



Enhancing Language Proficiency in an Online Forum in EAP Course: a Malaysian experience

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Abstract

Online forum or OLF has opened up a new horizon for students to express themselves more frequently in the language courses. It is a communication platform where students can extend their discussion about the subject which they have learnt from a course. The expressions given by students reflect their understanding of the course content, their critical assessment of what they have been learning, and their communication abilities in writing, which include linguistic competence. In Malaysia, learning English as a second language is a great challenge for non-native English language speakers. For the last 20 years, English was perceived as a foreign language rather than a second language to the Malay language. However, with the advancement of technology in the classrooms, the way students learn English in Malaysia may not be the same as it was before (Supyan,2007). In Malaysia, OLF in language courses is widely used as an enhancement to improve the English usage in the country. This research project was carried out in International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Data were collected through open-ended questionnaire and also from online discussions.