Principles for Designing Blended Language Courses

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Aims

• Brief history of technology in language education
• Definition: Blended Language Learning
• Reasons for adopting Blended Language Learning
• 6 Principles for designing Blended Language Learning programmes
• Challenges in implementing Blended Language Learning
Questions for Reflection

1. What are some benefits of integrating technology in language education?
2. How do you use technology in your classroom?
3. What are some of the disadvantages of technology in language education?
A Brief History of Technology in Language Education

1960s Audiolingual Method (ALM):
- introduced the language laboratory (Murphy, 2001)

1990s Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL):
- software: fill-in-the-blank exercises and multiple-choice assessment items (Sokolik, 2014)

2000s Web 2.0 tool:
- Web 2.0 tools: blogs, wikis, video sites and social networking sites (Sokolik, 2014)

Technology-Enhanced Language Learning (TELL):
- Because of Web 2.0 tool, technology became an integral component (Brown & Lee, 2015)

Blended Language Learning (BLL)
What is Blended Language Learning (BLL)?

Blended Language Learning (BLL) is the combination of the communicative face-to-face (F2F) classroom with digital technologies, which includes Web 2.0 online tools (Sharma & Westbrook, 2016).

The two extremes in BLL (Adapted from Reinders, 2012)
Why adopt a Blended Learning Approach?

**Improved Pedagogy:**
- A sensitivity to the particular learners’ needs, context and social environment (Kumaravadivelu, 2001)

**Increased Access and Flexibility:**
- English exposure (Richards, 2015)
- Boosting authentic communicative interaction (Chapelle, 2005, cited in Richards, 2015)

**Increased Cost-Effectiveness:**
- Students don’t need to pay for extra F2F instruction
- Course Management System (CMS) simplifies the process of monitoring classes, students’ attendance, and learning (Richards, 2015)
6 Principles for designing BLL Courses

1. Input
2. Noticing
3. Interaction
4. Automaticity
5. Lexical chunks (formulaic language)
6. Feedback
### Key terms

Match the terms on the left with the definitions on the right.

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A Pedagogy-led Approach for BLL

1. Input:

- The **quantity** and **quality** of **input** is the reason for fast L1 acquisition (Ellis & Wells 1980, cited in Ellis, 2014).

- The same is true for Second Language Acquisition (SLA) (Ellis, 2014).
2. Noticing:

- Only the forms that have been **consciously noticed** could become part of a learner’s language (Schmidt & Frota1986, cited in Richards, 2015)

- Noticing could best function in a F2F classroom where teachers can **assist** and **scaffold** learners to learning opportunities (McCarthy, 2016)
A Pedagogy-led Approach for BLL

3. Interaction:

- **Information gap tasks** helps learners to **collaborate** and **negotiate meaning** to make input **comprehensible** (Long, 1996, cited in Thornbury, 2016).

- Teachers should create an environment in which learners feel **confident** and **motivated** to interact (Brown & Lee, 2015).
Thread: What is Educational Technology?

Demo Student One
What is Educational Technology?
After reading the weeks assignment educational technology is so much than I believed before reading chapter 1. As a educator today's educational system we must incorporate the standards of ISTE into lesson planning and classroom. Our students are being bombarded with many opportunities to touch the world on a global bases but, why we keep them in lass the 21st century because our lack of knowledge and unwillingness to ramp our teaching methodology.

Demo Student Two
RE: What is Educational Technology?
Right now and for the near future it's money. I wonder what the objections will be when money is not the issue.

Demo Student Three
RE: What is Educational Technology?
My take on what I believe your post emphasizes is that many of the historical models of educational technology were hampered by limitations imposed by closed systems. The natural order of the business world is to lock in customers and protect profits at all cost, even when the end user experience is hampered. The pressures of lower cost and more openly available tools should help overcome this barrier moving forward.

Demo Student Four
RE: What is Educational Technology?
I agree wholeheartedly Keshia. All educators have a role to play in shaping our next generation. Teachers must move from simplicity to complexity and design lessons that prepares this generation to compete in a global technological society.

Demo Student Five
RE: What is Educational Technology?
I agree. Our students have more exposure to the world than some of our teachers do so we must definitively have to reconsider our old teaching styles to meet the needs of this new generation.
4. Automaticity:

- More time should be given to fluency activities which primarily focus on **meaning**, **purpose** and **interaction** (Brown & Lee, 2015; Ellis, 2014).
A Pedagogy-led Approach for BLL

5. Chunks:

- e.g. *where is ______?*, *Can I have a _____?*

- Formulaic language is used more by native speakers than advanced language learners (Foster, 2001, cited in Ellis, 2014).

- The online component must provide activities that “…encourage and facilitate the *acquisition* and *use* of formulaic language” (Thornbury, 2016).
6. Feedback:


- Feedback should be sufficient to allow learners to reconstruct their interlanguage (Chapelle, 2001, cited in Thornbury, 2016, p. 29).
The Effects of ICT

The Social and Economic Effects of ICT

We are now in an "information age" and our society is very dependent on information storage and communication. Around the World millions of people and companies are dependent on computers to process information. Some of the main uses of computers are based around advertising. Software technologies such as the Internet have created and opened new paths never thought imaginable before. Computers are constantly being updated and upgraded so that they are capable of executing most 21st century tasks. Below is a list of programs, applicable to computers that are used worldwide.

Computers, Software and the Internet

Microsoft Excel Databases: Allows the user to store any type of information whether it be numerical or alphabetical.

Microsoft Word Document: Enables the user to construct letters and word-based documents, then able to forward to any other machine via the Internet.

Internet: A super technological space often referred to as the “information superhighway”. Hundreds and thousands of people are able to access the Internet through their computer.
Challenges in Implementing BLL

**Challenges for Teachers:**
- Many teachers have not been trained to teach BLL courses.
  - *Possible solution:* Starting with one systematic BLL course which includes pre-and post-test phases (Richards, 2015).

**Challenges for Students:**
- Student often don’t have basic computer skills.
  - *Possible solution:* Organizing a short computer literacy courses (e.g. ICDL).
- Some students value their printed materials and they don’t want to go entirely online (Bilgin, 2013).
  - *Possible solution:* Giving learners the option to choose

**Challenges in Finding the Right Blend:**
- There is no perfect blend (Hockly, 2011).
  - *Possible solution:* F2F component outweighs the online component.
References


Hockly, N., 2011. Five things you always wanted to know about blended learning (but were afraid to ask). English Teaching Professional, (75), p. 58.


