

Computer Assisted Learning Reading and Language Software

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Abstract

The question that occupies the educational community of the elementary school is based on how to use computers in order to assist the "weak students" or the students who don't have the school language as their first language. Teacher may use the computer either for teaching or for testing the students or for both of them. The student may use the computer either as an information source or as a communication mean or as a learning tool.

This study deals with the development of educational software which aims to assist the "weak students" during their initial reading stages. It is an integrated language learning system [ISL]. It follows the curriculum sections, supports learning theories and its evaluation takes place in this framework. This software application has the main program and two auxiliary programs, the student program and picture-word update program. The main program contains six distinct parts: tutorial, words reading, grammar, syntax and glossary and the child chooses which part of the program wants to work with. The six parts of the main program are:

- Tutorial part familiarises the child with the use of the mouse and with the program's operation.
- Word: introduces the child to the word identification process (whole-word-method).
- Reading: introduces the child to the reading process.
- Grammar: introduces the child to its language's grammar. Greek language grammar is divided into ten parts. There is a separate section for each part.
- Syntax: introduces the children to the structure of the simple and complex sentences. There is a separate section for each syntax level.
- Glossary: contains the program's words. The child accesses them by picking with the mouse the word's letters and the corresponding picture appears on the screen.

The two auxiliary programs are two database programs. One is the student program, which keeps the students' records, and the other one is the word-picture program, where words and pictures can be added, modified or deleted.

The Student database (Mathite program) keeps the students' records. In its database there are the children's names, the date, the program part that the children have tried, the repetitions, starting and ending time and the number of correct and incorrect responses.

The Content database program contains the contents with their corresponding pictures or video. This data base can be updated and modified according to the child's needs