Web 2.0-Assisted Language Learning: Using Technology to Enhance Reading Comprehension

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Abstract

Tools available at the age of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) play a vital role in assisting language learners in their quest to comprehend the written texts. Among all Web 2.0 tools, blogs and wikis can be considered as the most well-known ones being at the disposal of language learners. The present study aims at finding out which of these tools can assist language learners improve their comprehension of English as a foreign language. For this purpose, 113 male and female students majoring in English at the Islamic Azad University, Abadeh and Shiraz branches and Zand Institute of Higher Education in Shiraz, Iran were selected as the participants. A test of reading comprehension was given as the pre-test. Then, the participants were divided into two groups practicing reading comprehension through blogs and wikis for two and a half months. Then, a reading comprehension test was given as the post-test. The comparison of the participants' gain scores indicated that though both groups could improve their reading comprehension, wikis were more effective Web2.0 tools in enhancing Iranian EFL students' reading comprehension.

Keywords: Web 2.0 tools, weblog, wiki, reading comprehension