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Efficacy of WordsWorth English Language

Lab for ESL Learners

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Prelude:

Teaching a language is the most challenging task for teachers. Teachers want to make sure that language acquisition become easier for learners. In the era of technology, adapting new pedagogy to teach second or foreign language is becoming the most significant part in today's education system. As everyone is aware that English language has become the global language as every country is using English either as native language or second language. In India English became the language of officials so people are eager to learn English as a Second language (SL). English as a Second Language (ESL) learners aspires to communicate effectively, confidently and clearly so they make efforts to be proficient in the second language.

WordsWorth English Language Lab:

In the online platform, people are using various software and applications to learn English as a Second Language. Some software are free to use and some of them are paid version. WordsWorth English Language Lab is one of the platforms which is explored by users to learn English Language. P P Savani University purchased WordsWorth English Language Lab to polish language skills of students. Some observations were made while using this platform by teachers and learners. The methodology is a blend of Instructor Led Training (ILT) with a Computer Based Training (CBT), practice and evaluation. It is based on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).



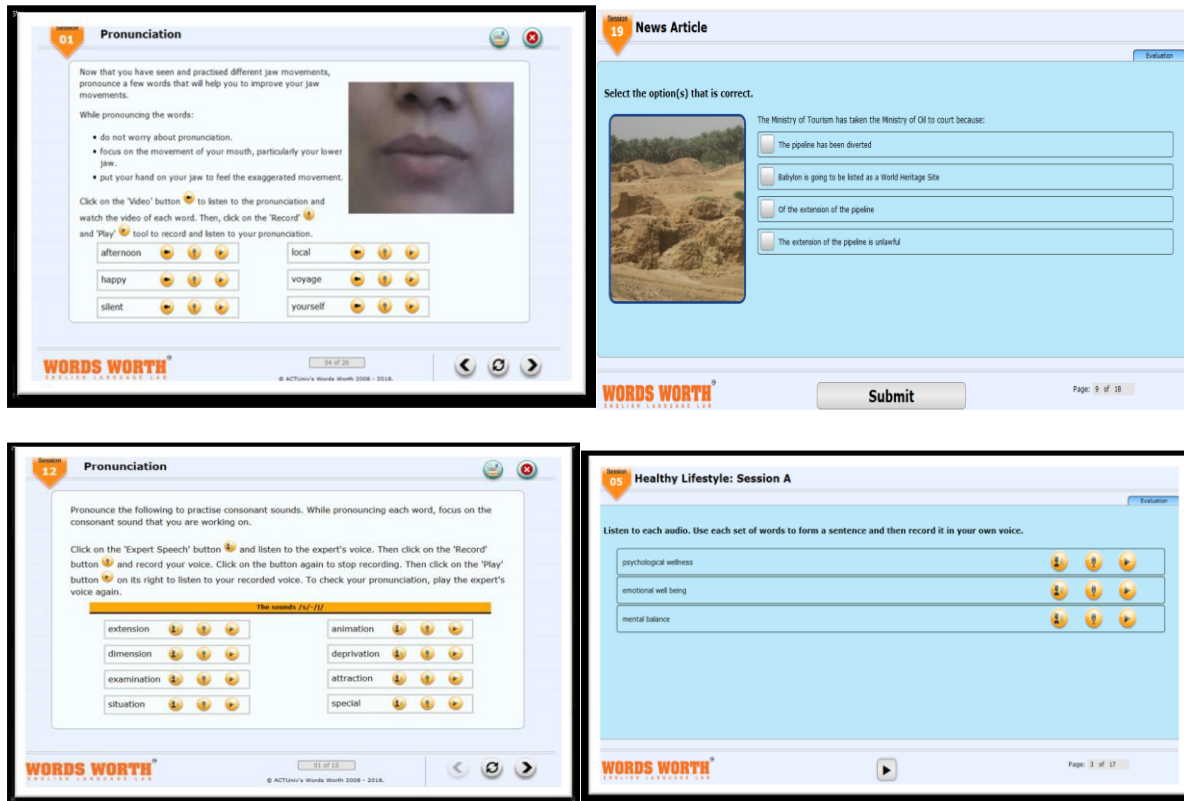
The Words Worth English language lab is designed on the parameters suggested by CEFR, which is an international framework for English language learning. English language testers like Cambridge, Pearsons, Trinity follow this framework.



Practical conducted with the help of WordsWorth English Language Lab:

Sr No	Practical Name	Activity
1	Introduction to Academic English – Vocabulary Games and Grammar Activity	Groot Exercise (Articles, Noun, Verb, Adverbs, Adjectives, Pronoun, Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjection – Basic Level) (Tense – Intermediate Level)
2	Critical Listening: An Analysis	ECS Task (Listening - Intermediate Level)
3	Speech for Pronunciation	Groot Exercise (Intermediate Level) ECS (Speaking-Intermediate Level)
4	Speech for Fluency	ECS (Speaking-Intermediate Level)
5	Conversational Skills	Groot Exercise

Glimpses of WordsWorth English Language Lab Activities:



The field trial was conducted by the researcher as a teacher. The field trial was conducted at School of Engineering, P P Savani University, Surat. The try out was started with the pre-test of both the groups that are experimental and control group. After conducting the pre-test participants were exposed to the various interactive tasks and activities related to listening and speaking. At the end of the try out, the post-test was administered of both the groups.

Difference between Pre-Test and Post-Test to Investigate the Development of Listening Skills through WordsWorth English Language Lab

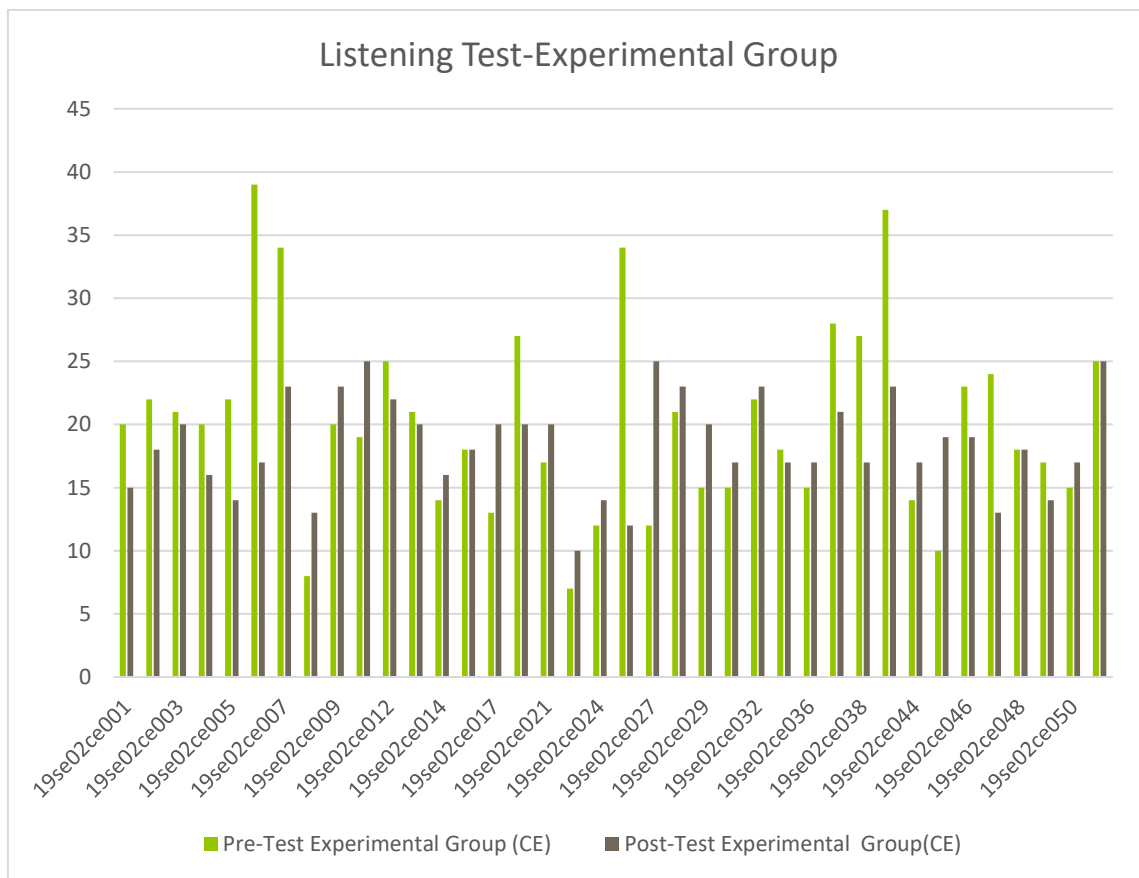


Figure shows the comparison between pre-test and post-test conducted on experimental group to investigate the effectiveness of software to develop listening skills. Students from computer department acted as experimental group where they appeared for pre-test, treatment was given to them and at the end appeared for post-test. In Figure 01 blue line indicates result of pre-test taken before the treatment and red line indicates the result of post-test conducted after the treatment.

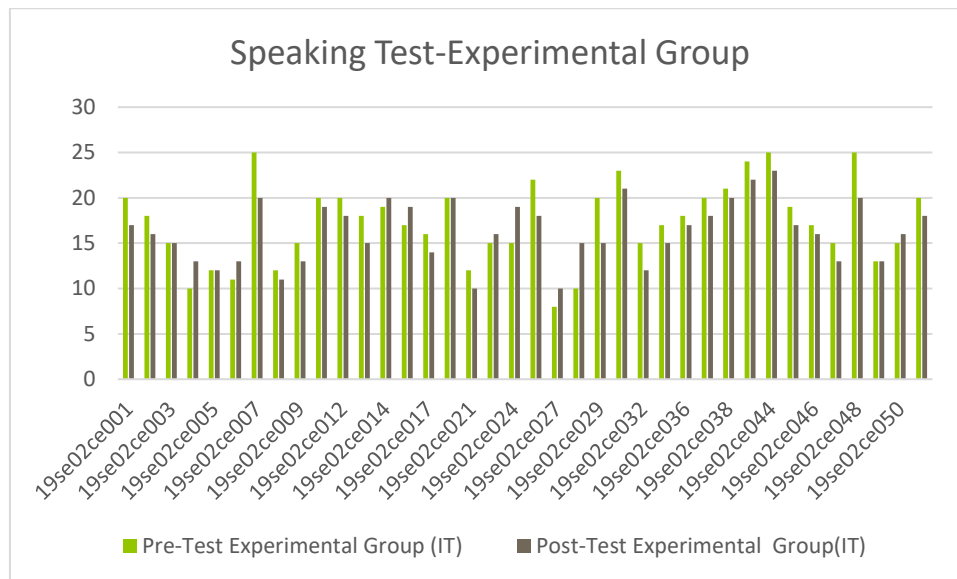


Figure reflects on the result of pre-test and post-test for the analysis speaking skills. In the above mentioned chart blue lines indicate the pre-test of experimental group and orange line shows the post-test of the experimental group. After giving treatment to the experimental group through WordsWorth English Language Lab, data depicts that one cannot observe major difference between pre-test and post-test.

Difficulties Faced while Conducting Try Out through WordsWorth :

- Sometimes students' ID would get deleted itself even though it was created earlier.
- Sometimes tasks were assigned to students but while accessing students' account, students were unable to attempt the task.
- Many times head-phones were not supported in the system.
- It is not compatible with all the versions of Firefox.
- Sometimes students were got logged out automatically.



Feedback from Faculty

The experience of using language software in a language lab was given by the faculty member of P P Savani University is as following:

On the basis of using the Words Worth for 02 years in Language Class, my observations of the same are as follows:

Words Worth - the digital tool for English Language Teaching consists of numerous activities and excercises that can help the learner with functional approach to the language. However, it has got several limitations.

1. The language activities and excercises are limited to the teaching only. It has very limited options for evaluation and scaling of student's language proficiency.
2. There is also lack of continuous updation in the content which makes the software outdated soon.
3. The software has also been found less user friendly, especially for teachers.
4. Technically, it is not accessible/ flexible in terms of the software support.

Conclusion:

Blend of traditional teaching and technology laid teaching made task easier for both teachers and learners to learn new things and especially when it comes to language learning. Technology friendly tools are the most significant part when learners are exploring technology to learn a language. Technology in a form any language software, application, website or online platform, should have capability to retain the interest of learners. This investigation disclose that



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WordsWorth software is having some drawbacks to learn English as a Second Language.