LABORATORY WORK

Titik Sudartinah, M.A.

Yogyakarta State University

DAY 1

COMMON TYPES & FACILITIES OF LANGUAGE LABORATORY

Discuss in a group of three

1. What kind of language lab do I have in my school?
2. How often do I use it?
3. What facilities are available ?
4. What are the activities that my class experience there?
5. How do my students feel being there?
6. How do I feel?

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Types

Conventional (Tape-based) language lab

Computerized (LAN-based) language lab

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Conventional Language Lab

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Language lab today

From 'drill and kill'
to 'drill and thrill'

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Computerized language lab

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Sanako Lab250
www.sanako.com/Products/Sanako_Lab_300.iw3

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Software

- Lab manager programs: sanako, citralab, robotel etc

- Windows programs: word processor, powerpoint, paint, sound recorder, windows moviemaker, media player

- Installed programs: adobe reader, adobe captivate, adobe audition, quiz creator, hot potatoes

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Advantages

- **ACOUSTICS:** equal opportunity to hear the instructor and to be heard by the instructor; listen to the lesson material at a level set by themselves for their own comfort

- **PRIVACY:** a psychological privacy that promotes their speaking ability; reduces the inhibitions felt in normal classroom situations and encourages the shy student to speak.

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- **OVERCOMING SHYNESS:** encourages students to talk freely and lose their inhibitions when talking in front of their peers; tend to make students more anonymous

- **ATTENTION:** each individual student's attention is focused on the program material being studied

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- **INDIVIDUALIZATION:** capability for dividing the class into several groups

- **DEVELOPING LISTENING SKILLS:** develop good listening skills and aids the process of communication; provides correct language patterns all the time

- **SELF-PACING:** The students may work through the lesson material at a pace suited to their ability. The lab is for them a personal tutor.

- **NATIVE SPEAKER/DIFFERENT VOICES:** The lab provides the students with a variety of model voices rather than just the voice of the teacher (who is often not a native speaker). All modern systems have a Model Voice feature allowing a native speaker to converse and be used as a model voice subject for the rest of the class.

- **EXCITEMENT:** Students become excited when using learning lab systems; attention is heightened and the boredom of repetitive learning is lifted

- **EFFICIENCY:** teacher can monitor individual students (and talk to them) much more efficiently than in a regular classroom

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- **VARIETY:** provides variety from regular classroom situations; teacher's role is changed and students are more active for longer periods of time

- **IMPROVED DISCIPLINE:** instructor can improve the discipline of the class by privately conversing with individual students who are being objectionable

- **RECORD/COMPARING:** students have the ability to record their own voices along with the master stimulus

- **SIMPLIFY RECORD KEEPING:** instructor can easily generate records of attendance, grading and oral responses to true/false or multiple choice taped tests

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- ▣ **ORAL TESTING:** allows instructor to test students with a question or stimulus and only record the student's answer , then play back the recorded answers at a later time for grading, without having to listen to the questions

- ▣ **TEACHER MONITORING:** Since the teacher is not concentrating on producing the next question or drill, he/she can concentrate more on the student responses. The instructor has more time to produce materials and oversee class activities due to the automatically, rather than manually, controlled instructor console features.

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- **ROLE PLAYING EXERCISES:** instructors can generate a variety of exercises structured around role-playing using the random pairing/random grouping feature

- **BUILDING STUDENT EXPERIENCE:** students can build on their existing experiences and gain further knowledge of computers while learning in the computer language lab

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- **INTERNET ACCESS:** allows instantaneous access to information worldwide and communication in the following ways:
  - Viewing English web sites.
  - Person-to-person communication through email, chat rooms, internet phone, etc.
  - Student-to-student video conferencing with local and foreign classes.
  - Direct communication with other students from their country and culture of study.
  - Access to foreign literature and museums for research and study.
  - Watching live TV broadcasts and listening to foreign radio broadcasts.

- **ACCESS DIGITAL STORAGE:** students can access digitally stored programs, exercises and tests that can be completed at their own pace and at a time they decide is appropriate

Disadvantages

- Access may be limited
- Skills and training may be required
- Time
- Knowledge & material
- More preparation needed by the teacher
- Students might lack focus
- Technical problems

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Common technical problems

- Bad headsets
- Hardware
- Software
- Blackout
- Noise
- Unreadable sources

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Handling technical problems

- Computer literacy
- Knowledge of operating teacher's console
- Capability to detect & repair minor problems
- Backup plans
- Call a technician

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