



Issues of Human
Development
Towards A
Prosperous Life

PART II
Psychology

CHAPTER 4

ENGLISH TEACHER'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS USING THE COMPUTER AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL IN IRAQI SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Majida Ibrahim Mukhlif and Amelia Abdullah

II

Issues of Human
Development
Towards A
Prosperous Life

Introduction

The English language has spread over the last 40 years globally. Its number of users had increased to over one billion people in 2000 and by 2010, the number of English users as a second or foreign language had transcended the number of its native speakers. The use of English in science, technology and communication contributed in its spread through the use of computers and the Internet as well as encouraging individuals to use it as an internet language (Hasman, 2004). In the Arab world, the interest of teaching English as a universal language is growing. The English language has become a compulsory subject in the school curricula as well as some Arabic subjects which have been translated into English. Moreover, with the widespread use of English as a second language, the subject of language teaching in general, and the teaching of English as a foreign or second language in particular, became the focus of most Arab researchers (Al-Khatib, 2000 as cited in Tahaine, 2010). Thus, language needs a deep interest to revive and develop using the tools of new technology.

Technology nowadays is at a preliminary stage within all sectors in Iraq. In order to develop the ICT abilities of teachers, the Iraqi government and educational organizations have been focusing more attention to improving teachers' ICT literacy and skills (UNESCO, 2007).

Al-Zaidiyeen et al. (2010) asserted that many studies demonstrated that the use of information and communications technology (ICT) has had a significant impact on the teaching and learning process. Furthermore, the role of information and communications technology (ICT) is very important in educational purposes in general and it is used as a tool to improve the English Language in particular. The English language has become the global language and advancement in the language is a necessary matter by using new methods.

In fact, there is a gap between those who have the ability to participate and manage the information age and knowledge systems in the developed countries and those who do not have the ability to cooperate in this age. The quality of education is important to solve the problems and reduce the information gap through organized systems. In order to provide an improved education for all and not merely to reduce illiteracy it must be assisted to develop higher-order cognitive abilities, to strengthen processes of inquiry and prepare people to compete in global markets and become productive members in order to face these challenges (Rusten, 2010). However, technology is not an end in itself, but a means of progress in this era. Technology is characterized by concrete development of every innovation which leads to the creation of better outcomes for a successful life and to enable us to participate in knowledge exchanges around the world. The rapid revolution in technology computer and the wide expansion of its uses in education, generally and English language, particularly has led to a change in the traditional ways of teaching. Therefore the use of the computer as a tool deserves attention in order to facilitate and to develop instructional outcomes (Rezaee et al., 2012). The knowledge of computer helps learners to be able to complete all tasks that may be impossible to complete manually, as well as the feeling of satisfaction that is achieved by the use of this tool.