

Self-Training in Reading Aloud Through ICT

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Abstract

Within the current state of affairs regarding the incorporation of the Spanish university to the Bologna process this paper aims at being a previous step of a more ambitious project in which technologies will play a very relevant role in self-training to improve the four skills involved in foreign language learning. In this case, we present an experience carried out last academic year (2009-2010) when serious pronunciation problems were detected in the 33% of a group of students (first course of Foreign Languages Teaching). To cater for individual needs, a special self-training reading programme was developed through free samples of screen readers such as Readplease and audio files from the Internet to provide our students with suitable tools to improve their reading aloud, pronunciation and oral abilities.

After applying our special self-training reading programme, which mainly consisted of two stages: introduction and perfection through ICT, we came to the conclusion that screen readers and audio files, used as web based resources, could be useful and motivating supporting tools for self-training reading aloud among other communicative skills.

Samples of best practice will be presented in order to show how the use of digital reading tools can contribute to improve learners' overall productive competencies and promote autonomy.