ICoNLingua, a New Language Teaching Model

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Abstract

In this paper, we'd like to give an overview of a new language teaching model, the "ICoNLingua" model, a model to teach and learn Italian as a foreign language.

The components of the ICoNLingua model are:

- ICoNLingua Italian language online courses: six courses (from level A1 to level C1 of Common European Framework for Languages), based on the concept of learning by doing. Each course consists of about 1000 activities with automatic correction, and students make exercises such as dragging and dropping words, writing sentences, filling a table or a grid, matching words with images and so on. The main focus of activities are texts, either written or spoken, and belonging to a wide variety of types and genres. Courses can be used both in self –learning and with the help of a tutor.

- ICoNLingua virtual classes: within the ICoNLingua-ADA e-learning platform, students learn Italian through ICoNLingua Italian language online courses and by interacting with a tutor and other students in a virtual class. Tutors propose highly structured activities, consisting of communicative tasks, webquests and writing tasks, selected according to linguistic needs of learners. Tutors answer questions about language online course and give individual or collective feedback to the activities carried out by the students, as well as stimulate students to communicate in the virtual class.

- ICoNLingua tutor community: tutors engaged in the courses belong to the "ICoNLingua community", mainly aimed at sharing teaching materials, exchange views on language teaching issues and implement a common teaching philosophy. Tutors are specialized teachers of Italian as a second or foreign language and are especially trained in specific on-line teaching issues such as: effective methods of distance interaction, motivation of distance students, designing of on-line learning activities, management of forum, chat and other interactive tools, use of tracking tools to monitor and improve students' performance, management of the ICoNLingua-ADA e-learning platform.