Wikipedia and L2 Learning (CALL)

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What is CALL?

◆CALL stands for "Computer-assisted Language Learning".
◆"Any process in which a learner uses a computer and, as a result, improves his or her language" (Beatty, K. 2003: 7).
◆It dates back to the 1950s. There were large mainframes available at research facilities on university campuses (Beatty 2003: 16).

A brief history of CALL

◆**PLATO** (Programmed Logic/Learning for Automated Teaching Operations): U. of Illinois (1959). Teaching of Russian through the translation of Russian (scientific) documents. Rudimentary spelling and grammar-checkers.
◆**Simulations**: Imitation of real situations to use language in context.

CALL in the 1970s and 1980s

◆**Macario**: an early videodisc program for learning Spanish. A readaptation of existing materials (commercial video). A linear program; one follows the course of a film.

◆**Montevidisco and Interactive Dígame:** Non-linear programs. ID encouraged teacher-led video-based learning lab activities. Montevidisco introduces a plaza where the learner is confronted with a local citizen. Multiple choices of response.

CALL in the 1970s and 1980s

◆**ALLP**: Athena Language Learning Project: Massachusetts Institute of Technology. UNIversity eXchange. UNIX machines were connected to each other. Local Area Network (LAN).
◆**Eliza** (1976): It was named after George Bernard Shaw's character in *Pygmalion* who is taught how to speak 'properly (Beatty 2003: 29).

How does Eliza work?

◆Eliza: How are you today?

◆Learner: I'm not feeling well.

◆Eliza: Why are you *not feeling well*?

◆Learner: I have financial problems.

◆Eliza: Tell me more about the *financial problems*.

◆ETC.

CALL in the 1990s

◆Videos, Cds, cassettes, etc.

◆More software online: Internet plays a key role in the development of CALL.

◆*Who is Oscar Lake*? 1,200-word vocabulary list and 33 separate language-learning activities. Live action video: answers, comments and advice.

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File  Edit  Options  Buffers  Tools  Help

  ◇  📁  ✗  🗒  🖋  ↺  ✂  📖  📑  🔍  🖨  📝  ?

I am the psychotherapist.  Please, describe your problems.
Each time
you are finished talking, type RET twice.

I have a terrible headache.

Maybe you should consult a doctor of medicine, I am a psychi
atrist.

Okay, I'll do that then.

Can you elaborate on that?

What are you talking about? No I cannot elaborate. See you l
ater.

Why do you say that?

Now you're just talking nonsense!

What makes you believe now I am just talking nonsense?

You are not making any sense.

Perhaps your plans have something to do with this.
-u:**    *doctor*              (Doctor Fill)--L1--Top------------
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CALL, L2 and Wikipedia

- L2: Second/Foreign Language.
- Translation, IRC, tutorials, Embassy, etc.
- More than 270 languages.
- Multicultural environment.

Translation

◆ {{translated page|source language code|source page title|version=123456789|insertversion=987654321|section=name}}

◆ Amical-bot: from German, English, French or Spanish into Catalan. *{{Petició de traducció|id|Títol|Pàgina ER|--~~~~}}.* It has the advantages and limitations of automatic translators.

Translation

- To create and/or complete an article which is missing or incomplete.

- Your article can be reviewed, corrected and/or modified by others. As in a TANDEM!

- Motivation: the topic is interesting, relevant, or has some special value for the editor.

- Motivation: you get feedback and your article is read by others!!

Wikipedia in the classroom

- ◆ Encourage your students to use Wikipedia as active users: create stubs, correct minor mistakes (grammar, spelling, style, etc).
- ◆ Reward them, especially if they are kids.

Some tips to follow

◆ Try to find a common field of knowledge to work on. E.g. Science, literature, sport, cinema, etc.

◆ Give a brief tutorial on how to edit Wikipedia. An introduction is always necessary to get acquainted with the wikisyntax and the project rules.

◆ Be brave! Ask them to create stubs, especially if it's their first time on Wikipedia and they do so in a foreign language.

Interwikis

- ◆ They let us know, read and consult a given article in the different languages in which it is available.
- ◆ You can translate from one language into the other.

- ◆ [[ca:Cisallament del vent]]
- ◆ [[en:Wind shear]]
- ◆ [[es:Cizalladura del viento]]

- ◆ Not in your language? Create/translate it!

EN → CA

- **Wind shear,** sometimes referred to as windshear or wind gradient, is a difference in wind speed and direction over a relatively short distance in the atmosphere.

- El **cisallament del vent**, de vegades conegut per la seva expressió anglesa *wind shear*, és la pendent de la velocitat del vector del vent.

Important achievements

- ◆ You learn the structure of the sentence in language A (e.g. English).
- ◆ You also learn about different types of phrases (N, Adj, Adv, V, etc).

- ◆ You compare it with the sentence structure of the target language B (e.g. Catalan).
- ◆ Compare and contrast them with B. You read B, correct B, and follow existing models.

Other useful tools

- Automatic translators online. But be careful, they are not perfect!
- IRC (Internet Relay Chat): available in many languages, you can join the conversation in real time and learn new expressions, correct your grammar, etc.
- Tutorials: Some wikis offer tutorial programs for unexperienced users.
- Wiktionary: it tells you how a given word is spelled and pronounced in an X language.

Ideas for the future

- ◆ Encourage your pupils to use Wikipedia. Spread the message.
- ◆ Give lectures whenever possible.
- ◆ Attend important meetings to promote its use.

Promote groups of work on Wikipedia

◆ More than 50 accounts created on es.wiki as part of a Spanish as L2 course at the U. of Limerick, Ireland. Carried out by admin Santiperez.

◆ The pupils wrote about Ireland-related topics.

Naas, by User:Mauricenolan (2009)

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Thanks for your interest!

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