

Language Learning and Teaching Project

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Abstract

Learning one or more foreign languages is for many people not only necessary for job-related reasons. In order to support this longlife learning a friendly environment for languages has to be created, which supports to acquire a foreign language in a practice-oriented manner. The traditional language training is in many cases dominated by cognitive aspects and provides too little possibilities to gain experience in pronunciation and intonation of the foreign language as well as to practice communication within a contingency approach.

If learning a language means on the one hand to acquire language competence by auditory processing approach and on the other hand to bring the use of language in every-day-life-situations into focus then the most effective way to learn a foreign language is to live in the country where the target language is spoken. The second-best alternative is to use native speakers as language trainers. Both ways are mostly out of question because of time and money constraints.

Using the "Electronic Voice&Ear-Trainer" we are able to provide the students a native language level both with regard to pronunciation, melody and intonation as well as with regard to the updated use in the country of the target language.

The aim is to develop teaching modules based on the "Electronic Voice&Ear-Trainer", which are used as an amendatory component in the education of the students in the (native and) foreign language as well as in the continuing education of the teachers:

based on the auditory comprehension

comprising the contingency concept (scenario planning - application-oriented, concretely realizable examples of language and communication)

supporting the communicative competence

boosting the intercultural communication

improving the ability to understand 'foreign' culture and behaviour

creating a language friendly environment

We pursue an integrative project approach. On the basis of the structure defined by the lecturers the students develop the dialogues in form and content as well as the scenarios. Following happens the learning of the foreign language using situational topics – active by talking and acting, passive by listening. The use of the "Electronic Voice&Ear-Trainer" gains not only more language competence in a shorter time but it also affords especially students with hearing impairments an auditory access to the (native and the) chosen foreign language:

sociocultural competence SETTING of LANGUAGE (subjects of activity, topics, general conceptual statements)

communicative competence ACTING of LANGUAGE (intention of the language, strategies of language)

language-structural competence SYSTEM of LANGUAGE (vocabulary, grammar, including pronunciation and orthography)



The system provides the basis for building up a system of ,distant learning'.