THE LANGUAGE LABORATORY

The Language Laboratory is simply a teaching aid which can provide useful practice in both oral and aural skills, and also, to a certain extent, in reading and writing.

Functions

A fully equipped language laboratory must allow the student to:

a) Hear the tape distinctly

b) Stop, rewind and reply the tape at any time

c) Work at his own pace

d) Select materials freely

and the teacher to:

e) Listen to individual student without disturbing them

f) Communication with the student

g) Control programs when he so desires

2. Clarity of Sound Reproduction

This is most important requirements of a language lab. (all the nuances of speech must be faithfully recorded, produced and transmitted to the student.

3. Retracing

Student must be able to the stop the tape rewind it and play any part. This enables him to re-hear sounds and to practice them by imitation

4. Self Pacing

The student must be to work at his/her own speed. The slow learner does much retracing while the fast leaner does less retracing

5 Material Selection

In basic (broadcast) laboratory, the choice of tapes (or video programmes) is solely at the discretion the teacher. In other lab operations (library operations), the student may select and use tape individually.

6 Monitoring

Monitoring is done for the following purpose:
a) to correct error in procedure.
b) to correct linguistic errors, and
c) to evaluate and grade

7 Intercoms

The teacher must be able to communication with any individual student to make comment or corrections.

8 Program Control

The equipment should provide facility for broadcasting to all student and to switch any program being played.

9 Console

This is the control containing one or more tape decks sources to play tape to the whole class. it also has the following switches:
a) Distribution switches to direct the recorded programs to selection student booths

c) Intercom switches to permit a two–way conversation with any individual student

d) group-call switches for announcement to all students who are listening to a particular tape. The switches is also called program-call

  e) all-call switch: for announcements to all students in the laboratory, regardless of the nature of the program to which they are listening

10 **Basic Equipment for Students**

Each student has

(a) headset (earphone and a microphone)

(b) a booth or semi-private enclose and

(c) a tape recorder

LABORATORY OPERATIONS

There are three major forms of language laboratories. These are:

a) broadcast (group study): basic system least expensive, and usable either in a classroom or in a conventional lab.
In this operation, one tape is broadcast to all student, all hear and respond at the same time, with no opportunity to stop the tape and repeat difficult parts. This is called lock-step learning.

b) Library (student handle tape or cassettes): the operation enables a student to select one of hundreds of tape; it permits true self-pacing and self-correction by retracing
In this operation, individualility of study is the keynote; a student may complete one lesson and obtain another at will.

c) Combination (= (a) + (b) broadcast plus some individual recorders)
The most frequently used combination is the broadcast plus library-tape operation. This operation permits the full laboratory to be used for broadcast drills using sources, because the row of booths having recorders is also connected into the broadcast network.

These types of laboratory installations within these forms fall into six categories:

a) Conventional

 b) Remote

 c) Dial

 d) Electronic classrooms

 e) Mobile and

f) Portable.