

Teacher's Role in 21st Century Classroom

Lilia Indriani

English Department of Tidar University
indriani@untidar.ac.id.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language in Asian context is really a big responsibility for a teacher. Today, teachers and learners live in a technology-enhanced learning environment (TELE), and honestly, teachers find it really difficult to catch up. The role of teachers are shifted from 20th to 21st century role. It is clear that the 21st century classroom needs are very different from those of the 20th century. In the 21st century classroom, teachers are facilitators of student learning and creators of productive classroom environments, in which students can develop the skills they might need at present or in future. The 21st century classroom is created on the premise that students experience what they require to enter the 21st century workplace and live in the global environment. Therefore, teachers can play many roles in the course of teaching and this might facilitate learning. Their ability to carry these out effectively will depend on a large extent on the rapport they establish with their students, and of course, on their own level of knowledge and skills.

Key words: Teacher's Role, 21st Century Classroom, TELE

Introduction

Today, it becomes clear that the 21st century classroom needs are very different from those of 20th century. The students are already using technology as a part of their daily life and increasingly expect to use it for learning. The 21st century learning framework is: a framework of outcomes used to align facilities, professional development, curriculum and assessment to support 21st century learning outcomes. The student outcomes are skills and habits of mind (not test scores). The science of teaching requires content knowledge, organization, management skills, and detailed planning. The art of teaching is not about possessing an outgoing personality, but making connections to students, parents, as well as connecting the curriculum to the real world in a relevant manner. In the 21st Century classroom, teachers are facilitators of student learning and creators of productive classroom environments in which students can develop the skills they will need in the workplace. The focus of the 21st Century classroom is on students experiencing the environment they will enter as 21st Century workers. The collaborative project-based curriculum used in this classroom develops the higher order thinking skills, effective communication skills, and knowledge of technology

that students will need in the 21st Century workplace. There are shifts from the 20th to 21st century classroom:

20 th century classroom	21 st century classroom
filling the vessel	kindling the fire
Retelling	Discovering
Information transfer	Learning to learn
Time based	Outcome based
Textbook driven	Research driven
Passive learning	Active learning
Competition	Collaboration
National	International

The Aim of 21st Century Teaching

The aim of 21st century teaching as the development of knowledge, higher-order skills (such as the 6Cs of creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, character education and citizenship), as well as the establishment of lifelong learning habits and an ability to learn how-to-learn with technology as the central roles in the new picture of teacher effectiveness.

Characteristics of A 21st-Century Teacher

There are 15 characteristics of a 21st-century teacher:

1. Learner-Centered Classroom and Personalized Instructions :

As students have access to any information possible, there certainly is no need to "spoon-feed" the knowledge or teach "one-size fits all" content. As students have different personalities, goals, and needs, offering personalized instructions is not just possible but also desirable. When students are allowed to make their own choices, they own their learning, increase intrinsic motivation, and put in more effort -- an ideal recipe for better learning outcomes.

2. Students as Producers

Today's students have the latest and greatest tools, yet, the usage in many cases barely goes beyond communicating with family and friends via chat, text, or calls. Even though students are now viewed as digital natives, many are far from producing any digital content. While they do own expensive devices with capabilities to produce blogs, infographics, books, how-

to videos, and tutorials, just to name a few, in many classes, they are still asked to turn those devices off and work with handouts and worksheets. Sadly, often times these papers are simply thrown away once graded. Many students don't even want to do them, let alone keep or return them later. When given a chance, students can produce beautiful and creative blogs, movies, or digital stories that they feel proud of and share with others.

3. Learn New Technologies

In order to be able to offer students choices, having one's own hands-on experience and expertise will be useful. Since technology keeps developing, learning a tool once and for all is not a option. The good news is that new technologies are new for the novice and and experienced teachers alike, so everyone can jump in at any time.

4. Go Global

Today's tools make it possible to learn about other countries and people first hand. Of course, textbooks are still sufficient, yet, there is nothing like learning languages, cultures, and communication skills from actually talking to people from other parts of the world.

5. Be Smart and Use Smart Phones

When students are encouraged to view their devices as valuable tools that support knowledge (rather than distractions), they start using them as such. Different students have different needs; therefore, there is no need to waste time and explain something that perhaps only one or two students would benefit from. Instead, teaching students to be independent and know how to find answers they need makes the class a different environment.

6. Blog

There is importance of both student and teacher by blogging. Blog helps everyone could see the value of writing for real audience and establishing their digital presence. To blog or not to blog should not be a question any more.

7. Go Digital

Another important attribute is to go paperless -- organizing teaching resources and activities on one's own website and integrating technology bring students learning experience to a

different level. Sharing links and offering digital discussions as opposed to a constant paper flow allows students to access and share class resources in a more organized fashion.

8. Collaborate

Technology allows collaboration between teachers & students. Creating digital resources, presentations, and projects together with other educators and students will make classroom activities resemble the real world. Collaboration should go beyond sharing documents via e-mail or creating PowerPoint presentations. Many great ideas never go beyond a conversation or paper copy, which is a great loss. Collaboration globally can change our entire experience.

9. Use Twitter Chat

Participating in Twitter chat is the cheapest and most efficient way to organize one's own PD, share research and ideas, and stay current with issues and updates in the field. It can help teacher to grow professionally and expand knowledge as there is a great conversation happening every day, and going to conferences is no longer the only way to meet others and build professional learning networks.

10. Connect

Connect with like-minded individuals. Again, today's tools allow us to connect anyone, anywhere, anytime. Have a question for an expert or colleague? Simply connect via social media: follow, join, ask, or tell.

11. Project-Based Learning

As today's students have an access to authentic resources on the web, experts anywhere in the world, and peers learning the same subject somewhere else, teaching with textbooks is very "20th-century" (when the previously listed option were not available). Today's students should develop their own driving questions, conduct their research, contact experts, and create final projects to share all using devices already in their hands. All they need from their teacher is guidance.

12. Build Your Positive Digital Footprint

It might sound obvious, but it is for today's teachers to model how to appropriately use social media, how to produce and publish valuable content, and how to create sharable resources. Even though it's true that teachers are people, and they want to use social media and post their pictures and thoughts, we cannot ask our students not to do inappropriate things online if we ourselves do it. Maintaining professional behavior both in class and online will help build positive digital footprint and model appropriate actions for students.

13. Code

While this one might sound complicated, coding is nothing but today's literacy. As a pencil or pen were "the tools" of the 20th-century, making it impossible to picture a teacher not capable to operate with it, today's teacher must be able to operate with today's pen and pencil, i.e., computers. Coding is very interesting to learn take for example the feeling of writing a page with HTML is amazing.

14. Innovate

Teachers can expand the teaching toolbox and try new ways, such as teaching with social media or replacing textbooks with web resources. Students appreciate novelty, not the new tools, but the new, more productive and interesting ways of using them.

15. Keep Learning

As new ways and new technology keep emerging, learning and adapting is essential.

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Miller first introduced the concept of 6 C's of education:

1. Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is the process of filtering, analyzing and questioning information/content found in various media, and then synthesizing it in a form that has a value to an individual. It allows students to make sense of the presented content and apply it to their daily lives.

2. Collaboration

Collaboration is a skill of utilizing various personalities, talents, and knowledge in a way to create a maximum outcome. The outcome must provide a benefit to the entire community or a group. Due to synergy, the common outcome has a greater value than a sum of values of each individual outcome.

3. Communication

Communication is a skill of presenting information in a clear, concise and meaningful way. It also designates careful listening and articulating thoughts. Communication has various purposes: informing, instructing, motivating, and persuading.

4. Creativity

In the 21st century, an individual must be able to create something new or create something in a new way, utilizing the knowledge he has already acquired. It does not just signify art, but also various solutions to a problem in real life situations.

5. Citizenship/ Culture

This is a part where various authors point out different skills. Miller states the culture as one of the pieces of 6 C's, while Fullan (2001) features citizenship. When we look closer, they are not so different, and actually, they go hand in hand with one another. It is important for an individual to be in touch with everything that surrounds him – both culture and community.

6. Character Education/ Connectivity

According to Miller, understanding the importance of human connectivity in the world filled with technology is a necessary skill to teach children. Fullan (2001) highlights character education as the last C. It includes school's commitment to helping young people become responsible, caring, and contributing citizens.

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Conclusion

Managing a 21st century classroom is challenging for the teachers. The knowledge with which they graduated to become a teacher has become insufficient now. They need to keep them update with the fast paced world. Teachers need to have broad horizons to cope up with tremendous era of science and technology. The roles of teachers are: the role model, the adaptor, the reflective practitioner, motivator, agent of change, counselor, the supporter, the communicator, the learner, the visionary, the leader, the risk taker, and the collaborator.

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