Assessing Practical Constraints in Implementing Web 2.0 Tools for Teaching English as a Second Language at Higher Education Sector in Sri Lanka: A Case Study - Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education

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In an era of globalization and with the advancement of information technology, web 2.0 tools are used increasingly in education sector and there is also a growing interest in how and whether Web 2.0 tools could be used for second language teaching. Those tools are creating a collaborative environment in which users have the opportunity to contribute to a growing knowledge base and participate in online communities. On the other hand these tools can access anytime and anywhere. Due to that number of researches state that these tools are useful for teaching second languages. The Web 2.0 tools are beginning to play a role within the more formal learning environment of English classrooms. The objective of this study is investigating the practical constrains facing when implementing Web 2.0 tools for teaching English as a second language in Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced technological Education (SLIATE). Clustering sample technique was used to select the sample among English lecturers in SLIATE. Sample size was thirty five. Questionnaire was used to collect data. Questionnaire was based on four factors, awareness, computer and hardware facilities, internet facilities and attitude. Qualitative and quantitative methods were used for the data analyzing. The data of this study reveals the most aware Web 2.0 tools are wikis and social network. And the least aware tool is vodcasts. More than 60% show the positive attitudes towards these tools. The study found that computers and other facilities are available but need to extend usage time of them. Internet facility is also available but bandwidth and data amount should be increased. Although they believe these are effective tools for teaching, they need a proper training of how to use them in a class room teaching.

Key Words: Web 2.0 Tools, Higher Education, Practical Constrains, Teaching English as a Second Language