



The Pedagogical Potentials of Weblog in Developing Students' Writing Skills

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Abstract

Writing is viewed hugely important, yet it is a daunting task for both English as a second language (ESL) teachers and learners. With the development of different approaches to teaching in general, numerous approaches to the teaching of writing have been evolved such as product, process and post-process approaches. Although these approaches have changed the role and status of writing over the years, writing still appears as one of the difficult areas to tackle as students lack academic writing skills and they are de-motivated to write in English. In view of this, researchers show an interest in looking into the possibilities of using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools for language teaching and learning. This paper discusses the application of the latest ICT tool, which is known as weblog as an effective tool in ESL classrooms. The aim of this study is to explore the pedagogical potentials of weblog in developing the writing skills of ESL learners. In particular, this paper wishes to identify and discuss the characteristics of weblogs as an appropriate and effective tool in assisting the learners in various ways to improve their writing skills. This study will further highlight the benefits of web logging activities and the impacts of these activities on students' motivation to write in English as autonomous learners.