

New Ways to Develop Reading Skills in a Foreign Language through E-learning Activities

Yuliya Asotska-Wierzba

Tischner European University (Poland)

julia_asotska@yahoo.com.au

Abstract

Reading is an essential skill, especially for adults who are studying at university in order to gain knowledge for their future professional lives. At the moment, the importance of reading is being discussed in various educational publications like *CEFR documents* or *The European Language Portfolio for Learners*. Unfortunately, learning to read effectively in a second language is not an easy task for our students. That is why I have decided to construct an e-learning platform in which the learners of the L2 can develop and practice their reading skills. In this session I will present to the participants of this conference my research on the development of foreign language learners' reading skills. B2 level first-year students at Cracow Pedagogical University participated in the study. All of the e-learning activities are aimed at developing students' autonomy and encouraging them to read critically and reflectively. Furthermore, e-learning activities give students the opportunity for self-assessment, visual thinking and give us the possibility to observe how efficient students' work is in a virtual learning environment (VLE). The presentation will conclude with a demonstration of some examples of the kinds of tasks that might be prepared for learners.

Can such an e-learning platform be another way of engaging our learners with the written word? This talk will invite participants to explore the topic of teaching reading skills to English language learners through e-learning activities.

"Reading can be one of the greatest pleasures we experience throughout our lives"

(Thomas S.C. Farrell, 2009).