



Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) Realities and Realms

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Abstract

Students' these days no longer learn from chalk and board or spending endless time in the library. They turn to Internet or most recent, the mobile phones. It is the latest and most fashionable way of learning. In classroom setting, most often students refer to their mobile phones for online dictionaries or Wikipedia instead of the traditional dictionary to look up for a certain word. The emerging of mobile phones as a tool to assist language learning is not new. Recent studies showed that mobile phones were used to learn vocabulary, taking short quizzes, translations and access to live tutors by utilising voice calls, SMS (Short Messaging System) and MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service). In Malaysia, mobile learning is relatively new. Many features of mobile phones such as voice calls, SMS, MMS, dictionary, thesaurus have become an effective tool in language learning. With the advancement of technology, the newer smart phones such as iphone, Blackberry, HTC, Google Android etc; all the features that traditional mobile phone has, added with faster Web browsing, video recordings, real live chatting could greatly aid the students to learn a target language in an authentic context. A study was carried out with an experimental group where the students need to use their mobile phones to post about their activities to their mBlog. A survey and interviews were carried out afterwards to investigate students' view of language learning through mobile phones. The research was carried out among on and off campus students of UiTM to find out whether mobile learning helps in acquiring second language acquisition.