Blended Learning in Language Teaching

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I never knew before what eternity was made for. It is to give some of us a chance to learn German.

Mark Twain- Notebook #14, 11/1877 - 7/1878
What is Blended Learning?
Blended Learning in Language Teaching
Course concept for German
Key success factors
Students‘ opinions

Content
E-Learning and face-to-face teaching

Graham (2006, p. 6)
Recognizing true Blended Learning is not obvious. Blended Learning is the thoughtful fusion of face-to-face and online learning experience.

(Garrison/ Vaughan, 2008, p. 5).
### Blended Learning is not

- Tranfering course content to the web
- Another educational layer
- An add-on feature
- Less time-consuming
- A cheap solution

### Blended Learning is

- is to integrate optimally different skills to create a ‘unique learning experience congruent with the context and intended educational purpose’ (Garrison/ Vaughan, 2008, p. 5).
- Structurally new approach with the aim of enhancing students’ participation and optimizing the learning outcome

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**Summary**
Key components of Blended Learning

- Classroom
- Online Phase
- Community
Self Study Phase
- Vocabulary
- Enhancing grammatical structures
- Reading
- Listening
- Writing

Face-to-face
- Speaking
- Feedback
- Grammar
  Introduction
  Consolidation
Advantages of a Blended Learning Approach in Language Teaching

- Differentiation
- Variety
- Currency
- Accessibility
- Personalised learning
- Acceptability
- Flexibility
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Knowledge sharing
- Independence
Planning Process
• Weekly activities for preparation of language course (reading, listening and writing exercises, project work)
• Integration in face-to-face teaching (peer pressure)
• Weekly email announcements and reminders of workload (time management)
• Assessment of MOODLE work
• MOODLE reports to supervise students‘ participation

Key Success Factors
How often do you use MOODLE?

Before and after the introduction of the new Blended Learning courses.
MOODLE is easy to work with

- 60.61% Strongly agree
- 15.15% Agree
- 12.12% Neutral
- 9.09% Disagree
- 3.03% Strongly disagree
I find the activities on MOODLE challenging

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
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<td>9.09%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>1.52%</td>
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</table>
**MOODLE activities prepare me for my classes**

- **59.09%** Strongly agree
- **19.70%** Agree
- **18.18%** Neutral
- **1.52%** Disagree
- **1.52%** Strongly disagree

**Students’ comments:**

- You can prepare well for class to make class more productive.
- It makes the learning experience of German much easier to do. The range of exercises on MOODLE have helped me a lot in my 1A Language Classes.
By participating on MOODLE, I feel I am part of the group/course

Student comment

It allows us to actually feel like we are part of the German course being in Strathclyde. It allows you to do some preparation before class - and it being checked which has not happened in the past two years. It also means if you do not understand anything in class, you can talk to other members-for example about the portfolio...also good if you are not able to make a class.
I like that you can see the times and dates we've been on, because for some of the activities, I've written them in a notebook, which I will now have to update to my blog, but if you grade our work before I have time, you'll be able to see that I have been on the activities.

It makes me feel quite independent about my learning. I can contribute to it as much or as little as I want. The exercises are quite worthwhile and give useful links for future learning.

That we are able to use the forums to get many different answers and insights to questions from others in our class.

It's very useful. I'm doing ******** as well and we don't have a Moodle set up. I am definitely less motivated to sit down and study ******** than German. Those exercises force us to read and research. It's a good way of communication and comparing our results.

I think that the activities have helped a lot this year because we didn't have any work to do out of class last year.