The Development of Students’ Oral Skills in Fully-Online Language Courses

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1. Introduction
   - The Context
   - The Development of the Four Skills

2. Literature

3. Development of the Oral Skills
   - Presentation of Lessons
   - Listening Tasks
   - Speaking Tasks

4. Technology Choice & Discussion
   - Video & Audio inserts
   - Voice Authoring
   - Voice Board
   - Voice Presentation
   - Elluminate vRoom

5. Conclusion
## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 The Context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>165356</td>
<td>Chinese I, OR</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>165049</td>
<td>Introduction to Chinese I (online)* and</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>iCommunicate</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>iWrite (for native English speakers), OR</td>
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<td>Undergraduate Writing for Academic Purposes (for non-native speakers of English)</td>
<td>5</td>
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*These two papers take one full year to complete, while Chinese I takes a semester.
**Please note that both the two core papers are to be taken in Semester 2.
1. Introduction
1.2 The Development of the Four Skills

Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking

Disappearance of the classroom!
2. Literature Review

- Very little literature on fully-online language teaching & learning
- Mostly on blended learning
- In US
- OERs (Open Educational Resources)
3. The Development of Oral Skills

- Presentation of Lessons
- Listening tasks
- Speaking tasks

1. Individual oral skill development
2. Pair/group Oral Practice
3. Pair/group oral presentations (assessment)
3.1 Presentation of Lessons

Dialogue 1

第六课 怎么走?

A: 舅舅，去国家图书馆怎么走?
明天我要去那边查资料。
B: 就在小区门口，
坐104路公交车就能到了。
A: 谢谢谢谢
3.2 Listening Tasks

**Question 2 - Listen and fill in blanks**

**Instruction**

**Question 2.1**

A. ____好！
B. 陈____好！

**Question 2.2**

A. 你好____？
B. 我____好，____！

**Question 2.3**

A. 我____陈，陈____。
B. 陈____好，我____张，____张红。

**Question 2.4**

A. ____好！____去吗？
B. ____的，我_____去。
3.3 Speaking Tasks
Individual oral skill development
3.3 Speaking Tasks
Pair/Group Oral Practice
Pair/Group Oral Presentations

2. Take turn to ask questions and reply

1. 怎么走?
   qu tū zhī guān zěn me zǒu

2. 去图书馆怎么走?
   qū guān jì fú yī zhī guān zěn me zǒu

3. 去国家图书馆怎么走?
   qū guó jiā tǔ guān zěn me zǒu

4. 去地铁站怎么走?
   qū diào dié zhàn zěn me zǒu

5. 去公交车站怎么走?
   qū gōng jū chē zhàn zěn me zǒu

6. 去奥克兰大学怎么走?
   qū ào kū lán dà xué zěn me zǒu

7. 去奥克兰理工大学怎么走?
   qū ào kū lán lǐ guān dà xué zěn me zǒu

Here we list all the questions you may be asked after learning this lesson.

Try to answer these questions yourself first. In your answers, you must use:
- go out of the ... gate (出...门口)
- take No.?? bus (坐...路公交车)
- turn right (往右转)
- walk ... meters (走...米)
- there you are (就到了)

to direct people to all those places.

Once you are familiar with the questions and know how to answer, you and your partner then take turn to ask each other, and answer, each question.
4. Technology Choice & Discussion

- Presentation of Lessons
- Listening tasks
- Speaking tasks
  1. Individual development (Voice Recorder)
  2. Pair/group Oral Practice
  3. Pair/group oral presentations (Assessment)

Video & Audio inserts
Voice Authoring
Voice Board
Voice Presentation
Elluminate vRoom
Face-to-face meeting
Skype, SkypeRecorder
Cell phone
Blackboard Collaborate
4. Technology Choice & Discussion

- Presentation of Lessons
- Listening tasks
- Speaking tasks
  1. Individual development (Voice Recorder)
  2. Pair/group Oral Practice
  3. Pair/group oral presentations (Assessment)

Tools:
- Video & Audio inserts
- Voice Authoring
- Voice Board
- Voice Presentation
- Elluminate vRoom
- Face-to-face meeting
- Skype, SkypeRecorder
- Cell phone
- Blackboard Collaborate
4. Technology Choice & Discussion

4.1 Audio & Video inserts
4.2 Voice Authoring
4.3 Voice Board (Voice Recorder)
4.4 Voice Presentation
4.5 Elluminate ➔ Blackboard Collaborate
4.1 Audio & Video Inserts

• They are essential – make up for the loss of classroom
• Making online language teaching possible
• Handy – everywhere
• Easy to use (insert)

For students:
• Easy to play
• No downloads
## 4.2 Voice Authoring

- Makes teaching easy
- Teacher can record audio anytime anywhere
- Suitable for audio piece big & small
- But it takes a while for student to play it?
4.3 Voice Board

- Crucial in the individual development of oral skills
- Easy to operate
- Good for giving & getting feedback
- Keep record – for progress management
- Private
- No pressure – using it at ease
- Students’ oral work seem more prepared and organised, thus higher quality
4.4 Voice Presentation

- Teacher start interacting with students here!
- Record, present various types of contents, then ask questions
- Student can respond – text & voice
- Teacher can view different answers under the same questions
- It’s asynchronous, but resembles classroom teaching, moving the teaching forward
4.5 Elluminate vRoom

- Virtual Drop-in: ideal for teachers to meet students one-to-one or in small group
- Explaining, re-enforcing learning
- Correcting
- Checking progress
- Comfortable, non-threatening
- In-touch with students
- No student-to-student interaction
Finally

Student-to-student interactions are possible!
4.6 Blackboard Collaborate
under
Blackboard Learn ➔ Tools

• Student-to-student meeting anytime
• Hang out, practice, role-play
• Recording pair/group oral presentations!
• Various groups/meetings can be set up
• The loss of traditional classroom is compensated: before, after, in-between teaching
5. Conclusion

• Students’ oral language skills can be developed adequately in fully-online language papers

• Students’ oral language skills can be better developed with the help of online voice tools

• Unfinished project

• Online students’ level of oral skills are not properly measured and compared with those in face-to-face setting

• Findings or assertions re how students learn in online setting: observation