

Discussion-Based Approach to English Language Teaching and Learning A Digital Dedicated Language Laboratory

Naima Hamlaoui

Department of English
Faculty of Letters, Human and Social Sciences
El-Bouni Campus
Badji Mokhtar University,
Annaba, Algeria.

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Nacereddine Benabdallah

Department of Foreign Languages
Faculty of Letters and Languages,
Mohamed-Cherif Messadia University, Algeria

Abstract

One of the most fundamental concerns of teaching English as a foreign language (EFL) is to maximize the opportunities of learner-learner talk. Digitalized technological facilities can motivate committed teachers to adapt and adopt innovative ways of teaching oral skills. This article reports on an action research project implemented during one semester with a group of 14 willing Master students at the Department of Foreign Languages, Mohamed Cherif Messadia University, Souk-Ahras, Algeria. The aim was to investigate the effectiveness of the Digital Dedicated Language Laboratory (DDLL) in teaching English through a discussion-based approach. A well designed protocol made up of three types of discussion: *framing*, *conceptual*, and *application* discussions was adopted. The findings revealed that students were able to develop their linguistic, socio-cultural and pragmatic competences. They were also given the opportunity to exploit the various facilities, and tools available at the DDLL.

Keywords: Action research; digital; discussion; EFL; laboratory; oral skills.