ICTs to support the new Mexican educational model at a higher level

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Abstract

The new educative model proposed by the Public Education Secretary, has set learning English as mandatory in basic, lower and upper education. This investigation wants to prove that information technologies can be a useful tool in order to fix deficiencies in learning English and, at the same time the student can review any topic whenever he wants, and to support the new model in all the difficulties it faces. At the same time, student´s skills are being used and he/she feels free to repeat whenever he/she wants an exercise and reinforce the knowledge.

Open Resources, Learning, Tuition

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1. Introduction

Currently Mexico has initiated an update of the educational program that is taught from basic level, which is intended to offer students a quality education that includes speaking English as a second language, and also know how to use information technologies efficiently. This will allow them to position themselves in better paid jobs, along with Mexico's commercial partners such as the United States, Canada and China, countries that speak English as the mother tongue or mandatory as the case may be, and finally to conduct business they communicate in that language.

In the case of Mexico, according to what was revealed by the British Council in the study "The English language in Mexico and its impact on public policies", four out of every 10 Mexicans speak English at a basic level and 44% have an intermediate level in reading comprehension, figures well below what would be expected with an educational model that until now had integrated the subject of English at secondary and high school level, and that in theory supposes at least six years of study in the language, with minus three hours per week.

The same study establishes that 69% of the companies consider that the command of the English language is a fundamental factor for the hiring of new personnel and an essential element in their development. The learning of English in Mexico has not been able to consolidate, due to several factors, among them: lack of teachers prepared in the teaching of English classes or with an English level equivalent to that of a primary school child according to a study carried out by the Mexican First Association (2015); the little or no interest of the population to learn it and finally, the preconceived idea that it is expensive and expensive to learn.

However, there are many free applications on the network with which you can strengthen the learning of English and greatly support the process of language acquisition, provided it is a process carefully and guided by an English teacher.

1.1 Justification

At this moment you can find many free applications on the internet to learn English and you just need to know how to use a computer or a smartphone so that the student can reinforce what they have learned in the traditional class, as long as they are accompanied in the process by the teacher who should be prepared to give that tutoring to the student through the network.

1.2 Problem

The students of the UTFV have problems with basic subjects in English and require extra hours of study to correct this deficiency, but there are no teachers who can give that advice in person.

1.3 Hypothesis

If you have a common site for students where open resources are integrated that the student can review on their own in the network with the assistance of a tutor to accompany them in this process, the student can improve their performance and practice more those issues that decide.

1.4 Objectives

Determine the degree of advancement of students in the acquisition of the second language (English) by using open resources.

1.4.1 General Objective

Develop a website that contains material in English that allows them to practice outside of classroom hours.

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1.4.2 Specific objectives

- Evaluate the effectiveness of open resources in the support of face-to-face classes.
- Identify the skills that most often need to be strengthened on their own with open resources.

2. Theoretical framework

Acquiring a competence results from the mobilization of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values of an individual (Becerril, 2015), in addition to the fact that the subject brings with him his life story and applies all this to the solution of problems in the different scenarios in who works.

The use of information technologies as a support tool in the teaching-learning process has generated a radical change in the processes inherent to it (Rodríguez, 2013) and is, therefore, a competence that must be exploited to improve much the acquisition of skills in learning the English language.

3. Research Methodology

The survey technique was applied, at the beginning and at the end of the semester, to the students of Nursing and Physical Therapy first to know their opinion regarding the use of open resources as support in the learning of English. A group was taken as a test (the Physical Therapy) and a control group (the Nursing).

The test group was carrying out the activities that were indicated in Duolingo during the four-month period from January to May 2017, monitoring their progress weekly. An entrance exam was applied to know the language level with which the students started and another was applied at the end of the semester.

4. Results

The results of the surveys indicate that 100% of the students in the group say that the use of open resources is very useful so that they can reinforce what they have learned in English class.

The results of the entrance and exit exam show that 35% of the students actually improved by 40% with respect to the start of the course, since they come from public schools where, according to the survey, they used to have few classes of English. 65% improved their skills in English acquisition by 60%, which in general comments indicate that they had not had a follow-up like the one given in this case.

The witness group, on the other hand, showed in general an increase of their skills to learn the language of 40% on average, since they were not given the indication that they used any resources for it.

5. Knowledgement

I appreciate the support provided by the Fidel Velázquez Technological University for the realization of the present investigation.

6. Conclusions

The use of open resources allows the teacher to have a useful tool to support the student in their English learning, allowing them to practice subjects that are more difficult and thereby correct deficiencies.

7. References:


Mexicanos Primero


Secretaría de Educación Pública (2016) Los fines de la Educación en el Siglo XXI.