

Synchronous Facilitation in Distance Foreign Language Teaching

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Abstract

The Internet provides the facilities for listening, speaking, reading and writing which are four basic abilities for remote learners to acquire. On the other hand the auditory and visual content provided by the Internet makes the language a socio-cultural entity besides being only a system of structurally related elements. Internet based remote language teaching offers significant chances to improve communicative competence as a result of rapid developments in Internet audio and video technologies in recent years.

In this study, Turkish Language Certificate Program (TSP), which is applied completely via the internet, is discussed. The main topic of this poster is the contribution of synchronous facilitations, one of the most important tools of the program, to distance language teaching. The technical structure of the program has been prepared by the Anadolu University Open Education Faculty, Internet-based Education Unit. The program is the first Turkish teaching program the exams and asynchronous -synchronous facilitations of which is implemented fully via the internet. The paper is designed to determine that the synchronous facilitations have great contributions to distance language teaching.

In synchronous facilitations webcam and microphone are used; besides there is also a possibility to communicate by writing. It is possible to make pronunciation practice with students individually. Students prepares for the class by studying that week's subject, e-lesson, e-book, e-study, e-exercise book and the exercises in the program. Instructor starts the lesson by asking a question related to that week's subject. In the following part of the class, Instructor answers student questions. A personnel providing technical support also participates in the class in order to solve participants' problems related to the internet, webcam and microphone.