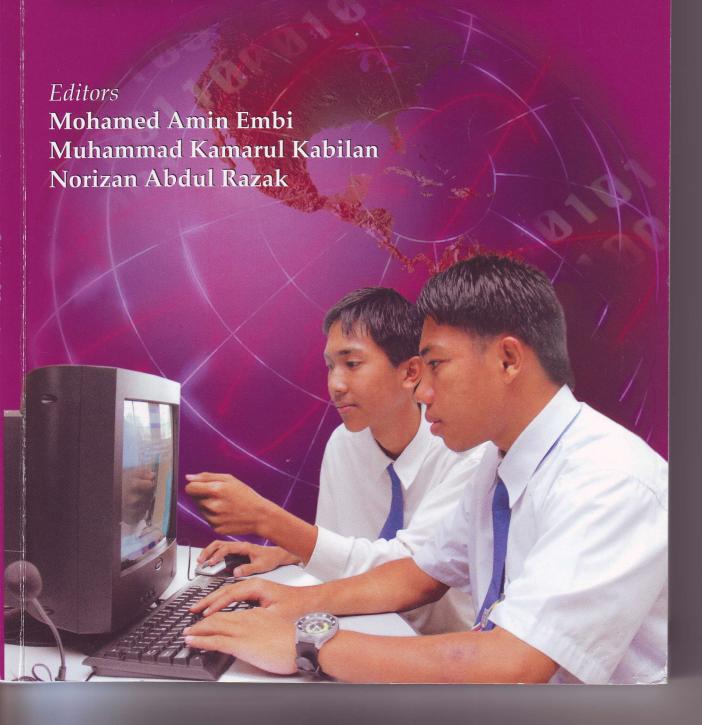
READINGS IN ONLINE LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING RESEARCH & PRACTICE



Readings in Online Language Learning and Teaching:

Research & Practice

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CONTENTS

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Chapter II Indiana

Chapter 13 Lanut

List of Countillance

Chapter III

Preface Dedication		iii iv
Chapter 1	Introduction to Online Language Learning and Teaching: Research and Practice Muhammad Kamarul Kabilan Mohamed Amin Embi Norizan Abdul Razak	1
Chapter 2	Exploring Learning in a Computer-based Environment in a Malaysian Secondary ESL Classroom Nadzrah Abu Bakar Peter Mickan	6
Chapter 3	Synchronous Online Discussion: Its Contributions to Language Learning Rozina Abdul Ghani Nuraihan Mat Daud	
Chapter 4	E-Mail Communication in a Distance Learning Programme and its Implication to Language Teaching and Learning Harlina Yunus	38
Chapter 5	An Online Assessment of Language Proficiency: Development and Challenges Wong Fook Fei Mohd Sallehhudin Abd Aziz Hazita Azman Norizan Abdul Razak	57
Chapter 6	Language Testing Using Computers: Examining the Effect of Test-Delivery Medium on Students' Performance Sumarni Maulan	69

Chapter 7	Identifying Dimensions and Attributes of Writing Proficien Development of a Framework of a Computer-Based Essay Marking System for Malaysian ESL Learners	cy: 84
	Saadiyah Darus	
Chapter 8	A Study of Students' Perceptions and Attitudes Towards ES Writing Using Computer-Based Learning Materials Cheong Lai Wah	SL 110
Chapter 9	Learning from Our Students: Technology in the ESP Classroom Renu Gupta	133
Chapter 10	Trainees' Perception on E-Learn: A Malaysian-based ESL Website Mohamed Amin Embi Azmi Abdul Latiff	147
Chapter 11	In-Service and Pre-service English Language Teachers' Perceptions of Webquests Arshad Abd Samad Noreen Noordin	157
Chapter 12	An Insight towards the Development of a Vocabulary Courseware for ESL Learners Wan Nor Aishah Wan Omar Norizan Abdul Razak	171
Chapter 13	Using the e-Lesson Creator to Enhance Teacher Criticalness in Planning Meaningful Language Lessons Muhammad Kamarul Kabilan Abdul Rashid Mohamed Sharifah Noraidah Syed Idros	192
List of Contributors		203

Chapter

3

SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE DISCUSSION: ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO LANGUAGE LEARNING

Rozina Abdul Ghani Nuraihan Mat Daud

INTRODUCTION

any institutions are opting for web-based teaching and learning. Some courses are offered online to serve a bigger group of students. This includes the teaching of second and foreign languages. Various steps have been taken to integrate the technology in teaching. The internet facilities may be manipulated to encourage students to interact in the target language. The textual nature of such communication allows users to look at students' language usage. The constraints imposed by the technology and students' limited knowledge of the language may, however, influence the quality of language production. This chapter examines the potential of the chat facilities as a means of classroom communication. The study focuses on the computer-mediated exchanges among intermediate ESL/EFL students of the International Islamic University Malaysia.

STUDIES IN RELATED AREA

Studies on Computer-assisted Classroom Discussion (CACD) or Computer-mediated Classroom Discussion (CMCD) have suggested that this kind of activity can increase learner's production of language and/or ideas, and has an equalizing effect on participants (Ortega, 1997; Warschauer, 1998). Research in the area of Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC) has reported the