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SUMMARY

Integrating Social Networking tools into ESL Writing Classroom: Strengths and Weaknesses

This article is aimed to discuss merits and demerits of incorporating social networking tools into ESL writing classroom and talk through the ways of implementing activities by integrating social networking services into the classroom. The statistics was gathered via an online discussion board from TESL students who are studying in a state university in Malaysia. In this new technological era, it is highly important for learners and instructors to be equipped with technical skills and to be knowledgeable for long-term learning and teaching. Initially, the author tried to provide with the information about social networking service (SNS) and its benefits to the users. For example, in order to increase learners writing skills, teacher can able to ask learners to create their own Facebook accounts and become friends with at least one another group member or teacher may ask learners use blogs to post their compositions regularly and this chance gives learners more freedom and they can write their own posts. Further on, the author gives information about advantages and disadvantages of integrating SNS into ESL Writing Classroom. First, the main merits of teaching writing online are the environment can be completely textual and learners can able to express themselves to a diversified audience with their written words. Another significant advantage is that learners will be allowed to write to their instructors and to each other in ways that will open up teaching and learning chances for everyone included. However, there are a mix variety of disadvantages of integrating SNS into ESL Writing classroom. For example, the relationship between learners and instructor can be tricky and it may bring growth of plagiarism. Sometimes, learners may hide their weak sides from teacher and it may happen while they feel unmotivated. Additionally, technology will not be reliable all the time and learners may come across with hardships because of poor internet connection. To recapitulate briefly, the author mostly emphasizes merits and demerits of the

implementing SNS into ESL writing classroom and states that learners should have some confidence so as to increase their interests in writing.

To commence with, I have learned a lot of statistics and information from this reading materials, especially, the role of technology in the classroom has a great influence on learners' personal growth and its advantage and disadvantages on acquiring second language. Admittedly, Using ICT in ESL/EFL classroom facilitate to ameliorate learners' technical skills, interpersonal skills as well as integrated skills. According to Ahmad (2011) noted that "SNS have evolved as a combination of personalized media experience within social context of participation". In general, social networking services are progressing in an amazing rapid phase and perfectly connect to the individuals. However, I cannot say that integrating social networking tools into ESL writing classroom has only merit sides, it has a huge affect on learners' learning process. For example, using internet sites may waste time or encourage negative attitudes, and affect learners' social growth detrimentally. I believe that integrating SNS into Writing classroom provides learners with the opportunities to get enough input from them and they will develop their writing skills. As Kamarul Kabilan stated that (2010) "Using SNS may waste time, encourage negative attitudes such as lying and affect learners' social growth detrimentally. Furthermore, I have learned the ways of implementing SNS into the writing classroom effectively and I hope I can use them wisely to my own learners in the future.

Nowadays, a new technology era is developing day by day. We can perfectly see the experiences of developed or developing countries. It offers a mix variety of chances to the young generation so as to achieve high success from spheres. For example, there was mentioned and article named "The impact of Telegram App on Iranian EFL Beginners' Vocabulary and Learning" and this article provides with the information about the investigation of implementing Telegram app to vocabulary courses. As a result, this investigation facilitated and improved learning progress of learners because of several reasons. For instance, learners have learned more words rather learning them by hear traditionally. However, integrating technology into the

classroom have great impact on teacher since instructors or material developers and teacher will have an opportunity to utilize a mix variety of materials which make their learners more effective and successful. As Simon (2010) mentioned that "Today's young generation is called net generation since technologies WWW are the two most familiar items for them".

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