

Word Of Mouse: Using Web 2.0 Resources To Develop Reading Skills In Large Online Classes

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Abstract

This work will report on an online educational experience carried out with 1000 students who took part in an online course on reading skills in English offered by the School of Languages and Literature at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, a public university in Brazil. Based on the assumptions of learning communities, the pedagogical design made use of several interactive resources, mainly WEB 2.0 activities, in a modular learning environment.

The outcome of these collaborative activities point out that web 2.0 activities can offer opportunities for developing reading skills in English in large classes, as students interact with their peers and cultural artifacts in their efforts to develop reading strategies. Moreover, the interactional nature of these resources fosters mutual engagement, joint enterprise and shared repertoire, key elements for the construction of online learning communities. A sample of activities such as glossaries, virtual libraries and collective interviews with experts will be used to illustrate this presentation.