The Role of English and Information Technology When Studying at University

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Abstract

Vietnamese society has been growing and needs a huge human resources. Being fluent in English and having a good grasp of information technology are two of the factors that help students succeed when they are in university. Mastering these two key elements, understanding the importance and that relationship, students will have more opportunities in the future. Information technology as well as English opens up great prospects and will make students more competitive in society. As a lecturer, how to encourage students to have more motivation to learn as so that they can recognize the importance of what they need to learn is very necessary. From August to September of 2018, the paper was completed on the basis of 20 employees working at Human Academy including staffs and teachers of Japanese language thanks to the method of investigation method of Hancock (1998). Research results show that both English language and information technology is really important.

Keywords: English, Future, Motivation, Information technology

Introduction

The fact is that most Vietnamese students are very weak in foreign languages and computer science. Meanwhile, in the age of integration nowadays, these two factors play a very important role in deciding that young people can learn from as well as integrate into this real world. One sentence that Vietnamese students have always said is "The first is English and the second one is information technology". Especially, the students who graduated from universities understood this statement clearly since students today are very aware of the important role of these two "key" elements. However, many new graduates are still excluded from the lead recruitment because of poor English and weak computer skills. No one denies the role of information technology (IT) and English is increasingly present in many areas of our life, including in the workplace and the teaching-learning process. Mastering both language and technology surely allow students to access more opportunities to advance in the company and as a result, they will become more competitive candidates. When they are fully equipped, the economy of the country is sure to develop thanks to their effort.

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Content

The importance of English and Technology

We can take a specific example in the past few years, there were many good graduates and applied for jobs in foreign companies. They passed exams relating to academic knowledge but lacked the skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) of English so they could not pass the foreign language test. And as a result, they lost their job opportunities. It is a very unfortunate problem for such students but it is also a lesson for next generations who need to take into consideration. In addition, there are graduates who apply to work in companies, offices, but are excluded because they do not have the skills to write and print, although they have very good knowledge of the related field that they apply for. Then, the reason they should take a little time each day to improve foreign language and IT for themselves is really easy to understand.

In the time of integration and with the current trend of globalization, English is considered the most popular language in the world. Therefore, countries in general and Vietnam in particular always pay attention to investment in this field. Not only that, English is also a language bridge between countries in the world and has a positive effect in exchanging cooperation with people in the country. Therefore, in society today, English is a compulsory and important condition for students in the process of communication as well as applying for jobs.

Besides foreign languages, computer is also a subject that is very important in education as well as in life. In a society where information technology is growing rather fast like Vietnam, company employers usually requires candidates to have knowledge of computer science, computer use, office software and Internet use proficiency. Not only to apply for a job, students should also be aware that using a computer and the Internet proficiency will be an effective tool both for work and for their daily life as well since it is the key to open many opportunities in this world.

Learning foreign languages and computer has so many benefits for themselves, moreover, our society is also in need of good foreign language and computer. They will have great opportunities in life as well as in the profession when they are fluent in at least one foreign language, plus computer skills will be an effective tool not only for work but for the whole areas. There is a connection between the language and IT since they are closely related. If students are good at English then they can get very fast with computer knowledge, can effectively use the application software complex. Conversely, if they are familiar with computer science, internet, they can learn foreign languages through support software, online learning

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websites.

Today, a class of "world citizens" appears and they are global visionaries who have global thinking, can work in many parts of the world and can cooperate in projects. In order to become a global citizen, they have to master the tools they need, and the two most essential tools are foreign languages and computer knowledge. Once they have mastered these two tools, plus professional expertise, they can easily integrate into the wider world, gaining more exposure because of the massive information resources on the internet.

Current methods of learning English and technology of students

Recently, when the Ministry of Education and Training and Ministry of Internal Affairs issued Joint Circular No. 21/2015 / TTLT-BGDDT-BNV with a great ambition that teachers have foreign language certificates in accordance with the European framework of foreign capacity 6 levels for Vietnam. But, actually if they study to get the A2, B1 or B2 certificate properly, the majority of teachers teaching the other subject surely find it difficult to achieve. Everyone knows the importance of learning and using foreign languages. However, we know that learning a foreign language cannot be "learned". Not only does it have to spend a lot of time, but also the ability to do so. While a part of the teacher is now older, it is very difficult to study.

We cannot deny the role of foreign language, especially English in modern life. Especially when the Party and State are determining "education is the top national policy". In order to educate Vietnam's integration and access to advanced education in the world, the ability to use English in work and communication must be professional. However, looking at the status of teaching foreign languages in the country in the past years shows many challenges are set for the whole education of the country. The application of English teaching textbooks at all levels in the past time brought about ineffectiveness, which made parents and society unhappy.

Although most parents understand the role of English in modern society, they are investing a lot in their children. The students not only learn in school but most of them are sent to foreign language centers or study at teachers' house but the results are not high. After 7 years of studying English in grades 3 through 9, they cannot hear, speak, read or write well. Single words, greetings, introductory names and common words can not help them to tell a short story in English.

The method of teaching in the classroom is still in the traditional way. While the number of classrooms is now rather large, the interaction between teachers and students is ineffective. Therefore, listening and speaking skills are limited. First is

listening method. The most common listening method of students when learning English is to pre-read, translate into Vietnamese and then listen. They cannot accept a sentence that they do not understand. Next is reading comprehension. When learning reading comprehension, students often read each sentence, every word or phrases that they do not understand. By this method, English does not seem very interesting and it causes many of them depressed. Then, with method of writing, students often write English essay in the thought of Vietnamese and then translated into English, the mechanical and traditional translation method has made many people find it difficult to find suitable vocabulary and feel very difficult to write.

Besides, English textbooks are also frequently changed, there is no consistency in the curriculum. Every year, when participating in examinations, it is easy to see that many of the students do not do it, even if it is a test of the school, has been trained by the teacher and has been limited to the exam. Only a few students can do their own homework. If the teacher did the hard work, almost the whole examination room only made a few simple sentences, the rest is sitting and biting the pen.

And, this is very clear in the results of the annual test. English always has the highest rate of weak students. In the national high school examination, the English test scores are also the lowest. Although the teaching and learning of English in schools is very limited due to history, it is the inadequacies in the training of English teachers and the way in the current textbook. However, over the past years, the education sector has been teaching some bilingual classes in the general level in some subjects to improve the English language skills for students and teachers in class. But, this is really a problem for the education of our country.

Methodology

A survey was conducted of over 20 respondents who are presently studying and working at Human Academy including students and teachers of Japanese language. In the form of direct interview and method of completing questionnaires, the urgency of foreign languages and information technology has clearly defined its importance.

Results and discussion

The first question addressed in the survey is to determine the importance of using fluency in foreign languages and mastering the IT skills of learners in order to get a good job in the future: "Are you aware of the importance of foreign languages and IT?". Up to 16 respondents selected "Very Necessary" (80%), 4 chose

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"Necessary" (20%), and no one chose "Unnecessary". This shows the students' perceptions while they were at school, and they realized that it is a key to success in any society, especially in Vietnam. The owner always here need qualified staffs who have not only good qualifications but also real knowledge. And to clarify this, the interview questions directly with the staff have shown that most employees understand the hard working environment after graduating from university. They recognize the "fierce competition" of the actual work environment and it is not easy to exist there without non-stop effort.
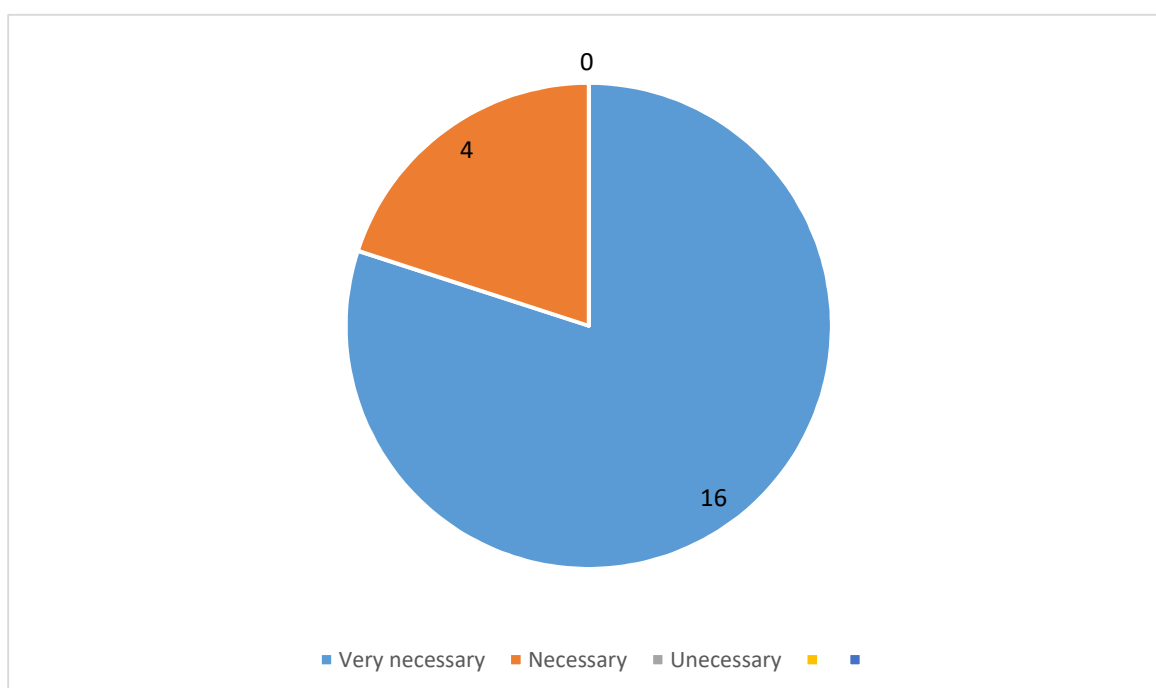

Figure 1. The importance of English and IT

It is important to affirm that the application of IT to teaching - learning and scientific research is an indispensable trend now and in the future. At present, the form of credit-based training sets students high requirements for self-study and self-study tasks. Accordingly, the means and products of IT play an important role in supporting students to perform tasks. With this problem, the result mention that the respondents use IT very often everyday and the results obtained by the help of IT in self-study as a good example of this trend. .

With the second question, which is to determine the frequency of using in their work as well as in their dayly life: "How often do you use IT?", most of students (100%) show an interest in applying IT to their workplaces. Similarly, with the third question: " How often do you use English in your workplaces?", most of them replied

that they use this language to write e-mail, reports or talk with other people. That means if they have both good IT skills and English, they find it easy to access variety of materials or communicate with people.

Solutions

The use of IT in self-study is an urgent issue and it is important for every student. However, this problem has not been implemented in an effective way. The cause of this situation is due to material and technical facilities have not fully meet the requirements of the development of education and training. On the other hand, the importance of IT in learning has not been recognized by students in a serious, clear way. As a consequence, many students still do not have the skills to exploit, use and create, transfer information on means, IT software proficiently. Therefore, they have many limitations in the use of means and products in the learning process in general and self-study in particular.

In my opinion, to help students use more effective means of IT products in learning activities and in different forms in order to improve the quality of the training process and self-training, teachers must properly implement some issues. First, they need to guide students to fully and clearly understand the role and influence of IT in teaching activities in general and self-study in particular. They also need to introduce the software and programs used by the school and teachers in the management, teaching and evaluation of students; tools, IT products that students need to use. Besides, the teachers should organize training courses for students on how to use IT tools and products in teaching, testing and evaluation and in training management. Besides, each teacher must use IT in teaching, managing students. This creates a new environment for students to understand and use IT in research activities before assigning the task of studying for students, discussion group exercises. The following requirements must be met including syllabus, assignments or lesson topics. students need to be introduced, guided to explore documents from the Internet addresses, the Website to make and add to the subject.

With a mission to provide high quality human resources, the standardization of specialized curricula in English as well as the graduation of the English proficiency of graduates will be one of the obvious demonstrations for the determination of the school in contributing to the development of the country and integration with the world. In the coming plan, the school will continue to import and spread other advanced programs of domestic universities that have successfully implemented and opened a number of high-quality programs for training in international programs. English mainly in the teaching process.

Everyone has their own motivations and goals for learning English, but they all aim to improve and develop themselves in the time of integration. They need to define their learning goals so that they can motivate themselves to strive, to persist in

learning English, to be confident when we are discouraged and to give up. In order to improve the quality of teaching informatics, it is necessary to take specific measures for both lecturers and students.

For teachers, each of them must design teaching plans and detailed practice plans for each subject and for each teaching class. Lecturers also need to continue to maintain and improve the effectiveness of theoretical teaching methods combined with practice in the computer room when teaching the related subject, while also helping students to understand the theory and can manipulate the contents and requirements of the lesson.

Particularly, during the practice, teachers should observe students who are well aware and practice correctly according to the content and requirements set out. Arrange these students closer to the students to help each other in their studies. In addition, teachers should actively propose that they be able to share practical shifts for larger classes than the number of computers provided in a practice room, ensuring that students have practical conditions.

On the student side, students must have an active, positive, self-conscious, and creative attitude in the activity to create knowledge. Students also need to practice their ability to self-assess their academic results so that students themselves can adjust their activities according to the set objectives.

Conclusion

Improving students' English speaking skills and information technology is not a simple task at all. It is difficult to have time to change a habit of learning that has become obsolete, no longer suitable in the new situation. Moreover, to have a perfect skill also requires enough time to practice, there must be close cooperation between the teacher and the learner. And of course, learning method of the learner itself also plays a rather important role that needs the instructions of the teachers since good learning method will be the key to our students' success.

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