



Challenging Boundaries

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

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Title of paper: E-learning and second language acquisition courses: are they compatible? A Case study.

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Abstract

The paper investigates the use of distance learning in foreign language teaching. Designing successful Foreign Language (FL) online courses implies adopting a state-of-the-art Second Language Acquisition (SLA) methodology. Therefore, on the one hand it is of paramount importance to promote the acquisition of communicative skills, but on the other computer-mediated learning doesn't provide many opportunities to develop interactional, transactional, and socio-pragmatic FL skills. This paper will first analyse both the assets and drawbacks of FL distance education and will then present a possible solution through the analysis of a blended learning model implemented by a team of teachers from the Faculty of Modern Languages of Urbino University.

The ONLINE course "Lingua e didattica dell'inglese per maestri" is a Master of Arts course in teaching English as a foreign language and teaching methodology. The Master has been designed specifically for kindergarten and primary-school teachers who highly value the flexibility of time and place of e-learning

The results of this case study may provide some empirical support for future implementations of FL blended learning.

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