

Web-2.0 Ideas for Language Education

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Abstract

The Internet gives great opportunities for teaching and studying English. The Internet for teachers and students can be: a monitor which controls the work during the classes; a source of information that can be found in it; a helper and organizer of real communication with native speakers; a tool with the help of which a teacher can create his own projects, didactic materials and even interactive computer programs.

Nowadays, using the Internet, we should distinguish Web-1.0 and Web-2.0 technologies. If the main factor of Web-1.0 is technology itself, then the main factor of Web-2.0 is a human being. And unlike Web-1.0 technologies that are oriented on getting information from the net as a source of it, Web-2.0 is a platform for social collaboration. It helps to transfer the accent from the software onto communication, partnership and cooperation. This very transfer is the main goal of education.

So, the article deals with the main characteristics of Web-2.0 and its didactic possibilities for language education among which there are such as openness and simplicity, presence of a great anonymous discrete audience that encourages self-expressing and self-revealing; collaborating and communicating in different social groups; individual production and user generated content; moving from individual intellect to the collective one.

Introduction

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Nowadays, using the Internet, we should distinguish Web-1.0 and Web-2.0 technologies. If the main factor of Web-1.0 is technology itself, then the main factor of Web-2.0 is a human-being. And unlike Web-1.0 technologies that are oriented on getting information from the net as a source of it, Web-2.0 is a platform for social collaboration. It helps to transfer the accent from the software onto communication, partnership and cooperation. This very transfer is the main goal of education.

Materials & Methods

Participants

In the first generation of the Internet there was a clear-sharp border between readers of the net and its creators – engineers because filling the net required rather specific technical skills and knowledge, while the Internet of the second generation is not just a place for communicating and collaborating, but it is a special platform for doing that. Web-2.0 lets users create and edit the Internet content cooperatively, exchange information and artifacts, store links and multimedia documents.

Results

Generalizing our own experience in this field, will try to accentuate the basic social features of Web-2.0. Among them:

- openness and simplicity;
- presence of a great anonymous discrete audience that encourages self-expressing and self-revealing;
- users' partaking in sources' developing and their self-controlling of the process;
- technical mediation of communicating on the net;
- a radical decentralization, that means all the users have the same rights and responsibilities;
- having no border, every user can expand Web-2.0 services and its content endlessly;
- collaborating and communicating in different social groups;
- individual production and user generated content;
- harness the power of the crowd;
- radical trust for every user;
- moving from individual intellect to the collective one.

Conclusion

The synonyms to Web-2.0 are: collaboration, information sharing, recommendation, participation, cooperation, usability, mobility, accessibility and even economy (you don't have to buy any disks of flash-cards and you don't have to print your Handouts any more).

As for educational and didactic peculiarities of the second generation of the net, they flow from the technical and social ones. These characteristics enable a teacher to create his own Learning Environment, use element of Distance Education, actualize individual students' work, motivate students greatly and raise teacher's own professional activity to a new level – level Web-2.0.

Teachers around the world consider Web-2.0 to be a great platform for project work because of using the wisdom of the crowd as the psychologists say that a group of people collaboratively can found a much wiser decision to a problem than the wisest member of this group working individually.

With the emergence of the notion Web-2.0 there appears a term education-2. Some scientists consider it to be just a successful metaphor, but a lot of teachers around the world believe that education-2 is a certain conception. This notion is defined as a complex of educational systems that are based on the principles which are adequate to the purposes and objectives of education in the postindustrial society.

And finally we can make an attempt to define Web-2.0 as a new generation of the Internet based on users' collective work as for creating and exchanging content, it is a distributed technology built to integrate that collectively transform collective participation into valuable emergent outcomes. And it's up to you to broaden this definition.

And as the Internet is being created nowadays collectively by all the people around the world this very net is becoming valuable for every member of the society. So it will develop the information culture of us, teachers and our students as well.

So, nowadays nobody considers Web-2.0 to be just a commercial trick any more, but a great principally new platform of the net; a modern social notion; a contemporary way of perception and using the Internet.

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References

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