APPLICATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING THAI ETHNIC LANGUAGE AT SON LA COLLEGE

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Information technology has developed very rapidly in recent years and it has had a huge impact on all areas of modern life, including education. The application of information technology in teaching Thai ethnic languages has become an inevitable trend today. The research presents some information technology software, the process of building lecture designs with information technology applications in teaching Thai ethnic language at Son La College. Effective application of information technology requires enthusiasm, time and effort from teachers along with constantly improving professional qualifications, especially knowledge of information technology and application softwares... to apply to teaching in general and teaching Thai ethnic language in particular to be very necessary today .

Keywords: Information technology; Softwares; Lecture design; Teaching Thai ethnic languages.

1. Introduction

For education and training, information technology (IT) has a strong impact, changing methods of teaching and learning. IT is the means to move towards a learning society. IT opens up great prospects for innovating teaching methods and forms. Teaching methods based on the constructivist approach, project-based teaching methods, teaching to discover and solve problems have more conditions for widespread application. Teaching forms such as topic-based teaching and group teaching also have innovations in the IT environment. Recognizing that importance, in recent years, the application of IT in teaching Thai language at Son La College has received attention. As of the 2022-2023 school year, the school has equipped computer rooms for students and multi-function projectors for lecturers to use in teaching. Son La College has organized training for lecturers on the application of IT in teaching and has been initially applied by faculties in the school, bringing many positive effects in teaching. This article only mentions the application of IT in teaching Thai language at Son La College.

2. Research overview

Up to now, many authors have been interested in the application of information technology in general and the application of information technology in teaching Thai ethnic language in particular, such as: *Research on the application of information technology in teaching specialized English reading skills for non-foreign language students at Hanoi National University* (Nu, 2010), *Measures for managing the application of information technology in teaching at Phu Tho Vocational College of Technology, Agriculture and Forestry in the current period* (Hung, 2011), *Managing the application of information technology in teaching at Luangprabang Pedagogical College, Lao People's Democratic Republic* (Sengphet Phommasack, 2020), *Curriculum Application of information technology in teaching (document circulated internally)* (Tri, 2006),… In general, the above researchs are valuable scientific documents, contributing to helping the author group supplement and complete the content of this research.

3. Research methods

This article uses a number of main research methods such as: Secondary document collection method; Methods of synthesis and analysis to clarify content related to the application of information technology in teaching Thai ethnic language at Son La College today.

4. Research result

4.1. Current situation of Thai ethnic language teaching at Son La College

Implementing Directive No. 38/2004/CT-TTg dated November 9, 2004 of the Prime Minister of

the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on promoting training and retraining ethnic minority languages for officials civil servants and public employees working in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Under the direction of the People's Council and People's Committee of Son La province, Son La College began opening training classes for ethnic minority languages, including Thai ethnic language since 2009. These classes have attracted many civil servants and public employees in agencies and departments, educational administrators, teachers of ethnic minority boarding schools, preschools and primary schools in areas with many ethnic minorities in the province to study.

Table 1. Number of classes and students participating in Thai ethnic language classes at Son La College

	Year	Number of classes	Number of students	Classroom location
1	2009	0	0	Son La College
2	2010	01	40	Son La College
3	2011	01	40	Son La College
4	2012	01	40	Son La College
5	2013	01	40	Song Ma district
6	2014	01	40	Muong La district
7	2015	02	75	Yen Chau, Song Ma districts
8	2016	04	380	Song Ma, Quynh Nhai districts
9	2017	02	160	Muong La district
10	2018	04	330	Song Ma, Moc Chau, Muong La districts
11	2019	24	1362	Son La College, Song Ma, Thuan Chau, Mai Son districts
12	2020	09	680	Son La College, Thuan Chau district
13	2022	03	120	Son La College

Through the data table above, we can see that the number of students participating in Thai ethnic language classes at Son La College has increased rapidly over the years, in 2010 there were 40 students, in 2022 there were 120 students.

In particular, in 2019 there was a sudden increase. The reason is that many students want to improve their Thai ethnic language skills to help work in areas with many Thai ethnic groups or limited ability to listen and speak Kinh language effectively. Some students need a certificate to take the civil servant promotion exam,… Therefore, many teachers at all levels and cadres from departments in Son La province have registered to learn Thai language.

In addition to opening Thai ethnic language training classes for learners, in 2016 and 2018, Son La College opened 02 teacher training classes to teach Thai ethnic language and issued certificates to learners qualified to participate in teaching this language. Specifically, in 2016, 40 teachers were trained and in 2018, 58 teachers were trained. Therefore, it can be affirmed that the school's Thai ethnic language teaching and learning activities are increasingly expanding in scale and ensuring quality and are trusted by the community.

* About the team of teachers teaching Thai language

Currently, at the Faculty of Training - Son La College, the number of teachers teaching the Thai language subject is 06 full-time teachers. Every year, the Faculty of Training invites 6 teachers from many different specialized departments of the College to participate in teaching the Thai ethnic language.

In 2020, Son La College will invite more visiting teachers in the districts to participate in teaching, specifically: 01 teacher in City, 03 lecturers in
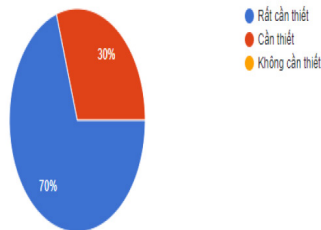
Thuan Chau; 02 teachers in Song Ma district, these teachers all meet the requirements according to Circular No.36/2012/TT-BGDDT dated October 24th, 2012, Circular No.09/2023/TT-BGDDT dated April 18th, 2023 of the Ministry of Education and Training to teaching Thai ethnic language.

4.2. Current situation of information technology application in teaching Thai ethnic language at Son La College
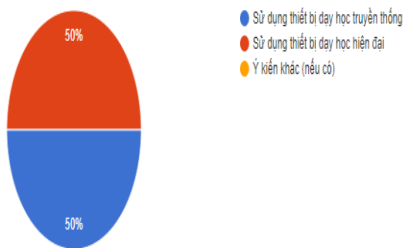
To evaluate the current situation of IT application in teaching Thai ethnic language at Son La College, the author conducted a survey to collect, analyze data and evaluate the current situation of IT application in lesson design and teaching Thai ethnic language at Son La College. On that basis, propose IT applications in teaching Thai ethnic languages at Son La College, provide a process for lesson design with IT applications, contributing to improving the effectiveness of IT applications in teaching, meeting educational requirements in the new period.

Survey results show:

- Current situation of teachers' awareness of the need to apply information technology in teaching Thai ethnic language at Son La College

- Current situation of applying information technology in designing Thai ethnic language lessons

4.3. Applying information technology in teaching Thai ethnic language

This article only mentions two main contents: use teaching software and internet applications.

4.3.1. Use teaching software

The application of IT in teaching in general and teaching Thai ethnic language can be applied in many stages, using many different software and applications. However, our article only mentions the two most popular software.

a) Thai Font software

How to install Font Set

Before installing the Thai Font set on your computer, you need to make sure that you have turned off the Vietnamese typing mode of the Vietnamese keyboards (Vietkey, Unikey,...) running on the computer.

To start the installation, do the following: click on the following icon:

The following window appears:

Figure 01

Press the **Next** key, a window appears as shown below:

Figure 02

This part of the software asks where the Thai font will be installed - should be left as default (no impact)

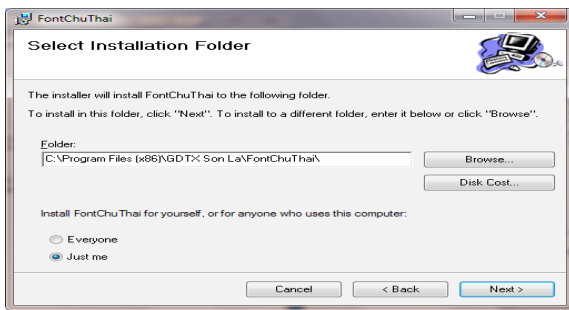Press the **Next** key, a window appears as shown

below:

Figure 03

Press the **Next** key - the software automatically installs and stops, then a window appears as shown below:
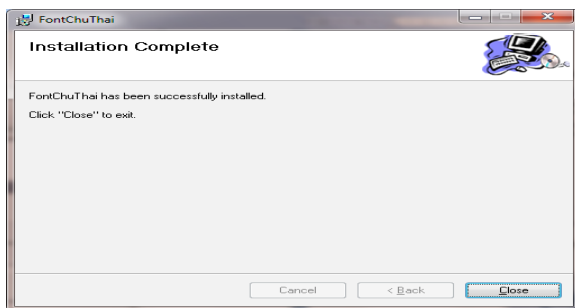

Figure 04

Press the **Close** key to complete the installation.

*) The default installer will install fonts into the operating system's font directory (Folder *\Windows\Font* or *\Winnt\Font*)

*) At the end of the installation, in the system Font folder on the computer there will be 5 new Fonts: Thai Viet Nam chuan, Thai VietNam co, Thai VietNam nghieng, Thai Viet Nam hoa, Thai VietNam dam. Added 2 sets of white Thai Fonts: ThaiTrang_VietNam, ThaiTrang_VietNam co… The above fonts all belong to the format True Type Font.

b) Microsoft powerpoint software

Microsoft Powerpoint software

- To be software included in Microsoft Office tools, used to illustrate presentation tools.

- There is strong effectiveness in graphics and creating effects.

- The interface is similar to other tools in the Microsoft Office set (Word, Excel,...).

A presentation in front of a crowd, conference, seminar... that is attractive to listeners depends not only on your speaking ability but also on the content

you will present and the layout of the presentation, visual aids to help you illustrate that presentation.

Microsoft PowerPoint is an application program of the office software set.

Microsoft Powerpoint has full features so users can edit text presentations, data charts, image and sound presentations... Microsoft Powerpoint has functions that allow users to choose pre-designed presentation styles or design their own presentation style depending on the work requirements or ideas of the presenter.

Teachers can use Microsoft Powerpoint for presentations and can print your presentations for use.

Microsoft Power Point program is a program with many utilities for designing and presenting lectures with many diverse and rich features. This is a great advantage for users (in general) and for teachers teaching Thai ethnic languages (in particular). Microsoft Power Point can create alternative presentation versions for lesson plans, for board presentations, demonstrations of visual models or sound and image effects...

Microsoft Power Point provides many attractive presentation capabilities that easily make beginners attracted to taking advantage of those capabilities more than necessary, leading to misleading or even defeating the goal of the lectures. Therefore, when designing Thai ethnic languagelectures on computers using the Microsoft Power Point program, we must comply with the following principles:

- Always remember the principle: Simple and clear.

- Do not copy the lecture verbatim, but streamline and take advantage of Powerpiont's advantages.

- Consistency in design: do not change the color of each Slide without changing the goal of the lecture. Remember that we need learners to focus on the content of the lesson, not on flashy colors or fun graphics.

- Use similar fonts, frames and backgrounds throughout the lecture. Do not use cumbersome fonts or too many fonts in one Slide.

- You should only include one main idea in each Slide.

- Graphics need to be chosen carefully, otherwise they will distract and create distorted thinking processes for learners.

- When teachers want to design and present lectures, Microsoft Powerpoint will help teachers

do those tasks in a simple and highly effective way.

c) Search and exploit information on the Internet

To search for information on the Internet, we use search sites like Google, the way to operate on search pages is basically quite similar, including the following steps:

- Open browser.

- Open the search page, here it is http://www. google.com.vn

- Enter search content in the box, click the Search with Google button.

- The website will display links to the address with the information you need to find.

- Select an appropriate result and open the corresponding Web page.

To perform a search with more stringent criteria, click on advanced search, then set the necessary parameters.

4.4. The process of building and designing Thai ethnic language lecture with information technology applications

The lecturer's teaching work is carried out through each class period, including the following contents: Prepare lecture plans, teaching process and learn from teaching experiences. This is the daily work of every lecturer. There have been many resrachs discussing the implementation of many lecturers and even though we have learned teaching methods, observed lessons from colleagues, participating in many seminars, performing well in classes is still not easy for those who do teaching every day. Especially the work of teaching the Thai ethnic language, a script that has existed for a long time, but many Thai people can speak and communicate but do not know how to read and write their own ethnic script. To have a successful teaching hour, lecturers first need to prepare a thoughtful lesson plan because lesson planning is a decisive factor in the effectiveness of the teaching hour and to be mandatory for all lecturers before class. However, having a quality lesson plan is not easy. On the other hand, in the Thai ethnic language program, there are many contents presented, depending on the content there are different types of lession. These are new knowledge lecture, practice exercises, review exercises, tests... So designing lession with information technology applications is very necessary in the teaching process.

The purpose of building a lecture design process is to provide a standard process applicable to lecturers of specialized faculties and subject groups when designing lessons.

Regardless of the type of lession, when designing using basic IT, the following process must be followed:

* Step 1: Learn the lecture content

This is the first and extremely important job for teachers when designing lectures. To have a successful teaching hour, teachers need to find appropriate teaching methods, clearly identify basic knowledge, its capacity as well as requirements for developing thinking and training skills for learners. Only then can we discover teaching plans suitable for each content and each requirement of the lecture with different contents:

- Lesson name

- Time

- Determine lesson objectives

- Method

* Step 2: Collect additional documents and expand knowledge

After finding out the required content of the lecture to help learners grasp the knowledge easily, at the same time expand, advance and deepen the teaching content, the teacher needs to collect more documents, additional knowledge from books, search floppy disks, the Internet... appropriate to the lesson content and learners' level. Thus, teachers not only enrich the teaching content, expand knowledge and with knowledge beyond textbooks are very useful and reasonable, contributing to enhancing learners' passion for learning, at the same time create excitement for them to explore and discover new knowledge outside of class time.

- Internet: Reference website addresses.

* Step 3: Develop a scenario plan for designing lectures on the computer

This is an important step in designing lessons that apply information technology, In this scenario, teachers can implement all of their ideas.

- Design idea: Once you have grasped the basic knowledge content, you need to convey and collect all necessary documents, illustrative knowledge for the teaching lecture. The teacher builds a scenario, which shows:

+ Combine teaching methods to promote learners' positivity.

+ Combine the language of computers with the methods of teachers.

+ Create flexibility in the design of presenting lecture on computers.

- Script writing: In designing the lecture, the teacher must anticipate the content of basic knowledge, images, video clips... The number of main and secondary slides needed for the entire lecture.

Then, expressing the script is expressing the intention of the entire written script. But there is one thing worth noting: Lectures designed using IT are also a means of teaching. However, lectures designed using IT are also a means of teaching. Therefore, it still must ensure the necessary basic properties, which are scientific, pedagogical and aesthetic like any other means of teaching.

To design lectures using IT, teachers need to have necessary means of use such as: Computer (with network connection), software and videos with related content...

Step 4: Design lecture of slides: enter content, add documents, format text, create effects

Step 5: Test run, edit information and effects (if necessary) and complete the lecture

After completing the design, select *the Slide Show button* on the left side of the toolbar or press the F5 key to demonstrate the entire designed lecture. Check images, videos, links between Slides...

5. Discussion

Through theoretical and practical research as well as experimenting with lectures designed in a positive direction with IT applications in the new Thai ethnic language program, the article makes the following recommendations:

Firstly, for the application of IT in teaching to be effective, modern teaching means and technical equipment are indispensable (projectors, computers, Internet networks...). Therefore, the school needs to be equipped with more modern and synchronous teaching and technical facilities and equipment, if possible, it can invest in other types of machinery such as: Scanner (Scan) useful for computerization of pictures,... will create more favorable conditions for teachers' creative lecture design process as well as other IT applications in the teaching-learning process.

Secondly, it is necessary to focus on all measures and means to transform thinking, form a new teaching strategy to make that ideology become permanent in every teacher, every school, completely eliminating the old teaching style. Increase additional training for lecturers on innovating teaching methods in a positive direction, as well as improving information technology skills so that teachers can create creative ideas in a positive direction, not using IT as a visual aid, or a substitute for writing on the board. From there, gradually transform the traditional teaching style with modern teaching in a positive direction with IT applications.

Thirdly, the application of IT in lecture design requires a large investment in time, effort, funding, infrastructure conditions,... of teachers. Therefore, there needs to be adequate attention and investment in the lives of teachers. Only then can we motivate and create favorable conditions for teachers to improve their capacity for creative design and teach effectively.

Fourthly, the Ministry of Education and Training and the provincial Departments of Education and Training need to have a program to encourage the application of IT in teaching the Thai ethnic language. It is necessary to invest in building software that matches the content of textbooks and skills training software.

Fifthly, organize performances of teaching lectures with IT applications in schools for the purpose of propagandizing and encouraging individuals and units to organize well the application of IT. At the same time, organize the exchange of experiences on IT applications between faculties in the school.

6. Conclusion

In the process of teaching Thai ethnic languages at Son La College, we have applied information technology in the classroom process and gained a lot of positive results in teaching, learners feel more interested in learning with the software application, Thai writing is now accurate according to the prescribed size, the atmosphere during class is less stressful and boring. The learners were more active in speaking and constructing their lessons. Therefore, the application of information technology in teaching is one of the important and urgent issues. However, no matter how modern technical means are, they cannot completely replace the proactive and creative role of teachers in organizing cognitive activities of learners. Teaching reality shows that teachers still need to write down the board (headings, expanded content of the objectives in a concise way), this helps learners avoid being attracted to the screen and forgetting to take notes.

Applying IT in lucture design requires teachers to invest more effort than previously handwritten lesson plans. Teachers must do well in collecting, processing materials, designing them and also need to have basic knowledge to use technical and IT equipment.

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ỨNG DỤNG CÔNG NGHỆ THÔNG TIN TRONG DẠY HỌC MÔN TIẾNG DÂN TỘC THÁI TẠI TRƯỜNG CAO ĐẲNG SƠN LA

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Công nghệ thông tin phát triển rất nhanh trong những năm gần đây đã có tác động rất lớn đến mọi lĩnh vực của đời sống hiện đại, trong đó có giáo dục. Việc ứng dụng công nghệ thông tin vào dạy học tiếng dân tộc Thái đã trở thành xu hướng tất yếu hiện nay. Nghiên cứu trình bày một số phần mềm công nghệ thông tin, quy trình xây dựng thiết kế bài giảng có ứng dụng công nghệ thông tin trong dạy học tiếng dân tộc Thái tại trường Cao đẳng Sơn La. Việc ứng dụng công nghệ thông tin hiệu quả đòi hỏi sự nhiệt tình, thời gian và nỗ lực của giáo viên cùng với việc không ngừng nâng cao trình độ chuyên môn, đặc biệt là các kiến thức về công nghệ thông tin, các phần mềm ứng dụng... để ứng dụng vào dạy học nói chung và dạy học tiếng dân tộc Thái nói riêng là rất cần thiết hiện nay.

Từ khóa: Công nghệ thông tin; Phần mềm; Thiết kế bài giảng; Dạy học tiếng dân tộc Thái.