

## Mobile-Mediated Communication a Tool for Language Exposure in EFL Informal Learning Settings

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### Abstract

This paper investigates the role of WhatsApp, a widely used application in cell phones, in providing EFL learners with appropriate learning settings to use English language freely and effectively. To achieve the goal of the study, the researchers chose four native speakers of English and forty students from Preparatory Year, Najran University, Saudi Arabia to share a series of activities, ideas and information via a mobile application namely WhatsApp. Various methods associated with social science research were used at different stages of the study. These methods were triangulated to make the study more reliable and result-oriented. First, the postings and comments of the participants were analyzed and studied using Content Analysis. Then a questionnaire of 15 items was administered amongst the participants targeting their attitudes towards the use of MMC in English Language Education (ELE). Finally, a semi-structured interview was used with 10 participants and the native speakers. Based on the results, EFL learners enjoyed more exposure to the language via WhatsApp, where they could communicate with native speakers and interact appropriately. In addition, the questionnaire and the interviews showed positive attitudes towards using mobile in reinforcing language learning. The researchers provide recommendations and suggestions for future research .*Keywords:* language exposure, mobile-assisted language learning, mobile learning, whatsapp

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