Testing and Assessment in E-learning of English Language: the Case of the GAUDEAMUS Program at the University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica, Croatia

Vedrana Čemerin, Marina Manucci
University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica (Croatia)
vedrana.cemerin@vvg.hr , marina.manucci@vvg.hr

Abstract

Gaudeamus is an e-learning platform based on Moodle currently in use at the University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica in the city of Velika Gorica, Croatia. It is primarily used as a means of enhancing teaching efficiency and to improve and transform learning practices. While not exclusively reserved for language learning, it is nevertheless an important tool in language teacher's arsenal since it provides the opportunity to integrate educational activities outside the classroom with classroom lectures and exercises. However, the main focus of this paper is not on its usage as a means of learning, but rather its role in language testing and assessment. It must be noted that the program does not provide the opportunity to assess student's oral proficiency, but it is an invaluable asset in assessing the written proficiency and the knowledge of grammar and vocabulary covered throughout the courses. Considering that English is taught as a language for specific purposes at the University of Applied Sciences, incorporating five specific sets of professional terminologies (optometry, crisis management, computer science, aircraft and motor vehicle maintenance), special attention is paid to the acquisition of professional vocabulary and the subsequent assessment of students' knowledge. Gaudeamus allows teachers to assess and grade essays and written assignments, but also quizzes consisting of multiple-choice, matching, short answer, true/false and gap-fill tasks. The grading process is transparent, with the students being instantly able to see their scores after completing the tests, but only their own scores and not those of other students of the same course or other courses. The use of Gaudeamus as a complementary resource within the general course framework is invaluable in the testing of written language skills and scientific vocabulary proficiency. Therefore, Gaudeamus is an infinitely useful instrument for the achievement of language competence.