

‘Use of PowerPoint Presentation in Teaching Prepositions in the Non-native Scenario’

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Abstract: *The present research paper is an attempt to exhibit how multimedia instrument PowerPoint presentation can be used in teaching tricky area like prepositions. The main aim of the present research paper is to demonstrate the significance of technology in the teaching of English as a second language. One aspect of technology, i.e., the PowerPoint has been selected. Similarly, only ‘prepositions’ have been selected for demonstrating the immense utility of the PowerPoint Presentations. The actual PPTs have been generated by the researcher. The underlying assumption is that the use of PowerPoint reduces the element of rigidity and boredom and increases the interest and participation of the learners in teaching-learning process of English in the non-native scenario. The PowerPoint Presentation can be used as an audio-visual aid in non-native classrooms to have more effective teaching-learning activities. It is an application of multimedia in teaching prepositions. The idea of using multimedia arises due to the lacunas found in the traditional methods and techniques of the teaching-learning processes of English language.*

Keywords: *multimedia, technology, PowerPoint presentation, second language.*

I. Introduction

English language came in India in the seventeenth century. It came with the British and initially it was used only by the British people associated with the East India Company. Simultaneously, some English missionaries used it for the religious and educational purposes. As the British spread their control over the country, English came to be used as an official language and language of education, judiciary, etc.

After Independence, English continued as an official language. Despite opposition and controversies, it still continues to enjoy the status of the co-official language along with Hindi. After the reorganization of Indian states along linguistic lines, the regional languages gained more significance. Nevertheless, the spread and use of English has been growing at a phenomenal speed all over India.

English is being used in India as a second language. In addition to its widespread use in administration, judiciary, trade and commerce, English is being used in education almost at all the levels. With the rise in the number of English medium schools and the expansion of IT (Information Technology) and ICT (Information and Communications Technology), English has become all-pervasive and a powerful language normally associated with success and happiness. Though, due to its pervasiveness and wide use, English has risen to the status of second language in India, the Indian users of English are still considered non-native users of English. As non-native users of English, the Indians face typical problems like mother tongue interference and lack of knowledge of the native usage. The English used by the 11% Indians today is, thus, a non-native variety of English with its typical characteristics and particularities.

II. Prepositions

Phonology, Morphology, Grammar or Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics are the different aspects of every language. Phonology studies the sound patterns of language. Morphology considers how words are formed, i.e., word-formation processes. Grammar or syntax studies how words should be combined to create meaningful sentences. It focuses on both types of words- structural and functional. Dictionary or literal meaning is the subject matter of Semantics. Finally, one must know different pragmatic features of language. Pragmatics considers socio-cultural aspects of the participants of the communication process to interpret the utterances in different situations or contexts.

‘Prepositions’ is a part of English grammar and it is one of the parts of speech. Teaching prepositions in the non-native context becomes very challenging because the prepositions have many shades of usages. It is one of the trickiest areas of teaching because it changes functions according to the context or situation. Prepositions show various relations in the different contexts. Indians, as non-native users of English, concentrate on the structures of the language more than the functions or usage of structures. Therefore, to reduce such problems for teaching English, the teachers of the second language need to modify their teaching methods and

techniques. The prepositions are classified into different kinds. Among them, place or location prepositions, direction or movement prepositions and time or temporal prepositions are some of the prominent categories.

In Indian classroom, unfortunately English is taught mechanically. There is a need to concentrate on functional (descriptive) grammar, which prefers function over the structure of English language. The functional grammar concentrates on the use of language rather than structural part of language. Indians, as the non-native learners, have been learning English language since the first standard. Yet, they cannot achieve proficiency over English language. It has been observed that three years are sufficient for learning any language. It is well said that language is a vehicle and grammar is a machine. The role of grammar can be stated as follows:

- 1) To understand the functions of the structures to manipulate the language
- 2) To know the abstract and underlying things significant in a language
- 3) To have logical sequence of ideas one needs to imbibe grammar
- 4) To understand how it is significant for written communication
- 5) To increase the confidence for communication
- 6) To increase ability of learners to speak and write correct and appropriate English

'Prepositions' is one of the essential parts of English grammar. With functional point-of-view, prepositions are very useful to tell the relationship among the different parts of a sentence. To indicate proper relationship, a learner has to use an appropriate preposition. Wrong use of preposition may lead to wrong interpretation of the sentence. The non-native speakers cannot use the prepositions properly because they are not aware of various shades of usages of the prepositions. Moreover, it is difficult to provide an exhaustive list of rules and regulations regarding use of prepositions.

In a nutshell, knowing grammar of English language is essential for second language learners. It can be said that meaningful communication depends on one's ability to connect form and meaning appropriately, and to express oneself effectively.

Prepositions are the structural words. These words are used to show the relationship among nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verbs. Here the word 'Preposition' itself indicates its meaning. 'Pre' means 'before' and 'position' means 'place'. Various grammarians defined the term 'Preposition' in different ways. Some of the definitions of 'Preposition' are as under.

1) **Wren and Martin** define Preposition as "A preposition is a word placed before a noun, or a pronoun to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by it stands in regard to something else." The word 'Preposition' means 'that which is placed before'. (1976, pp. 110)

2) In '**Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary**' Preposition has been defined as "A word or group of words, such as in, from, to, out of and on behalf of, used before a noun or pronoun to show place, position, time or method." (1948 6th Ed. pp. 996)

The following are frequently used prepositions.

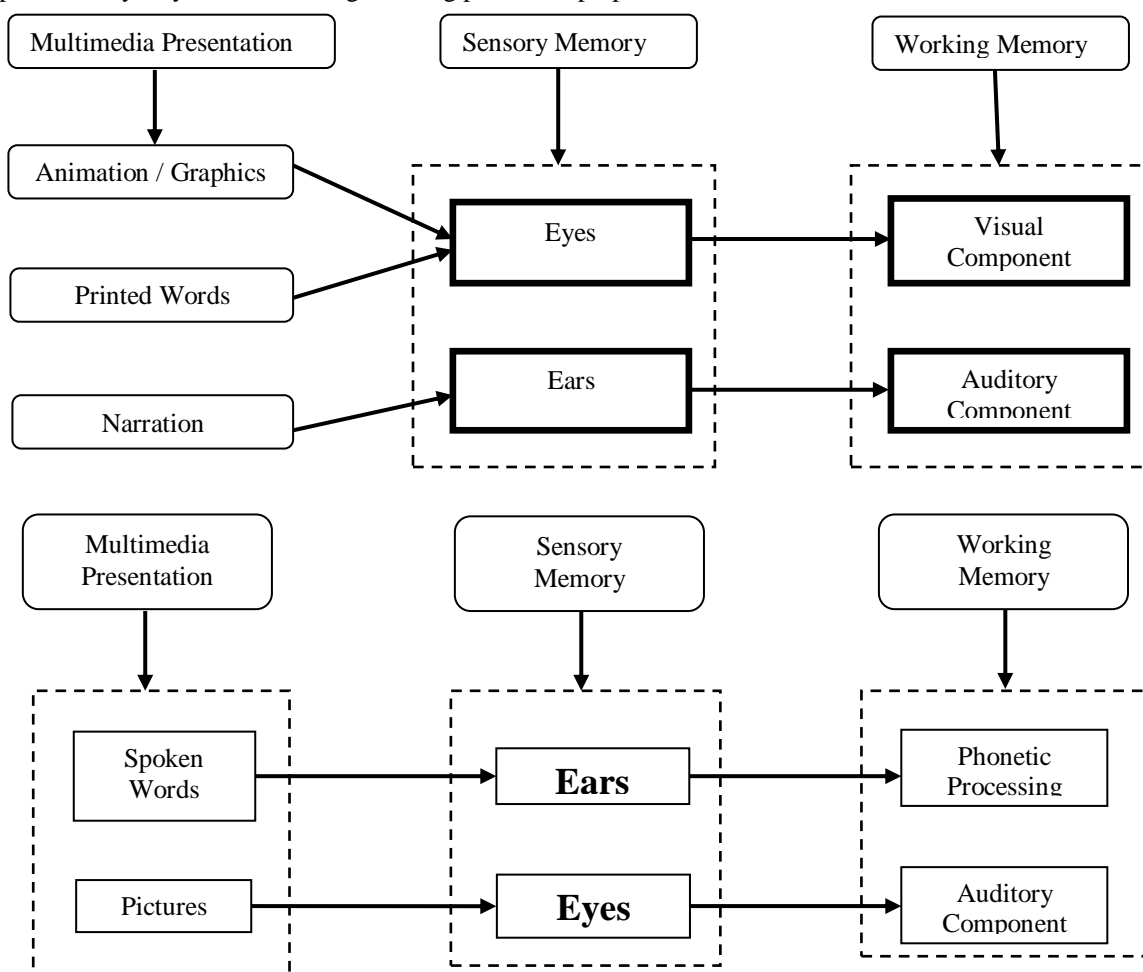
Sr. No.	Preposition	Sr. No.	Preposition	Sr. No.	Preposition	Sr. No.	Preposition	Sr. No.	Preposition
1.	On	11	By	21	For	31	Across	41	Off
2.	In	12	Above	22	From	32	Through	42	According to
3.	At	13	Over	23	About	33	With	43	In addition to
4.	To	14	Inside	24	In front of	34	Within	44	Past
5.	Under	15	Outside	25	Opposite	35	Without	45	In spite of
6.	Below	16	Out	26	Before	36	After	46	During
7.	Underneath	17	Behind	27	Near	37	Against	47	On behalf of
8.	Beneath	18	Into	28	Next to	38	Instead of	48	In place of
9.	Beside	19	Between	29	Since	39	Toward	49	Prior to
10.	Besides	20	Among	30	With	40	Towards	50	Regarding

III. Why to Use Multimedia

If a teacher uses multimedia in a classroom, then learner's sensory memory parts, eyes and ears, work simultaneously. Both visual component and auditory component help the learner to understand the concepts in better way. By using graphics, the teacher can refer to a variety of illustrations including still graphics such as line drawings, charts, photographs, and motion graphics like animation and video. It has been observed that graphics can improve learning due to its direct appeal to the sensory memory. The use of relevant graphics to the message or the illustrations helps the learners to understand the idea in better way. For this purpose, graphics

should be congruent to the message. A teacher can use animation, graphics, printed words, and narration simultaneously in PowerPoint Presentation to increase effectiveness of teaching learning process.

Following two diagrams show how multimedia works in cognitive way. The multimedia can become helpful in many ways in the teaching-learning process of prepositions in non-native scenario.



IV. Features Of Powerpoint Presentations As A Multimedia Instrument

PowerPoint is a software of presentation bundled in MS office and used for creating presentations usually in the form of slideshows. Over the years Microsoft has been updating the software, each time making it even better and user friendly. In other words, PowerPoint is a type of presentation software that allows one to show colored text and images with simple animation and sound for keeping learners indulged with the classroom activities. PowerPoint 1997, 2003 and 2007 are the different upgradations of this software. Each time Microsoft is trying to make it more comfortable and easy to operate.

PowerPoint presentation can become a great aid while teaching prepositions in non-native context. There can be more output of teaching-learning activities if a teacher uses various features of PowerPoint Presentation. The following are the different features of PowerPoint Presentation, which can be used for creating presentations for teaching in non-native scenario.

- 1) User Friendly
- 2) Use of Pictures
- 3) Use of Icons and Color Fonts
- 4) Use of Symbols
- 5) Use of Video Clips
- 6) Audio-Video Integration
- 7) Visual Collision/Impact
- 8) Audience Focus
- 9) Graphic Design
- 10) On Screen Presentation
- 11) Move, Copy and Duplicate slides

- 12) Use of Images and Pictures Relevant to the Content
- 13) Use of Tables, Graphs and Different Picture Tools
- 14) Editing Pictures
- 15) Use of Animation (Custom and Transitions)
- 16) Voice Narration
- 17) Music Tracks
- 18) Animated Templates
- 19) Hyperlinks
- 20) Action Buttons and Settings
- 21) Word Art
- 22) Easy to Save and Edit Contents of Presentation
- 23) Use of Background
- 24) Handouts
- 25) Use of Clip Art
- 26) Use of Shadows
- 27) Link to Various Documents in the Computer
- 28) Use of Auto Shapes
- 29) Underline, Italic and Bold
- 30) Recorded Sounds
- 31) Use of Comment Box

V. Advantages Of Using Powerpoint Presentation In The Non-Native Scenario

There are some advantages of using PowerPoint Presentation in teaching-learning activities in the non-native scenario. These advantages are for both the language teachers and the learners of the second language. The advantages of using PowerPoint Presentation are listed below:

- 1) The instructional material developed by using PowerPoint Presentation can be stored easily on a disk, floppy and in a pen drive.
- 2) The slides made in PowerPoint can last long.
- 3) The slides, the speaker's notes, the outline, and the handouts can all be kept in one file.
- 4) The presentation supports environment protection. There is no harm in using PowerPoint Presentation in classroom.
- 5) PowerPoint Presentation, once used, can be easily refined and reused in the following years.
- 6) PowerPoint Presentation is flexible. Therefore, it is easy to update it at any time.
- 7) The slides are easy to modify. The modifications can be made according to the situation as well as learners.
- 8) The teacher can print slides in the form of handouts that help him or her to remember points about each slide.
- 9) The teacher can print handouts with two, three or six slides on a page. The handouts can be provided to the students as notes.
- 10) The teacher can print the outline of the presentation to show the main points.
- 11) PowerPoint Presentation can be useful to present abstract ideas into concrete form with the help of various features of Power-Point.
- 12) Hyperlinks can be provided to PowerPoint Presentation to the relevant web sites for more clarification.
- 13) The teacher can access slides from other presentations on the same disk.
- 14) Motion media, sound files, and interactive elements can be inserted to add functionality to the presentation.
- 15) PowerPoint has an extensive range of drawing tools and shapes to choose to supplement the presentation.
- 16) The teacher can access to visually stimulating tools such as animations and simulations. They are useful in demonstrating difficult concepts that words and static diagrams cannot easily convey.
- 17) The teacher can make use of attractive fonts or different timesteps with a variety of different colors to attract the students' attention to more important words and sentences or important things. So the attractive fonts, colors and timesteps can be used as attention grabbers.
- 18) Both texts and relevant images can be displayed on the same slide to simplify the concepts.
- 19) Some simple drawing tools are given so that the teacher can use the mouse to circle or draw arrows between texts and images on the slide.
- 20) The items shown on the slides can be highlighted with the "pen" function.
- 21) PowerPoint Presentations have professional look.
- 22) The presentation can be run manually or it can be timed in advance.
- 23) The teacher can reveal points one by one on a single slide without having to cover up points with a piece of paper.
- 24) They allow the teacher to face the audience and devote more time for explanation.

- 25) The presentation can be made more interesting to listen to with voice over.
- 26) PowerPoint presentation is time saving. It provides more time to the teacher to discuss the topic being taught.
- 27) Various charts, graphs, and maps can be used as per the difficulty of the topic and with the consideration of its significance. Such modes of non-verbal communication can be used to present a lot of information in a compact way.
- 28) The use of PowerPoint Presentation can make the class more interactive in the non-native scenario. There can be discussion between the teacher and the students.
- 29) The use of PowerPoint Presentation can become supportive to the teacher. The teacher itself is the best example of an audio-visual aid. The use of other supplementary audio-visual aids helps the teacher to make his or her teaching effective, understandable, and logical.
- 30) A variety of materials can be projected by using PowerPoint Presentation.
- 31) PowerPoint Presentation can be prepared in advance. The prepared presentations can be changed according to the situation or learners. Therefore, it is a kind of lesson planning.
- 32) The prepared slides can be presented immediately without waiting.
- 33) Normal room lighting can be used so that the audience can follow handouts or take notes.
- 34) It is easy to go back to look at the previous slides and change the slides. It helps if someone does not understand the concept or particular point.
- 35) PowerPoint Presentations are colorful, attractive, interesting, and clearer than any other things.
- 36) PowerPoint Presentations look more professional, efficient and clear.
- 37) PowerPoint Presentation is a kind of lesson planning for the teachers because they are created in advance. They are logical, systematic, and attentive. The teacher can proceed according to the sequence of the slides.
- 38) The ideas can be sequenced logically in PowerPoint Presentation. Therefore, both the learners and the teachers cannot be detracted.
- 39) In PowerPoint Presentation, the teacher can display various exercises and ask the students to solve them instantly.
- 40) The teacher need not use chalk, blackboard, as well as paper while teaching.
- 41) PowerPoint Presentation can help the teacher while repeating the same topic for the absent students with difficulties in learning. The created presentations can take more time to revise the topic again.
- 42) With the help of PowerPoint Presentation, the teacher can do the task by quickly displaying the exercises on PowerPoint slides instead of copying the sheets, distributing, and collecting them.
- 43) In this way, the use of PowerPoint Presentation can become advantageous for both the teachers and the learners of English language.

VI. Equipment Needed For Creating Powerpoint Presentations

To create PowerPoint Presentations for academic purposes the language teachers need to have following equipment in the classroom:

- 1) Computer
- 2) LCD Projector (Liquid Crystal Display)
- 3) Television Set
- 4) Related Software

There are some technical points that need to be considered before using PowerPoint for creating presentation for academic purposes. The teacher must have a computer for his or her presentation, and then s/he needs to decide the way to display the presentations to the students.

Computer is an electronic device, which can be used for storing data and performing various activities. The regular Computer Monitor is good for individual work or in small groups of two to four students for presentation in the non-native classroom. The advantage of this is that the students can also review instructional material at their own speed.

PowerPoint Presentations can also be viewed on an ordinary Television Set. Using a Television Set has an advantage - a whole class can view the same presentation at one time. The teacher might be able to have two or more Television Sets in the classroom to run the same presentation if the class is really big.

The LCD projector is the best tool for PowerPoint Presentation. The Projector gives clearer and bigger picture than a Television Set and Computer Monitor. The projected images are much clearer in size and brightness. For the larger classes in the non-native scenario LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) projectors can be used for better view.

There is a need to have related software for creating effective PowerPoint Presentations. PowerPoint is a software made for presentation. It is bundled in Microsoft Office. There should be Microsoft office installed in the computer. Software like Photoshop, Paint, etc. can be useful to edit images and to create own images. Apart from this, voice recorder can be used to record voice over and that voice over can be added to the presentation.

VII. Conclusion

The use of PowerPoint presentation has many advantages for the teachers as well as for the learners. With a certain amount of technological skill, any teacher can design effective PowerPoint Presentations. These presentations can be fruitfully used, particularly, in the non-native scenario. Prepositions can be effectively taught in the non-native classroom with the help of PowerPoint Presentations.

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