



Using Language Learning Resources on Youtube

Ines Brünner

Leuphana University (Germany)

ines.bruenner@leuphana.de

Abstract

The internet is an ever growing medium for language learning and teaching resources that offer teachers and students alike an enormous amount of possibilities to practice and apply their foreign language skills. Given this information it is still astonishing how many of these resources that are often free of charge are not being used or even known by many language teachers. While knowing the resources seems to be the first step when it comes to using ICT in the foreign language classroom, knowing how to use them creatively and effectively appears to be the even bigger problem. The author introduces different language learning resources available on YouTube and provides ideas on how to use these resources in the foreign language classroom to train different skills and to enhance the language learning experience. The author argues that for an effective implementation during the language learning process the mere presentation of the resources alone is not enough. Instead the detailed description of tasks and assignments is crucial for a successful application in the classroom.

The following questions will be discussed during the presentation: How to search for foreign language learning resources on YouTube? What skills and competencies can be trained? How to successfully incorporate these resources in the foreign language classroom? How can other easy to use applications being used to create valuable task and assignments? How to evaluate the resources? How to figure out which resources my students will like? How to use YouTube for teacher training?

1. Introduction

With more than 1 billion unique users who visit YouTube each month and over 6 billion hours of video that are watched each month on YouTube—that's almost an hour for every person on Earth, and 50% more than last year according to YouTube statistics, YouTube is the largest Video portal and the second largest video search engine. YouTube is localized in 56 countries and across 61 languages [1]. With such a variety of videos available on all topics and in plenty of languages, more than 200 million videos have been claimed by Content ID, it is up to the language teachers and students to use these videos for educational purposes. Many studies have shown that students like and even require to work with educational media however they often lack efficient strategies to find or use digital resources. It's the responsibility of the 21st century educator to make these resources available for students by creating meaningful assignments that enhance the language learning process.

2. Quality criteria for using YouTube as an educational tool

Among the key factors for YouTube's success are the following criteria: Accessibility, you can use it everywhere, any time, and free of charge. It is user-friendly allowing an easy upload of videos that you can subscribe to on different channels. YouTube is authentic and offers rich multicultural content that provides a unique insight into the target culture. The easy connection with other social media enables cooperation, for instance sharing videos and communicating when rating and commenting on videos. It is available on multiple devices including mobile which make it a perfect medium for education. Media agreement, meaning the use of media our students interact with on a daily basis, is an important factor when choosing educational resources.

On the downside, nowadays YouTube is very ad-based and there is a lot of inappropriate content. The availability of videos might change and some videos that are copyright protected are unrightfully uploaded on YouTube.

3. Meaningful language learning through ICT

Considering different aspects of cognition and information processing, meaningful learning requires lower as well as higher order thinking skills [2]. Behaviorist, cognitivist and constructivist approaches of learning are not mutually exclusive but rather complement each other. Learning requires receptive as well as productive skills to allow the learner to connect existing knowledge with new information. At times the learner has a more passive role for instance when processing information and at other times the learner takes over a more active role constructing new knowledge. ICT can support both



processes offering instructional and informational videos fostering receptive skills and demanding productive skills when creating videos or other learning products. These activities incorporate a variety of learning processes as inquiring, experimenting, writing, community building, communicating, designing, visualizing, and assessing that foster meaningful learning [3].

4. Language learning resources on YouTube

The abundance of online materials and resources on YouTube is overwhelming. Among the producers of these materials are media corporations, universities, schools, or major language product providers as well as individuals. They create everything from very professional over semi-professional to rather silly products that can be really attractive and helpful for your students or just a waste of time. A thorough research for interesting and demanding language related videos is time consuming but definitely a good investment for future lesson preparation.

In 2012 YouTube has launched different channels for educational purposes to facilitate the implementation of videos in education creating a safer environment for students without inappropriate contents or distracting videos <http://www.youtube.com/education>. The subject specific categories make it even easier to find the right resources that will be continuously developed in the future.

The following collection of YouTube language learning resources offers an insight into the endless list of videos that, if embedded in meaningful assignments, can enhance the language learning experience. The following list includes the name of the YouTube channel, the web address as well as a brief description. Due to the authors background in German many of the resources are in German but can often easily be found in other languages too. These links serve as examples that give new users a first idea about the variety of language learning resources available on YouTube.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL	WEB ADDRESS AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION
▪ DAADBonn	http://ec.europa.eu/languages/documents/doc529_en.pdf Videos about student life in Germany with subtitles in English and German (culture, listening, vocabulary, translation, ...)
▪ GermanPod101.com	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWcZGv_fWR8 <i>Learn German – German in Three Minutes</i> ; Available for many languages
▪ magauchsein	http://www.youtube.com/user/magauchsein <i>Easy German</i> ; Available for German, Arabic, Italian, Malay ...
▪ Girls4teaching	http://www.youtube.com/user/girl4teaching?feature=watch 5 minute languages lessons for free; Available for many languages
▪ 500Courses	http://www.youtube.com/user/500Courses?feature=watch extra@German; Stories for Language learners (each episode ca. 24 minutes) also available with subtitles; Available for many other languages
▪ bookboxinc	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZ7Vsi4W3BE The Greatest Treasure: Learn German with subtitles - Story for Children "BookBox.com"; Pronunciation, listening, ...; Available for many other languages
▪ myBabelyou	http://www.youtube.com/user/myBabelyou?feature=watch Language course by Babelyou
▪ ezigerman	http://www.youtube.com/user/ezigerman?feature=watch only a few videos but helpful for slow learners
▪ DeutscheWelle	http://www.youtube.com/user/deutschewelle/about German culture
▪ VOA Learning English	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33qbMCuJ5XI (Voice of America) Learn English with news reports
▪ Cambridge English TV	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqtxPsD9YKs Useful information and tips about teaching and learning English
▪ MadinahArabic	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g6QS67UsmQ Arabic Alphabet
▪ meroba34	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttv2E10oGIM Explore Julia's German lessons for beginners and advanced learners
▪ Movies - Worldwide	http://www.youtube.com/user/YouTubeMoviesWW Complete feature films and documentaries? categorized by language
▪ TeacherPhilEnglish	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2US4cZJWrus English grammar animated videos



Different approaches as the flipped classroom, task- and project-based learning, and learning by teaching, offer a variety of learning scenarios that can be used for learning with YouTube videos. Watching an instructional video about some difficult grammar concept provide additional visualization and animations that are helpful to process cognitive information. Listening to videos while watching a scene helps to provide a context for sentences or phrases that otherwise might be difficult to understand. Subtitles in both native and target language help the student to understand the video even on their own. Cultural specific information are much more interesting and meaningful if seen in context. Adding annotations allow for additional information or even questions to be integrated into the video. Analyzing a complete movie with an intermediate or advanced class provides endless possibilities for language learning.

5. Searching for language related videos on YouTube

Knowing the right keywords is an important step for a successful YouTube search. The following keywords will help you to get started. Replace the word "German" with your target language:

German, learn languages, teaching German for beginners, advanced German, German grammar, German pronunciation, easy German, How to learn German, Speak German, Business German, German Karaoke songs, German spelling, language videos, learn a new language, language learning method, language learning motivation, language learning music, documentary, feature film, learn German with subtitles, foreign movies, animated grammar videos, German commercials, ...

Tip: Using the target and native language or language of instruction to search the keywords often leads to different results in each language.

Searching for interesting resources can also become a class project or homework assignment. With a tool like YouTube you can share and collect videos with your class. YouTube offers the possibility to create your own account where you can subscribe to different YouTube channels that you can easily make available to your students. Making the evaluation part of your lesson raises awareness for the quality of the resource as well as for its usefulness. In an increasingly crowdsourcing environment students are used to share their opinion and vote on ideas and products.

6. Additional tools to create demanding assignment to foster meaningful learning

While the above examples offer language training that predominantly support receptive skills, additional tools from the internet provide further options for a productive training of 21st century skills that not only integrate language skills but also media competency and plenty of possibilities for creative and cooperative learning that include lower as well as higher order thinking skills. Producing your own video, animation or picture story provides a lot of interesting and fun ways to use the foreign language in new and creative ways. The following collection of links lists a few tools from the web and some ideas for creative and meaningful learning. Tutorials are available on the Web or on YouTube, also see Ramirez 2010 [4].

NAME	WEB ADDRESS AND BRIEF EXPLANATION
▪ Audacity	http://audacity.sourceforge.net/?lang=de Record your voice
▪ Pixton	http://www.pixton.com/de/ Create a digital photo story with dialogues and voice over
▪ Animoto	http://animoto.com/ Easy video editing software
▪ Movie Maker	http://windows-movie-maker.softonic.de/ Free video editing software
▪ Camtasia	http://www.techsmith.com Video editing software, records everything on your screen, integration of quizzes possible
▪ ScreenFlow (for Mac),	http://screenflow.softonic.de/mac Video editing software
▪ VoiceThread	http://voicethread.com/ Create and share videos, presentations that everyone can vote or comment on
▪ Go Animate	http://goanimate.com/ Create an animated video
▪ PowerPoint	http://www.microsoft.com/powerpoint Easy way to create digital photo story with text bubbles, subtitles, voiceover, etc.

7. Roadmap for language learning with technology

The roadmap is a metacognitive tool that supports the students understanding of the learning process. It offers the students a detailed descriptions of the assignments that can define the learning goals/objects, methods, materials, resources, strategies and assessment tools. Students can easier visualize and follow the step-by-step instructions that will enable them to become more autonomous learners. Preparing and adapting a map like this will also help the educator to better plan the different steps of the learning and teaching scenario.

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ROADMAP FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING WITH YOUTUBE VIDEOS (Step-by-Step instructions)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Searching for useful resources on YouTube - Open account on YouTube - Subscribing to language related channels on YouTube 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choosing adequate media tools e.g. video editing software, etc. (Movie Maker, VoiceThread, ...) - Learn how to use them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating meaningful assignments for students including step-by-step instructions for - Provide assessment tools or information about assessment procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close introductions - step by step instructions
<p>Pre-watching activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defining topics and learning goals - Getting to know certain aspects about the target culture - Training listening, grammar and vocabulary in context 	<p>Watching activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch YouTube video - Take notes about grammar vocabulary and cultural aspects - Goal: language skills and intercultural competence 	<p>Post-watching activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss and reflect on cultural and language specific aspects of the video - Translate new words, copy useful expressions - Goal: language skills and intercultural competence 	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn how to edit videos - Minimal video editing - Goal: language skills and intercultural competence
<p>Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review grammar, vocabulary, etc. - Goal: language skills 	<p>Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practice the use of the video editing software - Goal: L-skills 	<p>Write:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write a dialogue/script for a 2 to 3 minute scene with your partner(s) - Goal: language skills 	<p>Record and interact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Record a video - Edit the video - Goal: language skills
<p>Share and discuss videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal: interpersonal and intrapersonal skills (critical reflection of personal and other students' work) 	<p>Revise dialogue and script</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal: language skills 	<p>Improve video editing skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get additional technical support from teacher or fellow student or offer support - Goal: E-skills; interpersonal skills (cooperation) 	<p>Record and interact again with script</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal: language skills
<p>Upload and share your video</p>	<p>Comment and assess videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each student should at least comment on two videos via YouTube, VoiceThread or using an assessment/evaluation form - Goal: provide positive and negative feedback; accept constructive criticism 	<p>Course or Project evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each student reflects on the project or class and completes a course evaluation form - Goal: provide feedback for teacher to help improve the teaching and learning scenario 	<p>Group discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do you think about the project? - Goal: language skills and intercultural competence

8. Students' evaluation of ICT

Once you create your own YouTube account and add the students as participants, students can vote on existing or newly created videos. VoiceThread.com is also a very useful tool to upload videos that fellow students can vote on by using written comments as well as voice or video messages. In addition, you can use course evaluation forms that you hand to your students to discuss the implementation of ICT in your language class.

9. Consequences for lesson planning and teacher training

The training of the 21st century teacher is as important as the training of 21st century skills for our students. YouTube EDU <http://www.youtube.com/education> provides community specific knowledge dedicated to education and includes thousands of academic related videos for learning. There are plenty of tutorials teachers can use to train their media skills or learn about using ICT in foreign language learning situations (also see <http://www.youtube.com/education>). To see more examples for using videos in the classroom or tutorials on how to organize and plan learning and teaching scenarios



visit TeacherTube.com and use the channel World Languages. Due to the continuous evolution of the web and the variety of tools that become available, ongoing teacher training will remain an important part in developing 21st century educators and students. While many educators are open and eager to use ICT in the foreign language classroom, there is still hesitation as to how much work and preparation as well as media competency is required. One solution could be the reduction of contents to enable students and teacher to train language as well as media skills.

10. Conclusion and future outlook

YouTube has the potential to be a useful educational tool that offers endless opportunities for formal and informal student centered language learning approaches. To engage in meaningful learning scenarios, learners must be enabled to connect previous knowledge to new information as well as incorporate higher and lower order thinking skills. The "Roadmap" is a metacognitive strategy and tool suggested by the author that can or better should be adapted in a flexible manner to the respective classroom situation. Nevertheless, acquiring 21st century skills through meaningful project-based teaching and learning scenarios requires effort and time. Consultations and the support of the student during the language learning process become more and more important.

With the evolution of the Web YouTube will provide a broader spectrum of functionality for instance using exact word and phrase search that will prove to be especially useful for language learning. The automatic creation of subtitles that is already available for some videos will improve over time and provide additional opportunities for meaningful language learning. The integration of assessment tools and tools for cooperation will improve the use of YouTube as an educational tool. The YouTube channels dedicated to education will hopefully grow in future and offer a protected environment for learning and community specific knowledge bases.

Useful links

- About YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/yt/about/index.html> How to get started.
- <http://www.word2word.com/youtube.html> Language learning on YouTube. YouTube language learning videos sorted by language.
- How to add text to your videos? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OggpZ2-2vWY>
- <http://www.youtube.com/yt/playbook/annotations.html> Inserting YouTube annotations or subtitles
- How to Use Youtube Video Editor Tutorial? Joseph Bison - Edit Videos Online <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDd0fl3f5TE>
- How to make a video: <http://goanimate.com/video-maker-tips/how-to-make-a-video/> or <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Video-in-Windows-Movie-Maker>

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