**Research Paper**

# Hybrid Learning in Dravidian Languages: Advantages and Challenges

### Franklin Thambi Jose. S
*(Sultan Idris Education University, Malaysia)*

### P.Vijaya
*(CAS in Linguistics, Annamalai University, India)*

**ABSTRACT:** *Hybrid learning is one of the styles of teaching and learning. It integrates face to face (F2F) classroom learning and non-face to face (NF2F) learning simultaneously. It is used with hybrid education tools. Transformational learning is a learning approach under hybrid learning. It transfers the knowledge and ideas from the teachers to the students and hence is called as transformational learning. Hybrid learning process occurs in an advanced classroom designed and developed for a learning environment. Though the pandemic COVID19 affected the education throughout the globe, it lasted only for a few months. Many educational institutions came forward to teach and to learn through online classes and later through the usual classrooms. Dravidian languages including Tamil were not exempted from this. Tamil is one of the major languages in Dravidian language family apart from Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. It is spoken throughout the world including India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritius and many more. Hybrid learning was introduced in Tamil language in 2021. Moreover, the use of hybrid learning is essential in the current education system. This article tries to explain the use of hybrid learning in Malaysia, its advantages and challenges.*

**KEY WORDS**: *Hybrid learning, classroom, Language, advantages.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Education is the transmission of knowledge, skills, and character traits. It takes place to provide knowledge and discipline. Moreover, it is the transfer of knowledge from teachers to learners. It is also the practice of training learners with books and notes. Teaching and learning is a process and it takes place traditionally in classrooms. Teachers teach and students learn in a classroom. Teachers use several learning methods in the classrooms to educate the students like, lecture, training, discussion, assessment, quiz, dictation, and many more. During and after COVID-19 several new teaching and learning processes were introduced and implemented including hybrid learning. Hybrid learning is one of the styles of teaching and learning. It integrates face to face classroom learning and online learning at the same time with hybrid education tools. Several educational institutions in Malaysia started to implement hybrid learning in their education system. Dravidian languages including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam are spoken in Malaysia. Tamil speaking communities play a major role in Malaysia termed as Indian community. There are more than 425 Tamil schools in Malaysia which use Tamil language. Tamil language has a rich tradition.

## II. HYBRID LEARNING

Learning is a major process in education. Learning is an active process that starts at certain age and continues throughout life. The age of starting to learn differs country to country. Learning is about a change: the change brought about by developing a new skill, understanding a scientific law, changing an attitude[1]. Different approaches and methods are used in learning processes throughout the globe time to time. Grammar translation method, direct method, audio lingual method, eclectic method, etc. are some of the teaching and learning used as traditional methods. After this, in the digital era, keeping traditional methods as a base, machined based learning, computer aided learning, blended learning, and hybrid learning are developed and implemented. Of these, hybrid learning is implemented in many schools and in higher education institutions in

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various parts of the world including Malaysia. The researcher and writer Helms [2] claims that blended or hybrid courses are a growing trend in higher education as colleges and universities. Hybrid learning is one of the styles of learning and it integrates classroom learning and online learning at the same time with hybrid education learning tools. Hybrid Learning allows a flexible approach to learning process performed collaboratively by the student, the teacher, and the participating experts or institution [3].

## III. DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES

The Dravidian languages called as Dravidic are from a language family termed as Dravidian language family. It is spoken around 250 million people throughout the world including India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore and many more. The Dravidian languages include, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. All these four languages have a long tradition. Tamil is one of the major languages in Dravidian language family. It has a rich literature background starting from 300BC. 'Tolkaappiyam' is the ancient book written in the same century. It is mainly spoken in Tamilnadu in India, Singapore, Mauritius, Fuji Island, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. In Malaysia, Tamil language is spoken among one of the ethnic groups [4]. Tamil became very popular during the period of Tamil Chola Dynasty of 11th Century. Today they form the third largest ethnic group in Malaysia after Malays and Chinese. It constitutes 8% of the total Malaysian population.

## IV. METHODOLOGY

Methodology is used to conduct a systematic research. There are different types of researches. Here, descriptive method of research is used. Narrative technique is used to write the article. As, mentioned earlier, hybrid learning leads to higher engagement, because it combines both online and face to face learning. In Malaysia, both the public and private universities and Tamil schools open to allow students to opt for a hybrid arrangement in which they study online and face to face.

## V. ADVANTAGES OF HYBRID LEARNING

Hybrid learning has advantages for both teachers and students. Many scholars in their studies mention that the students performed well through hybrid learning during and after the pandemic COVID-19. Hybrid learning presents a new a way to learn using technology which motivates the students much. Moreover, students learn through live video platforms using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning methods. Students don't hesitate to interact and respond with their teachers through hybrid learning. Another category of learners in a classroom is the visual learners who best respond to visual learning stimuli [5]. Next is about teachers. Teachers are safe to have good health condition through hybrid teaching during the pandemic COVID-19. The relationship between the teachers and students increase through hybrid learning when the teachers understand the situation of the students. Moreover, hybrid learning enables better communication with not only the students but also their families because of the video conferencing calls. Also, hybrid learning offers the teachers to have local and global students' accessibility. Apart from these, hybrid leaning maintains communication between teachers and students' families. During the pandemic, most of the students' father or mother conversed with the teachers about their children's studies and health. Some parents communicated with the teachers regarding assessments given to their children.

## VI. CHALLENGES OF HYBRID LEARNING

Different types of challenges are faced among learners and teachers in implementing hybrid learning. Since, hybrid learning is a specific mode of learning, it may not suit to all learners. The first and foremost challenge they face is related to temptation which can be referred as online temptations. This can distract the learners when they set out to do their work with hybrid learning. Hence, it may take and waste the time of the learner with social networking, gaming, chatting, etc. Next one can be misunderstanding. The communication through hybrid learning platform can be misunderstood. Due to this, it may cause feelings such as angry, hurt, despair among the classmates. This is because the learner does not have the benefit of seeing or hearing the classmate or the teacher. Moreover, eye contact, body language, voice intonations give clues about humor or sarcasm in the class which may create misunderstanding. Next is maintaining student progress in the class. Most of the teachers prefer paper-based tests and reports in the classroom. They say these are tradition and takes time to change. But, hybrid learning relies on digital tools and learners are advanced in technology. Hence, situations where teachers underuse digital progress tracking tools and instead apply paper assessments that aren't suitable for modern hybrid learning. Another reason is that, they have less exposure to current technology, like use of personal computers, smartphones, or cloud apps in classrooms. Another challenge faced is regarding participation and attention. Remote learning, which forms half of hybrid learning in effect, is very much the

same as working from home. It requires a lot of self-discipline and constantly comes under "attack" from various distractions. When learners use personal devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones, they're only a few taps away from drifting off into a game or YouTube, TikTok, Instagram and so on. Incoming Skype calls, background noises, scurrying pets, and family members walking around all contribute to the distraction factor. Another challenge is that the hybrid learning environment requires more coordination from the teacher especially the course teacher. During the instruction provided in these new learning environments, the course teacher needs to pay more attention to both locations. Moreover, the course teacher needs to perform certain operational actions on the teaching and learning platform to make understand the learners. In a research carried out a few years back, it was found that the teacher has a heavy mental load, which is referred to as hyper-zoom or hyper-focus [6].

## VII. CONCLUSION

The world of education receives a fairly high impact due to developments in information and technology. Because of the huge role of technology to the education system, it was forced to change their face. Moreover, in the 21st century there has been a shift from industrial technology to information technology. Due to this, in the future this causes teachers as educators and essential elements in the field of education to be able to learn new things in the teaching and learning process, including learning innovations. Hybrid learning environment gives students the privilege to understand and to explore the real-world issues through authentic learning experiences, facilitated in an online learning environment [7]. This article explains the advantages and challenges of hybrid learning. No doubt the teachers and the learners have to join the hands with technology to enhance teaching and learning process. Moreover, it is a forced situation where hybrid learning must be implemented. The challenges will overcome due course of time with suitable solutions.

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