Using Web 2.0 Tools Blogs and Wikis for Creative Writing Skills Development

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Abstract

Writing is a complex process comprising a number of different stages and a combination of skills the writer himself has to have. The present-day society is the one which can be called technologically-oriented, and the member of this society is nowadays called a new millennium citizen or digital native. That means that people now are born with technology, know it very well and use it every day both in their personal and social lives. The teacher nowadays has to be aware of the different learner with a different learning style, different abilities and needs, the changed teaching curriculum in order to prepare the student to live in such society and be a full and participating member of it. That is why educationalists nowadays have to think of a different teaching-learning environment. The latter now has to be student-centered so that he could fully participate, explore, experiment himself, get the knowledge and understand himself how to use it. Web 2.0 tools such as blogs and wikis could be some of the examples how to motivate students to write collaboratively and individually and in this way acquire the skill of writing in English as a second language. To prove that technology is a powerful tool in teaching students to write in English as a second language, the first year students doing a course of English at Vilnius pedagogical university had writing lectures where they worked on a collaborative Web page wiki. A blog which is essentially a web page with regular diary or journal entries, was used during literature classes with the second year students. The students found the classes motivating and highly engaging as everybody had to participate and felt free to express their ideas while doing creative writing tasks both in groups and on their own.