From Global Classroom to Virtual Classroom and Beyond; but When Shall We Meet Again?

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Abstract

For more than a decade now the use of ICT in the classroom has gone hand in hand with the methods of active learning. ICT extends the child's immediate learning environment and offers opportunities to extend learning beyond the limits of the classroom. It helps create a conducive environment in which students find learning (and even more language learning) useful, meaningful and fun. It provides new, more exciting and particularly more relevant learning opportunities. Well-planned integration of ICT, active and task-based learning methods helps learners develop strategies, competence and confidence in using language in a way that seems to be most applicative and comfortable for the s. c. Y-generation. Nothing less seems to motivate them more.

In my presentation I intend to present a theoretical context alongside some examples of good practice that resulted from a series of international projects carried out at Osnovna šola Louisa Adamiča Grosuplje. Being always on the front lines in search of new and better models of teaching, and consequently one of the first compulsory (primary and lower-secondary grades) schools in Slovenia to win ELL, our priority has been the implementation of ICT in order to cooperate beyond classroom. The presentation offers an overview of its use in different stages and for different purposes, be it in »global classroom« in late nineties or in current virtual classroom, not to speak of handheld devices which are gradually getting domicile in the learning process. And all this only to conclude that people learn best through personal interaction and technology is therefore really a second best. A combination of both gives optimum results.

References

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