



'Logging off Teachers': Hazards of Online Language Teaching

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Abstract

From the era of Traditional Language Learning (TLL) to cassette-players and VCRs, language training has come a long way in using highly advanced computer technology-Computer – Assisted Language Learning (CALL). Due to the fact that CALL encourages the much sought-after 'autonomy' in self- learning, it is well accepted by academic fraternity as an effective method of learning. It is a truism that no language centre can now survive without flaunting their high-tech computer facilities available to the student community. However, most language trainers and trainees are unaware of the actual conceptualization and language acquisition process involved in CALL. This paper highlights major challenges involved in CALL, where direct interface is between a human and a machine, when compared to the more conventional TLL, in which human beings have face to face interactions. Importantly, the demand for integration of software/hardware professionals and language experts in creating language programs in Hyper Text Mark-up Language (HTML) or Virtual reality Mark-up language (VRML) is hard to cope with. Further, issues of online language training range from approaches in curriculum development for CALL to identifying the learning strategies of a student in a world where the role of 'human teachers' is arguably obsolete.