



Education and Culture

Challenging Boundaries

The role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

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Title of paper: Individual differences and online learning: the way forward

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Abstract

This paper examines how online learning can cater to a wide range of individual differences, and learning styles in particular, thereby positively affecting foreign language learning. State-of-the-art online learning environments seem to accommodate learners' individual differences by providing them with multimodality of input; furthermore, both social software and audio-visual social software seem to meet learners' needs to effectively accomplish a wide range of language tasks, such as cooperative and project-based ones as well as problem solving, targeted to promote second language acquisition. In this perspective, the present study aims to investigate in particular how e-learning can promote both autonomous learning through individualized learning and the creation of social identity in online discourse and learning communities. Assets of online learning in relation to individual differences are thus analyzed within a social constructivist framework.

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