

E-training of Conversational Skills in Language Learning

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Abstract

When teachers are developing e-learning exercises for a language course they often make the mistake of just providing the student with a lot of drill-exercises on grammar and vocabulary skills. Unfortunately this kind of exercise rapidly becomes dull and is in fact not the best time value for the student. Efficiency and also usability can well be improved.

Learning a new language you are in need of possibilities to practice the acquired grammar and vocabulary. In other words, you need to speak. You need a virtual environment where you can talk about any subject and get useful feedback. In this paper and the accompanying presentation we want to show how you can use social media tools like audioboo and posterous in language learning.

Audioboo is a free, easy-to-use online audio-recording tool. Posterous, on the other hand, is a free online blogging tool where users can send anything in an e-mail and the appliance posts it automatically to the blog. Combining these two tools students can practice a small talk every week. This can be about a specific topic provided by the teacher or something chosen by the students themselves. They record their monologue with audioboo and e-mail it to their blog. Using these tools the teacher doesn't have to stay online 24/7 but can listen to his or her students at a chosen time and give them each individual feedback (also using audioboo).