

## **Formative Assessment – it is a Must in Web-based Technologies for Language Learning and Teaching**

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### **Abstract**

The high value of formative assessment in language learning and teaching has been well investigated. Formative assessment is seen as a powerful tool for improving learning. Since technologies are enabling an increase in online learning we need more knowledge of language learning in this context.

This paper analyzes formative assessment concerning several course occasions in Beginner Studies in Swedish for International Students. This foreign/second language course is supported and delivered in a virtual learning platform Fronter and lessons are held weekly in Adobe Connect meeting rooms.

Among many other communication possibilities like hand-in, storage and learning materials Fronter is used for following students' progress by using different methods of continuous feedback which is the central aspect in qualitative formative assessment. Feedback is also provided by tutors in Adobe Connect seminars and in MSN orally and in written form after the seminars. After the evaluation the effective forms of feedback from the formative assessment will be adopted in the course design and learning outcomes.

The main resource is the students' reflections about language acquisition and the learning process with their tutors. Another important moment is providing support that helps keep students motivated. This also helps students develop an awareness of the importance of learner autonomy and ultimately independent learning. To inform students about their progress, development of communicative skills and evaluating mistakes are other methods which possibly promote language learning.

The experience shows that formative assessment methods used with e-learning tools improve language learning. The rate of student completion is high in courses where the students follow the course continuously and get continuous feedback. These students have greater chances of passing the course and are satisfied with formal assessment methods. My action research points to the conclusion that it is important to further elaborate formative assessment methods using web-based technologies which show a potential for improvements in formative language assessment.