

A Web Based Learning System for Learning English on Mobile Devices

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Abstract

This paper explains the development of a HTML5 based system for learning English as a second language for iPhone, iPad, Android devices, and other smart mobile devices. HTML5 and jQuery Javascript library was used to develop this system. The web based system was installed on a server which could be accessed by any PC or smart mobile phones and tablets that support JavaScript library. Thirty English lessons were developed for this system. University students at Assumption University tried out this system using their mobile devices for a period of 6 weeks. A survey questionnaire was used to evaluate the effectiveness, usability, and students' satisfaction of this system.

Keywords: English learning, web based learning, smart mobile devices, HTML5 and jQuery

1. Introduction

Learning and the lifelong pursue of knowledge has become one of the most essential activities in the current knowledge-based economy, which is characterized by information age, globalization, knowledge acquisition and transfer, and the information and communication technology revolution. Globalization requires new methods of knowledge acquisition and to convey new skills and tools [1].

The traditional learning context is experiencing radical changes and challenges. There are often occasions when people want to learn exactly what they are interested in or what they need to learn, without time and location boundaries. Learners are demanding for better and improved access and convenience at the lower costs and with the direct application of contents to their needs. Computer based learning and Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) have been effective in learning a number of subjects including languages especially the English language.

Mobile technology is introducing new approaches to learning due to the features that are defined by a number of characteristics. They support learning activities that need Just-in-Time (JiT) and true learning on demand. With the advances in smart mobile phones and tablet technology and the availability of WiFi and 3G networks, it is possible for owners of a mobile device to have instant access to lots of website to acquire knowledge in many areas. The purpose of this paper is to design and develop a web based system for learning English language, and then evaluating the effectiveness of the web based learning system. Though this web based system could be viewed on any computer, it would be optimized for the small screens of mobile devices.

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