listening comprehension skill and motivation. The findings of the study indicated that the use of computer had a significant role on the improvement of EFL learners' listening comprehension. It was statistically proved that the blended online instruction has significant impact on Iranian EFL learners' vocabulary knowledge [3]. The other study indicates that the EFL learners have a positive attitude towards learning via video games, which will help them utilize these games as a motivating agent in language learning schedule. The results of the research showed that most of students like online social networks which can be used to facilitate English language learning [4]. The study on the computer was an effective tool for improving Iranian EFL high school students' writing achievement [5].

B. phpMyAdmin

phpMyAdmin is a free software tool written in PHP, intended to handle the administration of MySQL over the Web. phpMyAdmin supports a wide range of operations on MySQL. Frequently used operations (managing databases, tables, columns, relations, indexes, users, permissions, etc.) can be performed via the user interface, while still having the ability to directly execute any SQL statement. Everyone enables to use phpMyAdmin created for English practice courses easily (scratch).

C. PHP

PHP is a server-side scripting language designed for web development but also used as a general-purpose programming language. Originally created by Rasmus Lerdorf in 1994, the PHP reference implementation is now produced by The PHP Group. PHP originally stood for Personal Home Page, but it now stands for the recursive acronym PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor. PHP code may be embedded into HTML code, or it can be used in combination with various web template systems, web content management system and web frameworks. PHP code is usually processed by a PHP interpreter implemented as a module in the web server or as a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) executable. The web server combines the results of the interpreted and executed PHP code, which may be any type of data, including images, with the generated web page. PHP code may also be executed with a command-line interface (CLI) and can be used to implement stand alone graphical applications.

D. HyperTextMarkup Language (HTML)

HyperTextMarkup Language (HTML), is the standard markup language used to create web pages. Along with CSS, and JavaScript, HTML is a cornerstone technology used to create web pages, as well as to create user interfaces for mobile and web applications. Web browsers can read HTML files and render them into visible or audible web pages. HTML describes the structure of a website semantically and, before the advent of Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), included cues for the presentation or appearance of the document (web page), making it a markup language, rather than a programming language.

E. MySQL

MySQL is an open-source relational database management system (RDBMS). In July 2013, it was the world's second most widely used RDBMS, and the most widely used open-source client–server model RDBMS. It is named Michael Widenius' (who is a co-founder of MySQL) daughter, My, while "SQL" stands as the abbreviation for Structured Query Language. The MySQL development project has made its source code available under the terms of the GNU General Public License, as well as under a variety of proprietary agreements.

F. Technology and Language Learning

The online teaching has provided with creative freedom, endless resources and earning materials, and the possibility to teach students from all corners of the globe. The importance of technology in the classroom and e-learning as a platform for teaching and practicing English communication. More and more students are using mobile devices to connect to the web. Mobile learning (or m-learning) is the ability to learn anywhere anytime using a portable electronic device.

G. Mobile Learning and Language Development

Our world today is obsessed with doing everything quickly, learning included. Self-study is obviously important in language learning. As little as one hour a week of self-study can boost the students' progress immensely. The majority of students has chosen to study online due to time restrictions, and in their first lesson, they make it quite clear and have no time for homework. The use of mobile technology is increasing. Therefore, the students are offered the possibility to study anywhere anytime and at their own convenience through their mobile devices with small, realistic homework activities and request them spend just five or ten minutes a day on English communication practice skills.

H. English Communication Skill Courses

English communication skill courses are designed for students who take English communication courses of study at university such as Reading English for Learning, English for Secretaries, English for Business Communication. They improve their English communication skills or enhance their command of English for professional purposes.They also practice using the mobile applications for their English communication skill practice and learning. These applications motivate them to learn more and more English for the career in the future.

III. METHODOLOGY

Everything has been done by using HTML and PHP language. All learners' data will be stored in MySQL database via phpMyAdmin. Audio and video player can be inserted to website by inserting HTML code.
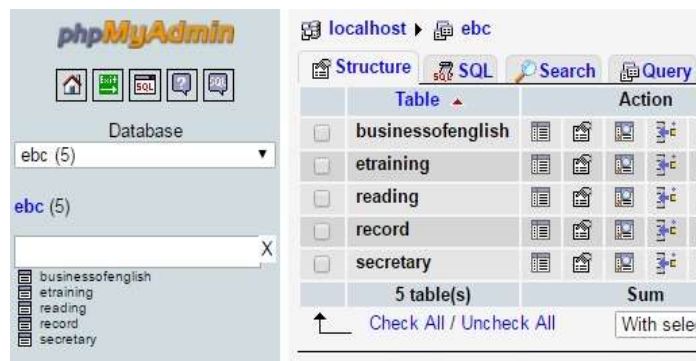

Fig.1: A sample of using phpMyAdmin

The author can create table to collect learners' data such as username, password, exercises' score from user by using phpMyAdmin.
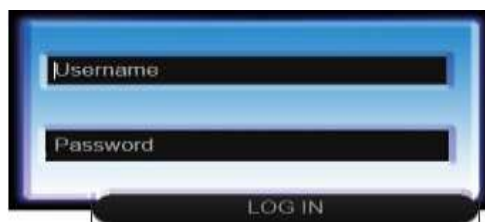

Fig. 2: Login page

The user can login to E-learning from this page by inserting 'student ID' as a username and 'abc' as a password.

```php
<?php
session_start();
session_register(r_username);
session_register("r_password");
 if (!$myusername)
     {
     echo "please enter username/password<br>";
     exit;
     }
$host="localhost";
$user="ebc";
$password="xxxxxxx";
$tblname="secretary";
$dbname="ebc";
$connect=mysql_connect($host,$user,$password)
or die ("die");
$db=mysql_select_db($dbname)or die("no
database");
$dbquery=mysql_db_query($dbname,"select * from
 $tblname where username='$myusername'");
    $result=mysql_fetch_array($dbquery);
$_SESSION["r_id"]=$result[id];
$_SESSION["r_username"]=$myusername;
$_SESSION["r_password"]=$mypassword;
 header("location:frame1.php");
        mysql_close();
?>
```

Fig. 3: Login control code

The process receives username and password login from the user to authorization.

สวัสดีคุณ 1234567890ทั้งหมดนี้เป็นสถิติการเข้าใช้งานของคุณและเป็น Link สำหรับการเข้าสู่บทเรียน	จำนวนครั้งที่เข้าใช้	คะแนนแบบฝึก
Pretest Unit1		2
Unit1 Receiving Visitors	329	0
Posttest Unit1		20
Pretest Unit2		15
Unit2 Handling Phone Calls	169	0
Posttest Unit2		2

Fig. 4: Learners' page

Learners' page will show the statistic data and experience scores. They can select the lessons and exercises from this page by clicking at link.
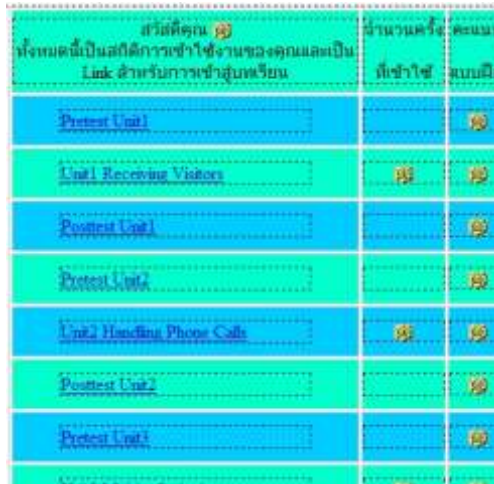
Fig. 5: Learners' page in Dreamweaver's design mode

Every page of website can be created in design mode from Dreamweaver to allow the creator seeing what their pages look like.

```php
<?php
session_start();
$myid=$_SESSION["r_id"];
$myusername=$_SESSION["r_username"];
$mypassword=$_SESSION["r_pass"];
$host="localhost";
$user="ebc";
$password="xxxxxxxx";
$dbname="ebc";
$tblname2="secretary";
$connect=mysql_connect($host,$user,$password) or die ("die");
$db=mysql_select_db($dbname)or die("no database");
$dbquery=mysql_db_query($dbname,"select * from $tblname2 where id='$myid'");
$result=mysql_fetch_array($dbquery);
$id=$result[id];
$showu1=$result[u1]+$result[u1p1]+$result[u1p2]+$result[u1p3]+$result[u1p4]+$result[u1p5]+$result[u1p6]+$result[u1p7]+$result[u1p8]+$result[u1p9]+$result[u1p10]+$result[u1p11]+$result[u1p12]+$result[u1p13];
```

Fig. 6: Learners' page code

Visitor: Hello — My name's Todd Stevens.

Secretary: Hello, I'm Jane May. Pleased to ___ you.

- a. greet
- b. meet
- c. know
- d. nice

submit

Fig. 7: A sample of exercise

The exercises can be created on website by HTML language and send the answers that are selected to analyze process file.

```php
1   <?php
2   session_start();
3   $myusername=$_SESSION["r_username"];
4   $id=$_SESSION["r_id"];
5
6   $host="localhost";
7   $user="ebc";
8   $password="xxxxxxxx";
9   $tblname2="secretary";
10  $dbname2="ebc";
11
12  $test1=$_POST['test1'];
13
14      $ex1u1=0;
15
16      if($test1=="b")
17      {
18      $ex1u1++;
19      }
20
21  $connect=mysql_connect($host,$user,$password)
    or die ("die");
22  $db=mysql_select_db($dbname2)or die("no
    database");
23  $sql="UPDATE $tblname2   SET ex1u1='$ex1u1'
    WHERE id='$id'";
24
25      $result=mysql_query($sql);
26
27      if($result)
28          {
29      mysql_affected_rows();
30
31          exit;
32
33          }
34      else echo "error".$id;
35      mysql_close();
36  ?>
37
```

Fig. 8: Receiving process file analyzer

When the process receives the data from the exercises, this program can be checked the answers and send the result to database.

Fig. 9: A sample of adding the column data

First, we need to add the number of column in 'Add'. After that, add the position of the column from 'After' and select the column that we want.
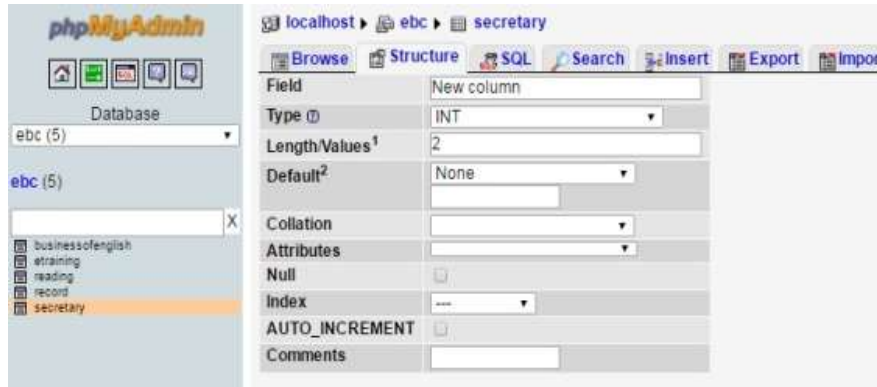
Fig. 10: A sample of adding the column data

Inserting the name of column in 'Field' and adding the size of score at 'Length/Values'. Size 2 means size of score which refers to 00 to 99.
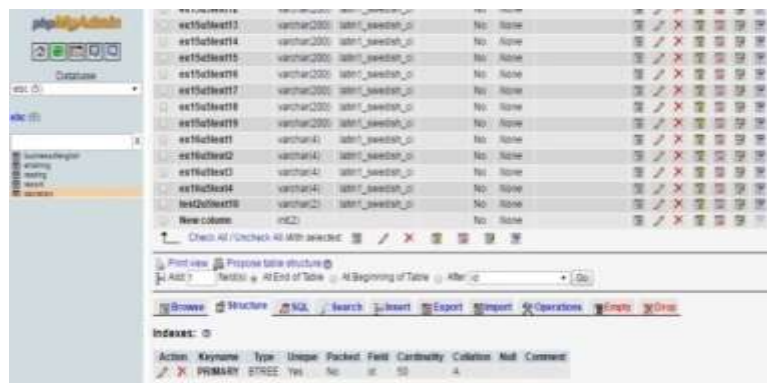

Fig. 11: A sample of adding the column data

The new column will appear at the bottom after the column which we select in Figure 9.

No	date time	page
1	2016-06-01 22:23:49	u1p8.php
2	2016-06-01 22:23:48	u1p7.php
3	2016-06-01 22:23:46	u1p6.php
4	2016-06-01 22:23:45	u1p5.php
5	2016-06-01 22:23:42	u1p4.php
6	2016-06-01 22:23:41	u1p3.php
7	2016-06-01 22:23:40	u1p2.php
8	2016-06-01 22:23:40	u1p1.php
9	2016-06-01 22:23:38	u6p8.php
10	2016-06-01 22:23:37	u6p7.php
11	2016-06-01 22:23:36	u6p6.php
12	2016-06-01 22:23:35	u6p5.php
13	2016-06-01 22:23:33	u6p4.php
14	2016-06-01 22:23:32	u6p3.php
15	2016-06-01 22:23:31	u6p2.php
16	2016-06-01 22:23:30	u6p1.php
17	2016-06-01 22:23:28	u5p6.php
18	2016-06-01 22:23:27	u5p5.php
19	2016-06-01 22:23:26	u5p4.php
20	2016-06-01 22:23:25	u5p3.php

Fig. 12: Users' record

The users' record will be collected and shown the data of accessing time when they access to the webpage.

```
31   $timestamp=time();
32   $host="localhost";
33   $user="ebc";
34   $dbname="ebc";
35   $tblname="record";
36   mysql_connect("$host","$user","c0j,xxxx")or die ("die")
37   mysql_select_db("$dbname");
38   $sql="INSERT INTO record (id,username,timestamp,page)
     VALUES ('0','$username','$timestamp','$page')";
39   $result=mysql_query($sql);
```

Fig. 13: Users' record code

```
64   <p align="center">
65   <audio id="audio" width="320" height="240" preload
      controls>
66   <source src="unit1_audio03.mp3" type="audio/mp3;"
     />
67   </audio>
68   </p>
```

Fig. 14: A sample of audio player HTML code

This audio player can be placed by adding the HTML code.

```
21   <td width="167"><div align="center"><video id=
     "movie" width="320" height="240" preload controls>
22   <source src="unit1_0m.mp4" type="video/mp4;
     codecs=avc1.42E01E,mp4a.40.2" />
23   </video></div></td>
```

Fig.15: A sample of video player code

This video player can be placed by this HTML code.

IV. CONCLUSION

Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL) is the supplementary tool which assists the teachers for English language teaching and learning in any courses that the learners improve their English communication including the culture appropriately. The learners are able to practice their English communication skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing anywhere anytime via electronic devices e.g. smart phones, i-pads, etc. They can practice these English communication skills repeatedly as they like. The more they practice English communication skills, the more they will be able to communicate in English fluently. They also can communicate with the world population effectively, especially Asians who will cooperate to work and do business together in ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in the future.

TELL programs and devices into language classrooms are beneficial for language teaching. Given the new trend in the TELL and its novel demands to implement technology in schools and universities, there is a pressing need on the side of teachers and professors to develop a positive attitude towards TELL and its incorporation in their practices [6]. TELL programs have been applied to implement technology in universities. Most of English teachers enable to create these programs themselves for a positive attitude towards on English teaching development by adjusting each file and command which can be reused to create any English communication courses. In conclusion, all online English communication courses that the author has created for 10 years, are beneficial for English teaching development at university in Thailand. There is the interaction between the webpage users, and accessing to the university website anywhere anytime. It's very convenient for the EFL learners practicing English communication skills via any electronic devices. They have motivation, empowerment, and inspiration to improve their English communication for lifelong learning. They will work with the people in Asia and other countries around the world very successfully, especially ASEAN community.

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