

Oh La La, Learning French is Fun with Facebook

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Abstract

Undergraduates at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Malaysia are required to pass a foreign language of their choice in order for them to graduate. French, German, Arabic, Japanese & Mandarin are the options for students to choose from. Students will be studying one foreign language for two hours per week in three semesters. As this is only a requirement, many students feel they are forced to study these languages, without much interest on their part. Quite often Mandarin, Japanese and Arabic languages would be their first choice leaving German and French at backstage.

This paper focuses on the studies on how Facebook can be utilised as a platform to motivate students in learning French, especially when contact time is limited in the classroom (28 hours per semester) . Through Facebook students are able to learn and interact with the instructor anytime of the day.

Furthermore French is a foreign language in Malaysia, thus it is not as popular as the other foreign languages. Students also lack exposure and rarely come in contact with French . The only platform for students to be exposed with the French language and culture is through internet and multimedia. In addition, many students believe that they will not be using French in Malaysia compared to Mandarin, Arabic or Japanese.

This study will also be focusing on how the usage of Facebook can actually improve the student's motivation, confidence and also their pronunciation in French. Videos, audios, photos, chat, forum, links and many more in the Facebook features will allow students to participate and communicate with each other in French, as students will only meet once a week for 2 hours in the classroom. This study also reveals that Facebook is not only useful as a platform to improve the learning process but it also develops the special bond between the students and their lecturer. Facebook is not only a social networking tool but through this study it has been found that it can be an important and effective teaching and learning device to foster greater understanding amongst students. It helps students communicate in a fun and exciting way both in and out of classroom.