

## Role of Technology in Education



## An In-Depth Look Into The Role of Technology in Education



Quality education demands technological innovations to be inculcated into educational systems. Education is one of the key factors involved in nation-building. Nations compete with each other in order to win laurels over fellow countries in various educational disciplines. Traditional mode of educational system is prone to wear and tear, death and decay. Students lose patience over a period of time in classical student-learning process, because students have to rely heavily on curriculum, books, and teachers to teach them. Additionally, students are not active participants in classical educational modes and are bred and crammed with knowledge, which loses value over a period of time. Virtual layouts, online tutorials, websites, blogs, online scholarly articles, help students expand their mental, cognitive and creative abilities. Students can make projects through group work and self-study which incites in them the real quest of knowledge. In the United States only, more than 1.3 million students are unable to graduate each year. More than 70% of students drop out of schools at some stage of education in Pakistan which is primarily because of lack of motivation and encouragement to streamline students thoughts and aspirations. Technological innovations can help rebuild educational systems on stronger, affordable and sustainable grounds.

Computers generate an immersive, 3D display of the entity under study which helps students study far off and celestial species right at their doorsteps. Modern day computers have artificial brains. Machine learning process and neural networks are used to generate a virtual 3D display of an object, zone of earth or atmosphere under study. A student engages himself with the object which helps him explore various dimensions with least frustration and annoyance. 3D environment looks a different ball game altogether when inculcated and induced in the field of education. A medical student can touch, feel, study and interpret various dimensions of human body parts such as heart, lungs, kidneys and so on. Space science students can now feel the glides and glitters associated with Apollo 11 mission to the moon with the help of Oculus Quest which is based on VR technology and is owned and launched by Facebook. VR technology and game-based learning together can boost and raise mental and cognitive footprint of students.

Indirect learning is facilitated by online digital games. Digital arena is used to reshape the dynamics of education. Students are allowed to act and move, challenge their peers, look out for variables in risky situations and try to solve mysteries and look out for hidden treasures. In the due process, various levels of the mental domain are challenged and his ability to perceive, value, judge and decide things and situations is ascertained. Medieval Swansea is a video game in which students take up the lead role of a detective to solve mysteries. A player in the due time has to come up and deal with various narrative and readings which are necessary before he proceeds further. Ribbon Hero helps a player to learn the basics of Microsoft Office.

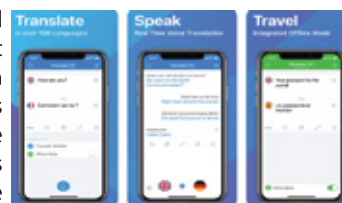
Technology can provide the spark necessary in prompting children and their parents to send their children to schools with determination and confidence. Technology provides students with the golden opportunity of exploring their innate talent without too much reliance on teachers, books and curriculum. ■

Yasir Hayat

## Translators War: iTranslate VS Google Translate

We are lucky enough to live in a highly technical era which has literally made the whole world an ultimate global village. There were times when

countries used own by not of contact with Now it seems world is a single various barriers Most of all, the



to survive on their making any kind the outside world. like the whole country, but still exist.

linguistic barrier is the major trouble which a lot of people faces when they visit different countries. However, technology hasn't left us here either as there are a lot of great translating apps which have solved the linguistic issue one way or another. Then, it is followed by the major translator war that which one is the best so let's dig deep into the Apple's iTranslate and Google's Google Translate.

### iTranslate

Apple calls iTranslate as an ultimate passport to the world because of the fact that it makes it easy for the travelers, exchange students, businessman, etc to get over the linguistic barrier.

- iTranslate let the users translate any kind of text, voice conversations or the words into a hundred different languages. The most astonishing feature is the fact that it can also behave like a dictionary as it tells the meaning of any word in your desired language.
- There is no specific training required for the users to use the iTranslate as it's absolutely user-friendly.
- iTranslate also helps in translating the signboards, menus, tickets and others. All you have to do is just point your phone's camera towards the sign (that you want to translate) while using the iTranslate.
- BONUS - It also works when the users are not connected to the internet connection. It perfectly translates all the languages as it does when connected with the internet.

### Google Translate

Google Translate has been on the top of the translating apps since it was launched for all the right reasons which are described below. But still, Google hasn't stopped yet as it keeps making great improvements in the app.

- Google Translate has various modes that can be used as per different situations. Like, it has Typing Mode (which translates the typed texts), Camera Mode (which translates text from the pictures), Handwriting Mode (helps in translating handwritten text) and Conversation Mode (through which people can do conversation easily).
- It translates the text, voice conversations, pictures, etc into 103 different languages and Google keeps upgrading the languages.
- It's the perfect app for doing the conversation with others as Google Translate provides back and forth translation for both the parties.
- It also has a great feature called Phrasebook which let the users save the translations for the future use.

Both iTranslate and Google Translate are amazing in their own ways. A few years back the major difference was working offline, however, now both of them work perfectly when not connected to the internet. Moreover, other great translators are also available including Bing Translator, SDL Free Translation, Translate.com, DeepL Translator, Babylon Online Translator and others. ■

Atiq Nasir

## Insert Data from Picture

Microsoft has recently unveiled a new handy feature in Excel: Insert Data from Picture. The new feature uses artificial intelligence and optical character recognition (OCR) to convert an image of the data table into an editable spreadsheet within seconds. iPhone users of 21 countries can download the feature in Excel from the Play Store and App Store. So put the paper down and pick up your iPhone. ■

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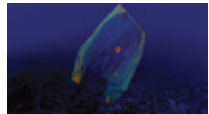


## NASA's Mars 2020 Mission

Though human's feat to set foot on Martian surface would be a next giant leap after Moon mission, but it is still years away. However, NASA has offered everyone to send their name to another celestial body through its next rover mission in 2020. On top of that, the rover is designed to study geology, climate, and marks of ancient microbial life on Mars. A laboratory in California will use an electron beam to write more than a million received names on a microchip and rover will carry it to Mars. So, add your name till 30th September, get a souvenir boarding pass by visiting <https://mars.nasa.gov/participate/send-your-name/mars2020/>, and fly along with the mission. ■



## In the Depth of Ocean



An American explorer, Victor Vescovo has made a record of deepest ocean dive ever by a human after he descended at the depth of 10.9 kilometers in the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench and was thrilled to find out the sea creatures and brightly colored rocky outcrops. However, this special moment was turned into astonishment when he found a plastic bag and candy wrappers there, evidence that plastic pollution has set foot on the remotest corner of planet Earth. ■

## Foldable Laptop

Phones and tablets with flexible displays are on the way as smartphone makers have explored consumer's interest in new designs and released the Royole FlexPai and announced Samsung Galaxy Fold and Huawei Mate X. Now, Lenovo has joined the foldable race and revealed a prototype full-fledged foldable laptop with a 13.3-inch OLED screen which will go on sale next year. Specs of the foldable laptop are still a mystery except that Intel CPU will power it and it will run Windows. ■

## Brain-Controlled Weapons



The intention of Next - Generation Non surgical Neuro technology program by DARPA is to create a wearable device, headset or machine interface which can control machines through brain activity. It is challenging for scientists to find out technologies which can quickly communicate / respond with brain cells. The

end goal of DARPA's ambition is to use the technology for military purposes, such as, for controlling swarms of drones with a single thought and to make it easier for soldiers to perform complex tasks. ■

## Manage Your Google Assistant

The use of Google Assistant has become ubiquitous but this handy item



keeps the record of user's activity to serve better information. The users of Google's smart devices can manage their 'Hey Google' questions by pausing or deleting the audio recording process. To remove your digital imprints, just open Google's "My Activity" page in the browser and click three dot icon on the right corner and select Activity Controls. Once it opened then you can see what you've done on Google's services, like you can manage the record of Location History, Voice & Audio Activity, YouTube Watch and Search History. It would be fascinating, little creepy but interesting to know about your record. To track audio recording, click Manage Activity under Voice & Audio Activity and delete or pause the process. ■

## Translatotron

In a bid to make communication in other languages easy, Google has rolled out a new translation model which can translate speech into another language while retaining the voice and cadence of the original speaker: Translatotron. Nowadays, traditional speech to speech translation completes in three phases including automatic speech recognition, machine translation and text-to-speech Synthesis (TTS) but Translatotron end-to-end speech translation model has neural vocoder which changes generated spectrograms into time-domain waveforms and speaker encoder that preserve the vocal characteristics in the synthesized translated speech. ■

## Emotional Intelligence

In a quest to make Alexa smarter digital assistant, Amazon is reportedly working on ways to let Alexa understand human's emotions and moods by analyzing user's voice. Right now, if you tell the digital assistant that you are angry or sad, then you will receive a pre-programmed response but in future, Alexa will deliver a response, based on the user's emotional state and could even diagnose disease with sound recordings. ■

## Quick Facts

- New York travelers can now use **Google Assistant** to track subway train arrival time.
- **LG** is finally rolling out Amazon's Alexa support to its 2019 ThinQ AI TVs, initially available in 14 countries.
- **Digit**, a robot to deliver shopping items to customers using self-driving vehicle, is the result of Ford's partnership with Agility Robotics.
- 2020 **DJI** drones will arrive with plane and helicopter detectors to avoid air collision.
- **Valve's** Steam Chat app is now available for iOS and Android users.
- **Microsoft** has recently released 'Windows 10 May 2019' Update with the addition of a new light theme, Windows Sandbox, better startup menu and smarter Cortana.
- The addition of panic button in **Lyft** app meant to allow riders to contact 911 in case of emergencies.
- **Mozilla** has unveiled Firefox 67 with the addition of new privacy control and faster speed to compete with Chrome.
- **Google** will launch 53 gender-fluid emoji to Android Q.
- **Germany** highway has got overhead power cables to power electric trucks.
- German startup **Lilium's** designed new five-seater air taxi has successfully taken its first flight.
- **Amazon** has introduced new voice commands in Alexa to erase all stored recordings on Amazon's servers.
- **Logitech's** VR stylus has launched with the plans to let a user create drawings and designs in virtual reality.
- **Apple** has released the iPod touch with the addition of processor used in iPhone 7 and 256GB storage.
- **Netherlands** has become the first country to show missing children alerts on ATMs.
- **Google Duo** is now offering eight people video calling feature.
- **Samsung** released the Android Pie update to Galaxy M30.
- **HP** announced to release partially wooden laptops.
- **YouTube** has arrived on the Oculus Quest VR headset.
- A gigabit download speed on the 5G network is **Verizon's** latest milestone.
- **Amazon's** Fire 7 tablets with faster processor and expanded microSD storage is scheduled to launch on 6 June.
- Amazon's **Alexa Guard** is available in the United States.
- Google is bringing speed limits and radar locations features into **Google Maps**, available in more than 40 countries.
- **WhatsApp** now supports continuous audio message playback. ■

## Kids Corner

### Tackling Reading



Google has officially released an app for kids to learn how to read and improve pronunciation: Rivet. Although, there are several kids learning apps available in the market but, Rivet is well among all for its voice technology and speech processing services. Rivet app has more than 2,000 free books and also in-app assistant to offer kids its support to correct their pronunciation by using advanced speech technology. It also offers translations of content in more than 25 languages to help non-native speakers to learn reading well. A follow-along mode within the app has been added for younger readers to let the app read stories aloud and can be disabled after kids will be able to read themselves. The app is available on Android phones, iPads, iPhones, tablets, and Chromebooks across eleven countries for now. ■

### WhatsApp Updates

WhatsApp has released two new features for smartphone users in beta, forwarded count and continuous voice note playback. From now on, the users of popular chat platform will be able to monitor how many times they have forwarded a message, video or audio by highlighting a forwarded message and then visiting 'read and delivered' information section. However, it would be more fruitful if the company brings the functionality to see how many times a specific content has been forwarded to know whether it is old or new content to curb the spread of fake news. Another feature offers continuous voice playback means there is no need to press the play button for each memo as it will automatically play next audio message after the first one until you're done listening to all messages. ■



### Turn on Location Sharing

Google Maps is a great way for location sharing and everyone has that feature already on phone so Android or iPhone users can easily share their location with friends and family in real-time to answer the question 'when will you get here?' To share your location, go to Maps on Android, set your current location and destination, tap the three-dot icon at the right corner and select location sharing option. Tap the contact/app to which you want to share your location and select the '1 hour' option or increase or decrease the time limit by using blue plus and minus options present before it. You can also share the information of your real-time location for all the time by selecting 'Until you turn this off' option. Another interesting thing is to share your ETA during a trip by clicking Navigation>More>Share Trip and selecting the contact. Select 'Stop sharing' once you reach your destination. ■

### Live Caption

Google I/O 2019 showcased the most impressive feature in Android Q: Live Caption. The feature offers instant captions of video or audio on phone for deaf or hard of hearing audience to make content more accessible to them. Live Caption uses artificial intelligence to translate audio regardless of the availability of an internet connection. Apart from helping deaf, the cool feature is also useful for everyone who wishes to watch content with turned off sound without disturbing anyone around. ■

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## Track Your Lost Android Phone

Do you often experience moments of panic after losing your phone at a friend's residence, in your car, in between the couch cushions or if it may be fallen out at your workplace? Thankfully, there are many ways to track and quickly recover a stolen phone. Android Device Manager is used to locate Google-registered device on a map and works on phones which run on Android 2.2 version or higher.

To get started, Sign in on your Google account, visit [Android.com/devicemanager](https://android.com/devicemanager), select your Android device and click on the arrow to show the current location of your device at the map. The current location of your phone as a blue dot will pop up along with battery status, Wi-Fi network and three options including Play Sound, Secure Device and Erase Device on the left side panel.

Play Sound will let you play a sound even on silent and vibrate mode. You can go for 2nd option, Secure Device and lock it remotely along with a message on the screen. However, you can Erase Device if it is stolen and it will remotely delete everything including photos, contacts, emails, apps but you will not be able to locate it anymore. Android Device Manager will not be able to locate your phone in case the phone is turned off, doesn't have a Wi-Fi network, reset to factory settings or location is turned off. Prey, Cerberus, McAfee WaveSecure and Norton Anti-Theft are also great apps to track an Android phone. ■

### Sneak Peek

#### Coming up in July issue

- WWDC 2019
- 8K TV with 5G is on its way
- Batterygate

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