

Pedagogical approaches for ICT integration into primary school English and Mathematics: A Singapore case study

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Abstract

This case study research attempts to examine the pedagogical approaches for the teaching of English and Mathematics with information communication technology (ICT) in a primary school in Singapore. The study uses the learning *with* and learning *from* ICT framework in reporting and analysing how ICT has been used in the teaching of English and Mathematics. This framework also looks into the level of production (i.e., students' creation of digital work) and collaboration when learning *with* and/or *from* ICT. From the review of documents and lesson plans; interviews with teachers; group interviews with students; and questionnaire survey of the students on their frequency of ICT use, the findings seem to suggest a difference in the pedagogical approach adopted by the English and Mathematics teachers. The frequency of ICT use was also reported to be significantly higher in English lessons as compared to the Mathematics lessons. Mathematics teachers primarily adopted the learning *from* ICT pedagogy with occasional learning *with* ICT approach. However, English teachers facilitated the students to learn *from* and also *with* technology with production and also with elements of collaboration. This case study illuminates the usefulness of the learning *with* and *from* ICT as a conceptual framework in guiding both researchers and teachers to be more aware of the pedagogical implications when ICT is added in the teaching and learning process. This case study also once again suggests the pivotal role of the teacher.

Introduction

The main intent of this case study is to obtain a more in-depth understanding of how ICT has been integrated into the teaching of English and Mathematics in a primary school from the learning *from* and learning *with* ICT framework (Ringstaff & Kelley, 2002) that looks into students' level and extent of production and collaboration (Bower, Hedberg & Kuswara, 2010). Of the various learning subjects offered in the primary schools in Singapore, both the English Language and Mathematics are very important academic subjects that take up a significant portion of the students' time in school. Half of the total curriculum time is devoted to these two subjects and students have English and Mathematics lessons every day. The nature of the two subjects is different – the learning of English focuses on the expression of one's ideas and thoughts through the use of text and multimedia to develop not only language skills but also media literacy, whereas the learning of Mathematics focuses on acquisition of problem-solving skills and concepts. Hence, due to the differences in terms of the content of the two subjects, the pedagogical approaches could be different and this may in turn influence how ICT could be used to teach these subjects.

The main objective of this paper is to explore how ICT has been integrated into the teaching of English and Mathematics in a primary school. The paper also investigates whether there is a difference in terms of pedagogical approach adopted by the teachers in using ICT for the teaching of English and Mathematics.

Background of study

The school in this case study research is the first primary future school that was set up under the FutureSchools@Singapore program in 2008. The school's core mission is to seek innovative teaching approaches that leverage on technologies to better engage the new generation of young learners. The school has implemented a successful one-to-one program (i.e., one-to-one computer to student ratio) for all its students. The program ensures a two-to-one student-to-computer ratio for its Primary 1 students and one-to-one student-to-computer ratio for Primary 2 and 3. Computer ownership program, where students procure and own their own notebook computers, has been introduced to all Primary 4 students. The program promotes the vision for every child to own a personal learning device to support, extend and enrich their learning. A student-owned model is adopted to ensure sustainability of the one-to-one program.

Theoretical framework

Learning *from* and *with* ICT

Broadly speaking, learning *from* and learning *with* ICT could provide a very useful conceptual framework when integrating ICT into teaching and learning. Learning *from* the computer inclines towards the behaviouristic theories of learning whereas learning *with* ICT has its roots in the constructivist and social constructivism paradigms. More passive behaviours such as reading and listening are associated with learning *from* ICT, while more active behaviours such as creating, writing and updating are associated with learning *with* ICT (Harris & Rea, 2009).

Learning *from* computers takes various forms – computer-based instruction, computer-assisted instruction and intelligent learning system, to name a few. Basically, learning *from* computers sees the computer system as a tutor. Despite earlier cautionary findings, research studies provide considerable evidence on how to make the most of using computers as tutors. “In recent years, a number of studies have provided convincing evidence that such technology can be effective in teaching basic skills” (Ringstaff & Kelley, 2002, p. 3). “However, it would be short-sighted to focus only on how best to have students learn “*from*” computers — that is, using technology to tutor students on basic skills. Technology has advanced beyond this tutorial function and can do so much more than what is readily measured by standardised tests” (Ringstaff & Kelley, 2002, p. 5).

While learning *from* computers can help students to enhance their performance on basic skills, learning *with* computers could facilitate the learning of higher-order thinking (Jonassen, 2000; Lim & Tay, 2003). Higher order thinking is more than the simple recall of facts or information retrieval. It is a function of interaction between cognitive strategies, meta-cognition and nonstrategic (domain-specific) knowledge during novel problem solving (Young, 1997). “Many researchers investigating the use of technology in education have found that technology is most powerful when used as a tool for problem solving, conceptual development and critical thinking” (Ringstaff & Kelley, 2002, p 5). However, as compared to the learning of basic knowledge and skills, it is much harder to quantify the learning of higher order type of thinking and skills.

Production and collaboration with ICT

Bower, Hedberg and Kuswara (2010) further propose a framework for technology learning design, suggesting four types of online pedagogies – transmissive, dialogic, constructionist and co-constructive. These pedagogies are categorised according to their degree of production and collaboration. The transmissive pedagogical approach, where the basic paradigm is learning *from* ICT, is based on information delivery approaches with information broadcast and made available to learners. For dialogic, constructionist and co-constructive pedagogies, they provide opportunities for interaction and construction that allow students to learn *with* ICT.

There are merits to each of the learning pedagogies, depending on the different stages of the learning cycle. Direct instructional or the transmissive approaches would be more appropriate for beginners who have yet to form understanding about a particular topic. The dialogic pedagogical approaches allow learners to extend their learning and understanding beyond what they could achieve in isolation. Extended learning takes place through discussions and dialogues with peers and instructors. The constructionist pedagogy assumes that students learn by reconstructing their knowledge. This approach often encourages students to use open tools to create and produce what they have learned. The co-constructive approaches place emphasis on the power of groups and teamwork, where students work with their peers to co-construct knowledge. Table 1 provides a matrix of pedagogies according to the degree of production and collaboration.

Table 1: Pedagogies categorised according to the degree of Production and Collaboration – Learning *from* and Learning *with* Technology (adapted from Bower, Hedberg, and Kuswara, 2010 and Ringstaff & Kelley, 2002)

	No collaboration	Collaboration
No Product	Transmissive (Learning from Technology)	Dialogic (Learning with Technology)
Product	Constructionist (Learning with Technology)	Co-constructionist (Learning with Technology)

Use of ICT in the teaching of English

Abas, Fong, Yu and Lee (2010) and Tay, Nair and Lim (2010) described how digital storytelling approach was used in a primary school. Tablet computers (a variant of notebook computers) were used by young learners (aged 7 to 8) to create digital stories with text, digital images, simple animations and their own voices with commonly and easily available presentation software applications. It was reported that the engagement and motivation were noticeably high and non-ICT activities such as scaffolding by teachers were as important as the ICT activities in engaging the pupils and the progress of the lessons.

Andrews, Freeman, Hou, McGuinn, Robinson and Zhu (2007) reviewed more than 2000 papers published between the year 1998 to 2003 on the effectiveness of teaching and learning English for 5-to 16-year-olds. Eight of the studies provided in-depth and high quality reviews of the effectiveness of ICT in the teaching and learning of written composition in English. Three types of ICT intervention were used in the studies stated above – computer assisted instruction or computer-aided learning, word processing and multimedia. The word processing software was mainly used as many of the research studies reviewed above are writings related in nature. ICT was mainly used to improve the learners’ proficiency in spelling and

grammar. In one of the research studies, the constructive use of multimedia technology was used to improve writing performance. However, the results and outcomes of the research studies were inconclusive.

Melhuish (2008) highlighted the evolving notion of text, context and curriculum vis-à-vis the current proliferation of ICT use in educational settings and more specifically with the use of Web 2.0. The social, collaborative nature of Web 2.0 offers English teachers and their students' new opportunities to re-examine how the language could be taught and learnt via such online social platforms. The web effectively helps to develop students' personal voices by providing them with platforms for digital self-expression. This development is harder to achieve through conventional written assignments. This approach provides a much wider readership with more valid and authentic writer-reader relationship than that between students and teachers.

Mullamaa (2010) shared the experience in using an e-learning environment for the teaching of English. The focus was to support student-centred learning to increase student motivation, individualisation and cooperation in creating students' own learning digital materials. Students were engaged in the building of their own learning materials, such as, databases on specific research topics, digital presentations and online dictionaries; and also the more traditional approaches, such as, online self-correcting grammar and vocabulary exercises, email and course calendar and other relevant information.

Use of ICT in the teaching of Mathematics

Bosco (2004) observed that there was a change in the interaction pattern between teacher and students with the use of ICT in the teaching of Mathematics; the students' focus moved from the teacher to the computer. "...closed programs tended to promote a type of interaction that did not favour the discussion of ideas. In fact, the exchanges produced among the children in the 'drill and practice' classes never went beyond cumulative chats" (Bosco, p. 276). By contrast, the use of open programs promotes learning through construction rather than passive reception.

Crisan, Lerman and Winbourne (2007) highlighted several factors influencing Mathematics teachers' integration of ICT into their lessons. Contextual factors such as the school context, departmental ethos and the availability of and accessibility to ICT facilities, key persons promoting the ICT use within the department, teacher ICT skills, ICT professional development and the present of ICT within the Mathematics scheme of work. Interesting in Crisan, Lerman and Winbourne (2007) findings was how personal teacher factors influenced the use of ICT in the teaching of Mathematics.

Law (2009) found that the most frequently adopted activities by Mathematics teachers in her research study were 'exercise to practise skills or procedures', 'teacher lectures' and 'discovering Mathematics concepts and principles'. Although Law (2009) reported a change in pedagogical approach by teachers when ICT was being used, the more conventional and traditional pedagogical approaches still prevailed, especially in some countries (e.g., Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan). Teachers in the above-mentioned countries were reported to value a more traditional oriented curriculum as compared to curriculum goals that focused on lifelong learning and connectedness.

McAlister, Dunn and Quinn (2005) examined teachers' attitudes towards the use of computers in teaching Mathematics in the primary school classroom. Positive attitude of teachers towards the use of ICT in teaching and the availability of the necessary resources would facilitate the use of computers to teaching Mathematics in the primary classroom. The computers could be used as a tool in supporting and enhancing students' learning as well as a tool for teaching.

The literature studies reviewed above suggest that the teaching of English and Mathematics could adopt various approaches— learning *from* and *with* ICT, with or without production and with or without collaboration. In addition the literatures also further suggestion that the integration of ICT into the classroom depends on the individual teachers as well as the schools' contextual factors. Teachers' beliefs have been viewed as a key area that needs to be addressed in the context of integration of ICT into classrooms (Gao, Wong, Choy & Wu, 2010; So & Kim 2009). Many other studies also reported that teachers' beliefs could affect the integration of ICT into the classroom (Chere-Masopha & Bennett,

2007; Garthwait & Weller, 2005; Hayes, 2007; Penuel, 2006; Sipilä, 2010; Tondeur, Cooper, & Newhouse, 2010; Towndrow & Vaish, 2009). However, it is also important to note that “technology itself is not likely to improve ineffective teaching practices” (Tee and Lee, 2011, p. 101).

Research design and methods

Case study research design

A case study approach is used in this research study to look into how ICT has been integrated into the teaching of English and Mathematics in this primary school. More specifically, this research case study examines the pedagogical approaches adopted by the English and Mathematics teachers. This study looks into how subject content affects the pedagogy used by the teachers and in this case, the teaching of primary school level English and Mathematics with the integration of ICT.

Research methods

The following research methods were used in the data collection and analysis:

1. *Document review.* In this case, the documents reviewed were mainly the research reports and conference presentations produced by the teachers involved on how they had integrated ICT into their teaching. Lesson plans were also reviewed.
2. *Interviews with teachers.* A total of 10 teachers, 5 English and 5 Mathematics teachers, taught the seven Primary 4 classes. Of the 10 teachers, 5 English and 3 Mathematics teachers were interviewed. Two of the Mathematics teachers were unavailable for interview as one was on leave and the other joined another school at the time of this study. More detailed information of the teachers who were interviewed are found in Table 2 below. Four of the teachers taught two English and two Mathematics classes as shown in Table 2. All the teachers were interviewed individually so that the responses from the teachers could be independent of and uninfluenced by one another. These sessions took the form of informal interviews; basically in the form of semi-casual chitchat sessions based on how they had integrated ICT into their lessons. All the interview sessions were tape-recorded and transcribed for analysis. The interviews were conducted in May 2011.

Table 2: Teachers who taught Grade 4 English and Mathematics and the number of years of experience

Class	English Teacher	No. of Years of Experience	Mathematics Teacher	No. of Years of Experience
1	Teacher A#	6	Teacher V*	20
2	Teacher B	7	Teacher W#	18
3	Teacher C#	9	Teacher X	8
4	Teacher D	8	Teacher Y#^	20
5	Teacher F	10	Teacher Z	9
6	Teacher A#	6	Teacher Y#^	20
7	Teacher C#	9	Teacher W#	18

* was unable to interview Teacher V as she was on leave due to family commitments

^ was unable to interview Teacher Y as the teacher was posted out when the research was conducted

denotes the same teacher teaching two different classes of the same subject. For instance, Teacher A taught both Class 1 and 6 for English

3. *Group interviews with students.* In addition, a total of 28 students (4 from each class) from the seven classes were also interviewed. Group interviews were conducted for the students by the class they were in and there were 4 students in each group. The group interviews were conducted to obtain their perspectives and as a source for triangulation. The interview questions focused on how English and Mathematics lessons were conducted for them and how ICT was used in these lessons. All the interview sessions were tape-recorded and transcribed for analysis. All the interviews were conducted in May 2011.

4. *Student self-reported questionnaire.* A self-reported questionnaire survey was administered to all the 225 students who were involved in the student computer ownership program and the school one-to-one computing program to ascertain the frequency of ICT usage in their English and Mathematics classes. A total of 216 students responded to the online questionnaire survey. The students were also asked how they felt with regard to the use of ICT for the learning of English and Mathematics. The self-reported questionnaire survey includes the following questions: the frequency of ICT usage, online games and applets, learning management system, blogs and online social networking software use in both English and Mathematics lessons. The questions were adapted from Samuelsson (2010). The frequency of use is based on a Likert-scale of 1 to 7 (1 = once a month, 2 = once every 3 weeks, 3 = once every 2 weeks, 4 = once every 10 days, 5 = once every week, 6 = once every 2 to 3 days and 7 = once every day).

Key findings

How ICT was integrated in the teaching of English and Mathematics

Online quizzes – learning from ICT (predominantly transmissive, without production and without collaboration)

The online quiz module found in the online management system of the school was a feature used by both English and Mathematics teachers to facilitate students' learning of the subjects. From observations and interviews with teachers and students, the self-marking function in the quiz module cut down marking time for teachers and could also provide the teacher with a quick and accurate overview of the students' understanding of the basic content knowledge taught. In addition, students were also given instantaneous feedback on their responses. The teachers also observed that students were more motivated to attempt the questions repeatedly in order to get the correct answer. Hence, the use of ICT can allow students to reinforce their learning through repeated exercises. The teachers also reflected that the readily available item analysis made it easier for the teachers to take follow-up actions to address any misconceptions. Students learn *from* ICT through their attempts in online quizzes to practise and reinforce the content knowledge that they have learned. The online quizzes provided for a more transmissive pedagogical approach, without much degree of production and collaboration. Both teachers and students reflected that the online quizzes were more frequently used in Mathematics lessons as compared to English lessons. Mathematics teachers reflected that the quiz approach taken was due to the nature of the subject whereby students needed good basics of the procedural skills, and conceptual knowledge to work out the correct answers. The English teachers also shared that they selected the use of the quiz module to reinforce some of the grammar items taught in class.

Online dissemination of information and digital learning materials – learning from ICT (mainly transmissive, without production and collaboration)

Both the English and Mathematics teachers set up blog sites for the dissemination of online teaching and learning information and resources. Through the interviews with the teachers and students, Mathematics teachers used this approach in their teaching more frequently when compared to the English teachers. For instance, one of the Mathematics teachers created and maintained the blog sites weekly for the various levels with Internet links to the relevant teaching online resources, games and manipulatives. These blogs allowed students to access suitable educational online games and manipulatives that were related to what was taught in class. The teachers also used some of the free and readily available online manipulatives to make their lessons more interesting and engaging. This is another instance of learning *from* ICT with the transmission of learning content via the online platforms. Figure 1 showed a sample Mathematics blog site with the consolidated links to the quizzes and online digital manipulatives for easy access by students to learn *from* the ICT and for more independent learning.

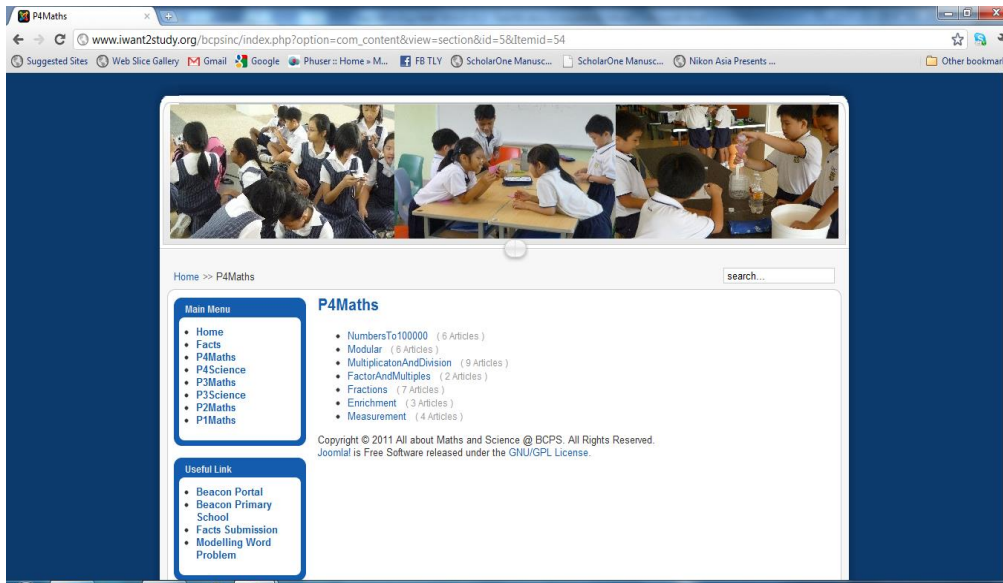


Figure 1: Screen capture of a Mathematics blog site

Online journal, reflections on learning, computer programming and spreadsheets – learning with ICT (constructionist and dialogic, with production and collaboration)

Several English teachers encouraged their students to post their reflections and thoughts as online journals via online blog sites. The teachers saw the potential in using these ICT tools to enhance students' acquisition of English Language skills. The teachers modelled the writing and steps on how to post their journal online. The students' online journals would be commented by both the English teacher and their classmates. This process encouraged the students to express themselves more clearly as they need to be understood, especially by their peers. The students were also observed to write more frequently through their blogs. The students were engaged in constructing and producing their own online journals; they were also engaged in online dialogue and exchanges through the comments posted via the blogs. This is an instance of learning *with ICT* – production and collaboration – with students writing their personal journals and receiving comments from their peers/classmates and teacher.

One of the Mathematics teachers taught her students computer programming using the program called 'Scratch', an intuitive graphical computer programming language developed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology for young children. She not only analysed her students' 'Scratch' projects, she also interviewed and surveyed them. Her exploration provided encouraging evidence that computer programming had the potential to equip the young children with digital literacy and problem solving skills. This is one example of learning *with ICT* through a constructionist pedagogical approach.

All students from the various Primary 4 classes were also exposed to the creation of pictorial graphs using the spreadsheet software application to analyse trends and patterns. This is another example of teachers believing in learning *with ICT* based on a constructionist perspective.

Digital storytelling – learning with ICT (constructionist and co-constructionist, with production and collaboration)

The English teachers engaged the students in the creation of their digital stories, a key pedagogical approach used by the school for the learning of languages and media literacy skills. The lesson idea was very simple. The students used an appropriate software application to create a digital story with text, digital images and sound recordings (i.e., students' own voices in narrating their stories). Pupils were given a series of scaffolding tasks prior to the completion of their digital storytelling assignments, which included brainstorming for ideas in groups or pairs for profiles of characters, drafting of story outlines and finally recording their narration of the stories. Subsequently, teachers provided feedback for improvement when pupils have completed the various tasks at different times. The completed digital stories were then published in the school network and the Internet, via blog sites, so that peers and parents could view and also provide their comments and words of encouragement. This process of transforming

the students' ideas into text enhanced by the use colourful visuals and music, excited and engaged them. Facilitated by ICT to present their digital stories, students could easily create and refine their stories and learn from each other in the creation process. In recording the narration of their stories, students attempted multiple readings and recordings till they felt satisfied with their digital readings. This is an instance where English teachers facilitated students to learn *with* ICT – production and collaboration; the students created and also co-created their digital stories.

Frequencies of ICT use in English and Mathematics lessons

All students from the Primary 4 level classes participated in an online questionnaire survey on their frequency of usage for: (1) ICT, (2) learning management system, (3) blogs, (4) online games and applets and (5) online social networking tools (e.g., chats, msn and forum) in school for the learning of English and Mathematics. The frequency of use is based on a Likert-scale of 1 to 7 as stated above. The details of the mean frequencies are reported in Table 3. There were significant differences in the frequency of ICT use for English and Mathematics and frequency of the use of online games and applets for the learning of English and Mathematics. The *t*-tests statistics were $t(409) = 3.569, p < 0.001$ and $t(424) = 2.678, p < 0.05$, respectively. The frequencies of the use of the learning management system, blogs and online social networking tools are also reported in Table 3. However, there were no significant difference in the use of the learning management system, blogs and online social networking tools between the learning of English and Mathematics. The *t*-tests statistics were $t(419) = 0.707, p > 0.05$, $t(422) = 1.090, p > 0.05$ and $t(429) = 1.452, p > 0.05$, respectively.

Table 3: Frequency of use of ICT, online games/applets, learning management system, blogs, and online social networking softwares

	Subject	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	<i>t</i> - tests
Frequency of ICT use	English	216	5.16	1.750	$t = 3.569$ $p < 0.05^*$
	Mathematics	214	4.48	2.155	
Frequency of online games and applets use	English	215	3.99	2.129	$t = 2.678$ $p < 0.05^*$
	Mathematics	215	4.52	1.936	
Frequency of learning management system use	English	209	3.89	2.185	$t = 0.707$ $p > 0.05$
	Mathematics	212	4.03	2.105	
Frequency of the blogs use	English	210	4.46	2.082	$t = 1.090$ $p > 0.05$
	Mathematics	214	4.24	2.052	
Frequency of online social networking use (e.g., email, msn, forum, chat)	English	215	4.15	2.175	$t = 1.452$ $p > 0.05$
	Mathematics	216	3.85	2.206	

A one-way ANOVA was used to test for the differences in the frequency of ICT use in the seven English Language classes. The seven classes were of similar academic performance. The frequency of ICT use in the English Language classes differed significantly across the seven classes, $F(6, 209) = 10.233, p < 0.005$. Tukey post-hoc comparisons of the seven classes revealed that Class 3 ($M = 5.72, 95\% \text{ CI } [5.11, 6.33]$) indicated significantly higher frequency of ICT usage rate than Class 2 ($M = 4.39, 95\% \text{ CI } [3.73, 5.05]$). Class 4 also ($M = 5.93, 95\% \text{ CI } [5.34, 6.53]$) reported significantly higher ICT usage rate than Class 1 ($M = 4.56, 95\% \text{ CI } [3.88, 5.24]$) and Class 2 ($M = 4.39, 95\% \text{ CI } [3.73, 5.05]$). The detailed mean frequencies of ICT use are found in Table 4.

Table 4: Frequency of ICT use in various English Language classes

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	32	4.56	1.883	.333	3.88	5.24
2	31	4.39	1.801	.324	3.73	5.05
3	32	5.72	1.689	.299	5.11	6.33
4	30	5.93	1.596	.291	5.34	6.53
5	28	5.46	1.710	.323	4.80	6.13
6	31	5.00	1.549	.278	4.43	5.57
7	32	5.09	1.573	.278	4.53	5.66
Total	216	5.16	1.750	.119	4.92	5.39

Similarly, a one-way ANOVA was used to test for the differences in the frequency of ICT use in the seven Mathematics classes. The seven classes were of similar academic performance. The frequency of ICT use in the Mathematics classes differed significantly across the seven classes, $F(6, 207) = 8.102, p < 0.001$. Tukey post-hoc comparisons of the seven classes indicated that Class 1 ($M = 5.72, 95\% \text{ CI } [5.19, 6.25]$) reported significantly higher frequency of ICT usage in class as compared to Class 4 ($M = 3.9, 95\% \text{ CI } [3.05, 4.75]$), Class 5 ($M = 3.39, 95\% \text{ CI } [2.46, 4.33]$), Class 6 ($M = 4.16, 95\% \text{ CI } [3.43, 4.90]$) and Class 7 ($M = 3.55, 95\% \text{ CI } [2.90, 4.20]$). Similar to Class 1, Class 3 ($M = 5.94, 95\% \text{ CI } [5.26, 6.61]$) also reported significantly higher frequency of ICT usage as compared to Class 4 ($M = 3.9, 95\% \text{ CI } [3.05, 4.75]$), Class 5 ($M = 3.39, 95\% \text{ CI } [2.46, 4.33]$), Class 6 ($M = 4.16, 95\% \text{ CI } [3.43, 4.90]$) and Class 7 ($M = 3.55, 95\% \text{ CI } [2.90, 4.20]$). The detailed mean frequencies of use are found in Table 5.

Table 5: Frequency of ICT use in various Mathematics classes

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	32	5.72	1.464	.259	5.19	6.25
2	31	4.55	1.929	.347	3.84	5.26
3	31	5.94	1.843	.331	5.26	6.61
4	30	3.90	2.280	.416	3.05	4.75
5	28	3.39	2.409	.455	2.46	4.33
6	31	4.16	2.002	.360	3.43	4.90
7	31	3.55	1.767	.317	2.90	4.20
Total	214	4.48	2.155	.147	4.19	4.77

Discussion and implications

In response to the research questions stated in the introduction section, the above findings suggested that the teachers used a variety of approaches to integrate ICT into the teaching of English and Mathematics.

From the survey data, no significant differences were found in the usage rates of learning management system, blogs and online social networking applications by the students in English and Mathematics classes. The Mathematics teachers adopted a more learning *from* ICT perspective and approach as

compared to the English teachers. Students reported less ICT usage frequency in Mathematics classes than English classes. However, students used online games and applets more often in their learning of Mathematics than English. All the Mathematics teachers shared that due to the nature of the subject and how the students are assessed, constant practice is required for them to clear or do well in the assessments. Reinforcement of basic computational and arithmetic skills require more ‘drill and practice’ type of pedagogy through the use of quizzes found within the learning management system and the ‘playing’ of (or the learning *from*) the online Mathematics educational games. This allowed the pupils to learn basic concepts more independently and obtain instantaneous feedback. When presented with the data in general, Mathematics teachers were not surprised that the usage rate of ICT fell short as compared to the usage during English lessons, as there were also paper-and-pencil worksheets for the more open-ended problem sums to be completed. However, there were snippets of learning *with* ICT in the learning of Mathematics, where students were taught computer programming and also the creation of pictorial graphs using spreadsheet software. In general, the teaching of Mathematics took a more learning *from* ICT and transmissive pedagogical approach with fewer occasions for learning *with* ICT, dialogic, constructionist and co-constructionist approaches. In this instance, the proposed framework provided a useful conceptual framework in highlighting the less frequent use of learning *with* computers. Teachers could then be more aware and conscious to design Mathematics lessons that could facilitate the learning *with* ICT, based on a more dialogic, constructionist and co-constructionist approach.

The English teachers seemed to use a wider variety of pedagogical approaches, as compared to the Mathematics teachers, in their lessons. Both learning *from* and learning *with* technology approaches were used. Elements of transmissive, dialogic, constructionist and co-constructionist approaches were present. Teachers made use of the online social networking applications to transmit information, learning resources, online quizzes and also to allow students to comment on one another’s journal writing and other digital products. Students were also given opportunities to construct or write their own digital stories or compositions with their personal voices embedded in both offline and online software applications. Online software applications also provided avenues for collaboration with peers and teachers. However, the element of co-construction was less evident in the findings.

Another interesting observation from the findings was the difference in the frequency of ICT use among the different classes with the same subject. There were seven classes of Primary 4 level and the classes were taught by five different teachers. The ANOVA analysis for the frequency of ICT use in the various English and Mathematics classes revealed that there were significant differences. The classes were situated in the same school with the identical technological infrastructure, curriculum and assessment modes. The main factor that could have caused this difference in the ICT usage rate by the students would be the teacher. For instance and coincidentally, the Mathematics teacher who set up the blog sites and quizzes in the learning management system was the same teacher who taught Class 3, which was reported to have the highest frequency of ICT use among all. The Mathematics teachers commented that she provided “buffet style resources that were mainly web resources and digitised diagnostic tests for optional use. Subject teachers will use these materials at their own discretion and decide what is best for the class. Resources are already there”. Crisan, Lerman and Winbourne (2007) also highlighted the differences in ICT use could be due to teacher personal factor. “...teachers’ conceptions of ICT affected their incorporation of ICT” (Crisan, Lerman and Winbourne, 2007, p. 31). Similarly, Class 4, which recorded the highest ICT usage rate, had an English teacher who spoke passionately about the various uses of online social networking software applications for students to post their journals and exchanges. These findings highlighted the importance of the teacher in the use and integration of ICT in teaching and learning, which is also congruent to the findings from Crisan, Lerman and Winbourne (2007) where teachers’ personal ICT conceptions affect how they used ICT in their teaching. Teachers’ belief in the potentials of ICT was an important factor that contributed to the high frequencies of ICT usage in Class 3 Mathematics and Class 4 English. Through the interview with both teachers who taught the above-mentioned two classes, they reflected that ICT engaged their students and helped students to learn better and even if ICT could not increase their students’ academic performance, students would still acquire 21st century competencies such as information and media literacy.

There was no significant difference in the frequencies of ICT use for both English and Mathematics for the other four teachers who taught two classes of either English or Mathematics. This further suggested that the difference in the frequency of ICT use was teacher dependent and not class or student dependent.

Conclusion

The learning *from* and learning *with* ICT perspective as proposed by Ringstaff and Kelly (Kelley) (2002) provided a good conceptual framework on how ICT could be used and integrated. Bower, Hedberg and Kuswara (2010) further extended it to include the production and collaborative dimensions. These concepts and perspectives of learning *from* and *with* ICT, with or without production and with or without collaboration could be used to extend educational technology framework and theory. In addition, this study also suggested the pivotal role played by the teacher in the use and integration of ICT for learning.

This research case study also illuminated the usefulness of the proposed frameworks and the perspectives that it could provide researchers and teachers alike. More specifically, this case study highlighted the interaction between how content (i.e., English and Mathematics) influence pedagogy and vice versa when ICT was included. This has provided useful knowledge on and lead to better understanding of the technological, pedagogical and content (TPACK) framework as proposed by Mishra and Koehler (2006).

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the participants for making this study possible. We would also like to thank Mr. Ng Jinsheng (BSc, MSc), a statistician and data miner, who has assisted and advised on the quantitative analysis.

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