

Inspiring Writers through Using Blogs

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Abstract

This paper focuses on how writing through blogs motivates students. The researcher conducted a study on randomly selected 30 students of tertiary level EFL classes Of Private University in Dhaka city. Questionnaire consists of both multiple choice questions and open-ended questions has been employed for the respondents. A Mix method of analysis has been applied by the researcher which shows that students are motivated in improving their writing skills through blogs. In the future the paper will introduce a writing through digitalization.

Introduction

With the increasing use of computer technology and networks, the Internet is one of the greatest inventions that shape language learning and teaching. The Internet is significantly expanding learning opportunities and leading students to connect with the world, especially for EFL learners. Many Internet tools, email, discussion forums, and chats are familiar to many language teachers and learners. A recent innovation, the Weblog, provides students with a real-world task and learner-centered environment where they have autonomy, extensively use their previous knowledge, and add new ones. This study intends to shatter the myths of using Weblogs in language learning, and to demonstrate how the uses and benefits of blogging to EFL learners. Weblogs or blogs, online personal journals that are frequently updated, have existed in the cyberspace community since 1998. Since then, it has gained much popularity simply because even people without programming experience can easily update and publish their personal blog spots. Having this in mind, many foreign educators started using blogs to teach English and for that matter other foreign languages. The paper is not only focus on how blogging improves but also motivates learner to write.

Literature Review

Blog is a website which enables students to create their own weblogs where they can post their essays, poems and other creative works. According to Campbell (2003) Weblog is an online journey that an individual can continuously update with his or her own words, ideas and thoughts through software that enables one to easily to do so.(Para. 1)

Research suggests that teachers today have focused their attention on using language learning technology following the social software technology. The use of a blog encourages learning through collaboration and autonomy. They are gradually being used more and more as a pedagogical tool in the second language classroom because they are considered to take on, “*a more communicative role than the less interactive CALL applications*” (Pinkman, 2005,p.14) . However, (Mckillop, 2006) argues that, “*a supported and pedagogical approach to blogging environments I needed for them to be educationally effective*”(p.1). Therefore, in order to fully understand how learning is constructed through blogging it seems necessary to understand social constructivism and the theories that include the role social context has to play on developing learning and the writing skill in particular.