

# READINGS IN ONLINE LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING RESEARCH & PRACTICE

*Editors*

Mohamed Amin Embi

Muhammad Kamarul Kabilan

Norizan Abdul Razak





# Readings in Online Language Learning and Teaching: *Research & Practice*

*Editors*

Mohamed Amin Embi  
Muhammad Kamarul Kabilan  
Norizan Abdul Razak



KARISMA PUBLICATIONS SDN. BHD. (519631-P)

SHAH ALAM

2008



**KARISMA PUBLICATIONS SDN. BHD.** (519631-P)

No 19, Jalan Juruanalisis U1/35,  
Hicom-Glenmarie Industrial Park,  
40150 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan  
Tel: 603-55692430/2431/2435  
Fax: 603-55694322  
E-maill: karismap@hotmail.com  
Laman web: www.karisma.com.my

© KARISMA PUBLICATIONS SDN. BHD. (519631-P) 2008

First published 2008

**ISBN 978 983 195 431 7**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieved system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of Karisma Publications Sdn. Bhd. (519631-P).

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Reading in online language learning and teaching : research & practice / editors Mohamed Amin Embi, Muhammad Kamarul Kabilan, Norizan Abdul Razak.

ISBN 978-983-195-431-7

1. Language and the internet. 2. English language--Study and teaching. 3. Internet in education. I. Mohamed Amin Embi. II. Muhammad Kamarul Kabilan. III. Norizan Abdul Razak. 371.3344678

*Texts setted by*

Palatino Linotype 11/14 pt

*Printed in Malaysia by*

MAXIMA COLOUR SEPARATION SDN. BHD. (531333-X)

Lot 1314, Batu 8 1/2, Lembah Kinrara,  
Jalan Puchong, Puchong Jaya,  
47100 Puchong, Selangor Darul Ehsan.



## CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>		iii
<i>Dedication</i>		iv
<b>Chapter 1</b>	Introduction to Online Language Learning and Teaching: Research and Practice <i>Muhammad Kamarul Kabilan</i> <i>Mohamed Amin Embi</i> <i>Norizan Abdul Razak</i>	1
<b>Chapter 2</b>	Exploring Learning in a Computer-based Environment in a Malaysian Secondary ESL Classroom <i>Nadzrah Abu Bakar</i> <i>Peter Mickan</i>	6
<b>Chapter 3</b>	Synchronous Online Discussion: Its Contributions to Language Learning <i>Rozina Abdul Ghani</i> <i>Nuraihan Mat Daud</i>	21
<b>Chapter 4</b>	E-Mail Communication in a Distance Learning Programme and its Implication to Language Teaching and Learning <i>Harlina Yunus</i>	38
<b>Chapter 5</b>	An Online Assessment of Language Proficiency: Development and Challenges <i>Wong Fook Fei</i> <i>Mohd Sallehuddin Abd Aziz</i> <i>Hazita Azman</i> <i>Norizan Abdul Razak</i>	57
<b>Chapter 6</b>	Language Testing Using Computers: Examining the Effect of Test-Delivery Medium on Students' Performance <i>Sumarni Maulan</i>	69



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



## Chapter

# 3

### SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE DISCUSSION: ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO LANGUAGE LEARNING

*Rozina Abdul Ghani*

*Nuraihan Mat Daud*

#### INTRODUCTION

**M**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