

Developing CALL-based Materials: What Should Be Taken into Considerations?

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Developing CALL-based material would certainly involve the use of technologies, such as CALL software, emails as chat rooms, authoring tools (hot potatoes), etc. Having varieties of such technologies made available recently, as a consequence, the developers of CALL materials should consider some criteria in employing such technologies as second language learning facilitators in order to suit the specific skills taught (e.g. speaking, reading/ vocabulary) as well as to achieve the pedagogical goals.

This workshop will feature a Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) material package, named “CALL for English”, which was developed by the presenter herself. In addition, it presents an example of “the list of evaluation criteria” which can be used by the material developers or teachers to test materials as well as examples of feedbacks from students who were asked to respond to such lists.

In the discussion of the criteria, the workshop will highlight the importance of considering input (including content and usefulness), operation and presentation. With regard to “CALL for English”, it will elaborate the nature of language learning in using the package, i.e. the setting in which the learning process takes place, the students or the users and the role of the teacher. Finally, the workshop demonstrates how the material package should be used for the language learning and how it will integrate into the lesson.

Expectedly, the workshop will give benefits to CALL practitioners, e.g. English teachers (as well as students, for self-learning) to give careful thoughts in choosing the appropriate CALL materials in accordance with their learning goals, and CALL researchers to put interests in the area such as content in their research.

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