

## **Effectiveness of CALL in Teaching (L2) the Modern Greek Language in Higher Education - A study in North America**

**Georgia Kafka**

E-mail: [bengfp567@gmail.com](mailto:bengfp567@gmail.com)

Greek Ministry of Education (Greece)

### **Abstract**

The need for teaching foreign languages has led to the emergence of a new interdisciplinary field named CALL (Computer-Assisted Language Learning) in the 1980s. The rapid evolution of this field is interlinked with important advances in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) because these technologies can provide the tools and assistance of teaching a second or foreign language. Such CALL courseware is useful especially when this language is Modern Greek which belongs to the category of languages that are less spoken and taught. Since the 1990s in Greece the advantages of using ICT have increasingly been recognized and CALL been applied in the educational environment.

Teaching Modern Greek Language as a second or foreign language (L2) has followed the wide-spread use of Information and Communication Technologies. Later some Greek Universities as well as Universities in North America started to produce educational software for assisting in teaching Modern Greek as a second or foreign language in the last decade. The main idea of integrating CALL material in the classrooms of the higher education institutes was developed because of the needs of the learners in today high developed technological world. The main aim of this development is teaching Modern Greek university students and adults as a foreign language in an appropriate and effective way.

Before examining the effectiveness of CALL material in learning Modern Greek, it is necessary to define what effectiveness means in this context. Effectiveness is the power to produce effects or intended results. The change of the learning process through CALL courseware depends on the language instructors and their computer skills as well as their training in CALL material. The instructors play an important role to the learning process and their awareness is necessary because they have applied their knowledge of using computers and CALL material to their students. This study also examines the (L2) learners' Modern Greek profile as well as the advantages of the use of computer software in the university classrooms.

CALL courseware started to play a significant role in the Modern Greek teaching university environment of the last decade, and especially in the effectiveness of learning processes and the increasing interest of the learners. The effectiveness of this software in the learning environment is difficult to measure because there are concerns about the technical support and the training of the language instructors in computer use and the CALL courseware implementation.

In this paper, the conclusions for the effectiveness of CALL Greek material in higher education will be presented and provide an introduction to the significance of the use of this courseware and the contribution to the Modern Greek language learners.