

Technology and Foreign Language Learning and Teaching

Nurairhan Mat Daud



IIUM PRESS
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

TECHNOLOGY AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

Editor
Nuraihan Mat Daud



IIUM Press

Published by:

IUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition 2012
©IUM Press, IUM

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without any prior written permission of the publisher.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Tehnology and Foreign Language Learning and Teaching/Nurairhan Mat Daud
ISBN: 978-967-418-027-0

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysian – MAPIM (Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by
IUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves
Batu Caves Centre Point
68100 Batu Caves
Selangor Darul Ehsan

Contents

Preface	vi
Language Teachers' Web Surfing Skills: Teachers' Knowledge of Metasearch Engines and Advanced Search Facilities Nuraihan Mat Daud	1
Challenges Facing Primary and Tertiary Language Teachers in Implementing CALL Nor Shidrah Binti Mat Daud & Nuraihan Mat Daud	12
Managing Language Learning Using MOODLE Mohd Azrul Azlen Abd Hamid, Adeline Low Hui Lin, Shahrizal Idzuan Wahab Abd Rahman & Nuraihan Mat Daud	30
Designing Language Activities Using Second Life Mohd Azrul Azlen Abd Hamid, Adeline Low Hui Lin & Nuraihan Mat Daud	45
Developing Arabic Writing Skills Using Facebook Wan Rusli Wan Ahmad & Nuraihan Mat Daud	57
SMS-aided Teaching of Reading in Malaysia: Factors to Consider Nuraihan Mat Daud & Zamnah Husin	68
Arabic Language Learners' Font Preferences Nurkhamimi Zainuddin & Nuraihan Mat Daud	81
Young Learners' Use of ICT Facilities and the Development of Their Language skills Nuraihan Mat Daud	90
The Relationship Between Learning Style and Writing Performance of Young Learners in Powerpoint Assisted Classes Radzita Radzi & Nuraihan Mat Daud	99
Factors Affecting the Teaching of Writing Using WIKI Nuraihan Mat Daud, Nor Shidrah Mat Daud & Zailin Shah Yusof	113
Contributors	122
Index	124

CHAPTER 7

ARABIC LANGUAGE LEARNERS' FONT PREFERENCES

NURKHAMIMI BIN ZAINUDDIN
NURAIHAN MAT DAUD

The aim of this study is to analyse font type, font size and line length preferred by Arabic language learners when reading on-screen. Studies done on other languages, especially those using Roman scripts, have shown that font size and type affect ease of reading. In this study, Arabic language learners were asked to identify e-books that were easy to read. Majority of them found 14-point font size Simplified Arabic easy to read. However, Arial Unicode was more attractive than the other fonts. Results also indicated that most of them preferred to read texts on full-screen line length.

Keywords: Arabic language learning, font type, font size, line length.

INTRODUCTION

The screen is fast becoming a ubiquitous feature of life. Yet, like reading texts on paper, reading on screen has its problem. Glare, font size, and font type are among the problems that are associated with the use of computers. Bernard et al. (2002) studied adult preference for font type and size by measuring their reading efficiency, reading time, legibility of font type, attractiveness of text, and font preference, and found that 12-point Times New Roman and Arial font type were read faster than other fonts and sizes that were tested. Apart from that, Arial and Courier font types were considered the most legible fonts. It was also noticed that Arial font type with 12-point size was the preferred font when it is an online text.

Chaparro (2006) compared the fonts used in previous editions of Windows with new fonts created for Windows Vista. They found that the fonts used in Windows Vista such as Cambria and Constantia were more legible than the traditional Times New Roman. In a study conducted by Moret-Tatay and Pereal (2011) comparison was made between words written using serif and sans serif fonts, and found that sans serif was the preferred choice for on-screen texts.

Colour is another factor that could affect ease of reading. Humar, Gradisar and Turk (2008) investigated the impact of color combinations on the legibility of a Web page presented on a calibrated cathode ray tube display. The analysis shows that colour combinations did affect identification of characters. The results are better for colours with greatest luminance contrast when the backgrounds are dark. Where the length of text is concerned, Dyson (2004) and McPherson et al. (2003) found that adults preferred to read medium line length with approximately 65 to 75 characters-per-length.