

Assignment 2-Article Review

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Critique on the Research Article 'Student satisfaction, learning outcomes, and cognitive loads with a mobile learning platform'

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1. Introduction

The article I choose to comment comes from the peer-reviewed journal *Computer Assisted Language Learning* (Volume 32, 2019, issue 4) issued by the publisher Taylor & Francis. The reasons why I choose this article lie in firstly I am interested in the topic about the conjoint integration of the modern information technology and language pedagogy, and secondary the tendency of interdisciplinary development manifested in the the art Rationale re mobile informational technology were used to assist EFL teaching and learning deserves to be paid more academic attention. I have kept a watchful eye on the new fields of language pedagogy since I started the professional doctorate, it is interesting that I found many scholars are bound up in the interdisciplinary fields, for instance, neurolinguistics, neuron-cognitive linguistics, language intelligence, language teaching and artificial intelligence, etc 1. Additionally, with the rapid development of informational technology into which education have been embedded and Presentation. untarily or passively, the prosperous products of combination of technology and education such as MOOCs, mobile teaching platforms are contributing enormous impacts on numerous Chinese EFL learners.

2. Synopsis of the article

Actually, it is easy to grasp the main profile of this article from the *abstract* part in the very beginning where the authors made a brief introduction to its research background, research goals, candidates select 2 search methods and results of the study.

2.1 Background and theoretic rationale

In the *introduction* part of this article, the authors considered the development of informational technology, the high combination of the information technology and education in universities as re Coherence. background. Then, they spent a big space on the explanation and advantages of the mobile learning platform, without any drawbacks, form which their preference to the positive effects of the platform may be spotted. Finally, they illustrated the main contents and constructing progress of the empirical

object- College English IV on the mobile learning platform concisely.

In the following part, literature of the research was reviewed and assessed simply, mainly focusing on the literature of mobile learning. The authors made some quotations about the mobile technology, combination of mobile technology and education, learners' satisfaction, learning outcomes, and cognitive loads of mobile learning. It is special to be noticed that the definition, classification-intrinsic and extrinsic cognitive loads, the interrelation the two in processing knowledge, and the elements which pose impact on learners' cognitive loads were expounded elaborately.

2.2 Research methods and research process

In the study 340 College English IV learners in the university were chosen and divided into two cohorts, one with assistance of the mobile learning platform and , and null with the other. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were adopted in the study. The authors adapted Stokes' Likert scales (2001) to measure learners' satisfaction with the mobile learning platform, tested learners language proficiency in listening, reading, speaking and writing through TOEFL, identify learners' cognitive loads by using NASA-TLX (Hart & Staveland, 1988). Additionally, semistructured interviews were carried 3 mainly by inviting participants to finish targeted questionnaires. The study lasted one semester when the participants finished the course study.

2.3 Results

Being consistent with the objectives and procedures of the research, the expected conclusions that the adoption of mobile learning platform would improve learners' English language proficiency, elevate learning satisfactions but relieve loads in cognition were drew by the authors, which corroborated the hypotheses set initially by the authors. To get data analyzed meticulously and reasonably, they used the widely-used soft SPSS to deal with data. In the process of the multivariate analysis, the authors tried to test for the null hypothesis that participants own the identical variance. The data analysis shown that the group who learned College English IV under the circumstance of mobile learning platform performed better in EFL proficiency and gained more satisfaction than those who learned EFL through the traditional avenues where the learners and instructors interacted face to face in the physical time and space. The grades in listening, speaking, reading and writing tests gained by the former are significantly higher than the later. Also, data analysis implied that the cognitive loads of the learners who studied College English by using the mobile learning platform were lower than those without it . Based on the data analysis, the authors summarized the descriptions reflected by a part of participants in the questionnaires and interviews, and got the same conclusion as it was drawn from the data analysis.

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3. Strengths of the study

The educational study and practice should be focused on the persuasiveness and

authority of research, the relevance of the research, the accessibility to teachers (or learners) and the stability of the educational systems (Kennedy, 1997).

To enhance the extent of reliability and authority, convictive evidences are decisive to exclude variables and the interrelations to other variables in a study. To make the study **convinced** ⁵ reliable, the four basic components of a study, including well-constructed theoretical rationales, well-targeted samp **Commonly Confused** and appropriate research methods, convincing evidence and **pell** ⁶ **conclusions** from data analysis, are indispensable. Obviously, the authors, at this stance, had conducted an integrated and supportive research design to testify the hypotheses by initially raising research questions, then linking to relevant literature and designing two research routines - one on the data analysis and the other on the semiconstructed interview. During the research courses, the authors were engaged themselves in the teaching the course *College English IV* and investigating the two different cohorts of participants' cognition, satisfaction, and outcomes to collect the first hand data as the raw materials through field investigating, interview notes, and research journals. In order to eliminate the ambiguity and **suspicion** ⁷ of the results, the authors adopted three kinds of scales - five-point Likert scales, TODFL, NASA-TLX individually to get the participants tested and analyzed. In the data processing, they compared the data from different participants to identify the error variances, and determined the mean through comparing the data of different cohorts, to guarantee the authority and accuracy of results in this study.

Furthermore, the study has outstanding practical significance in today's education. Nowadays, with the rapid development and promoting application of information technology, artificial intelligent, big data, modern scientific technologies play a crucial role in every field of human beings, education, certainly, is included. It is not unfamiliar for us with computer assist language learning (CALL) which offers span-new realities to education especially to language pedagogy. The mobile learning platform is one of the direct outcomes of the combination of technology and education. The mobile learning platform actually was developed into an intelligent systems which was designed to think, decide and adapt to itself to various situations (Akkoyunlu, 1995). The application of technologies of digital and AI enable the interoperability of the systems more easily, concisely and friendly, in which The Internet provides a transmissi **Criticality** mechanism for the network and mobility of education. Just as Kumar (2010) said, organizations have encouraged creating digital material and converting existing material into digital format, the digital materials could be grasped, delivered and visualized. The overwhelming growth of application of mobile teaching and learning platform in Chinese universities has be paid more attention by the authority and scholars, more and more researchers are being attracted to reflect questions, construct hypotheses and, conduct study to verify their suspicions, which will bring persistent innovation and improvement for education and benefit more learners. Therefore, the study in this article can be considered as a crucial window to spot the huge horizons in the integrative development of technologies and education.

Additionally, mixed research methods were used in this study, qualitative method for

interview descriptions and quantitative method to deal with the complicated raw data, really enhance the persuasiveness and reliability of the research. In the process of interview, some other relevant questions and issues which are deserved to be discussed in future were exploited.

Definite article

4. Critical evaluation of the research

This article was concentrated on the EFL learning effects of assistance of mobile teaching and learning platform by choosing the very general curriculum - college English in Chinese Universities as research object, verifying the hypothesis that the mobile teaching and learning platform would be positive in producing satisfaction, improving language proficiency, and relieving cognitive loads for English learners. The authors got expected conclusion by the comprehensive research procedures of raising significant research questions initially according to the hypothesis, selecting proper samples, designing a closed-loop research routine, collecting and analyzing data. Generally, although the overall statements in this research article is thought to be reasonable in assumptions, appropriate in method application, integrated in procedures, and ideal in results. However, from the perspective of criticism, I still have some doubts about this study.

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Firstly, Many key points were discussed the one-sided in the article rather than hierarchical and comparative illustrations. For instance, much more advantages and benefits of mobile learning platform, where smart phones were the basic media of the platform and learners, were mentioned by the authors, with little even null negative effects of the mobile learning platform. Even in the result and discussion part in the article, drawbacks of using the mobile learning platform in English learning were not listed or implied.

Secondary, The basis of sample selection and classification in the study is questionable. In addition, the analysis of individual sample is not comprehensive enough and, the scale of sample is not big. In the abstract part, the authors told that 340 participants were selected randomly in the study, and gave a brief introduction to them in the contents, including the elements of the grades, majors, ages of the participants. Actually, differences in EFL between males and females, the age of onset of foreign language learning, the regions that the participants came from and, the learning trajectories and learning outcomes of participants in the previous stage should be taken into consideration seriously when choosing participants.

Thirdly, the deal that learners' learning outcomes was only assessed and identified through TOEFL seems to be unreasonable. Gaining high scores in FOEFL could not suggest directly that the outcomes of applying mobile learning platform were better than that without it. The outcomes of individuals come from both the complicated interior and external factors, from both the learns and the platform itself. Besides, Personalized, multidimensional, and formative evaluation within the learning process have been sought in the past years. Therefore, the scale used to assess learning outcomes under the mobile learning platform should be extended.

knowledge

Thirdly, the analysis of interview data need to be detailed and concreted. The authors did not mention the time-span, frequency of the interviews, how to analyze the 87 valid questionnaires, and how to get the conclusion that the majority of interviewees approved the using of mobile learning platform in EFL.

Finally, instead of grabbing the remedy direction of the research, without feasible and detailed improvement for future study, the authors spent a large space on stating the advantages and befits of the mobile learning platform and smart phones in the discussion part, although, at the end of this article, they realized that research on the mobile learning platforms in future should be connected with other disciplines, for instance, computer science, psychology and so on.

5. Conclusion

Interdisciplinary research is an outstanding and newfangled figure in various fields in recent years and it will still be for a long term. Concerns only on certain language, such as English, separating from its interdisciplines, for instance, neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, intelligent linguistics, will narrow our horizons in research. This tendency actually poses more pressures and burdens on researchers since the traditional paradigms are not adaptive for the integration and combination of multidisciplines any longer.

As aforementioned, to make the study persuasive and authoritative, it is crucial to made an elaborate and considerate research design in which the hypotheses, theoretical rationales, research methods, research procedures should be placed properly. Certainly, the way to be successful in research is to practise more, we need be engaged in the practice of study, getting fields inquiry, notes and journals. It is strongly believed that the research would be further extended to a higher level. research would be refined with being critically scrutinized by other scholars and reviewed by peers.

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Assignment 2-Article Review

GRADEMARK REPORT

FINAL GRADE

62/100

GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

Scientific method / theoretical considerations

This is a very good assignment which explores IT and pedagogy with confidence.

You demonstrate your ability to understand key research approaches by considering the background literature effectively.

Methodology

You have succeeded in identifying key research methods. The context of the article is described clearly and reference is made to appropriate reading in the module.

Results and relevance to theory

A range of evidence is discussed with reference to good practice. Your review is supported by insights into further research but this could be analysed more systematically.

The style is coherent and reflective adopting a suitably tentative approach. A good range of additional sources are synthesized to form a clear discussion. References are complete and the conventions are applied consistently.

You might like to consider:

1. Further analytical comment of the methods utilised and the final results.
2. Try to include more references for research methods literature.

PAGE 1

QM

Rationale

Interesting rationale for choice of reading



Comment 1

Avoid using etc. This is unnecessary.

QM

Presentation.

Well presented.



Comment 2

Good. Any further interesting details?

QM

Coherence.

Logical, coherent and lucid with clear style.

PAGE 2



Comment 3

Were the questionnaires and interviews implemented more than once?



Comment 4

no comment

**Comment 5**

convincing?

QM

Commonly Confused

Commonly Confused Words:

Words that have similar sounds but different meanings often cause trouble for student writers. Please watch for such confusions in your writing.

Some of the more common of these common confusions include:

Accept (to receive) and except (to leave out)

Affect (to influence) and effect (result or to accomplish)

Allusion (an indirect reference) and illusion (a false perception)

Its (possessive form of "it") and it's (contraction of "it is")

Their (possessive form of "they"), there (indication of location, and they're (contraction of "they are")

Then (next or at that time) and than (used in comparisons)

To (toward), too (also or excessively), and two (number)

Your (possessive form of "you") and you're (contraction of "you are")

**Comment 6**

Do you mean lucid conclusions?

**Comment 7**

Detailed discussion.

QM

Criticality

Good ability to be critical and appraise the study's findings to further knowledge and thinking.

QM

Definite article

Omission of the definite article 'the'.

**Comment 8**

Elaborate further. what satisfaction?

QM

knowledge

Detailed knowledge



Key issues

Clear identification of key issues



Comment 9

Can you clarify this statement please??



Comment 10

Useful reading. Are there more recent references for research methods literature?