Learner Language, Corpus Linguistics and Mobile Learning
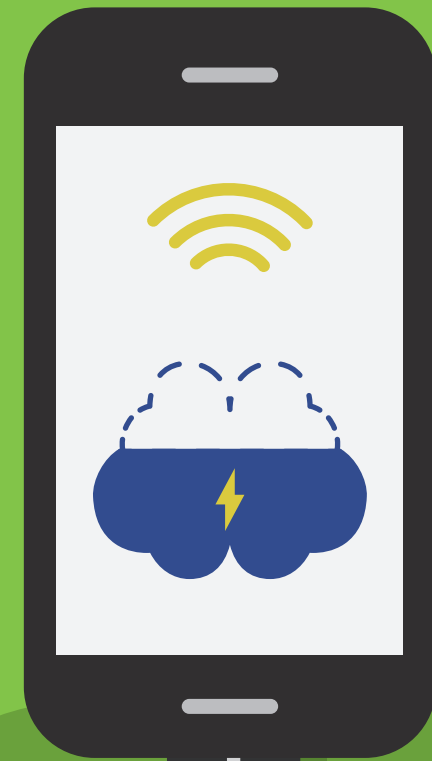
TELL-OP

Transforming European Learner Language into Learning Opportunities

UNIVERSIDAD DE MURCIA

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Melikşah Üniversitesi

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JUSTUS-LIEBIG-UNIVERSITAT GIESSEN

sepie
SERVICIO ESPAÑOL PARA LA INTERNACIONALIZACIÓN DE LA EDUCACIÓN

Supported by the Erasmus+ programm of the European Union

KA200 Higher Education Strategic Partnership

Transforming European learner language into language opportunities

Mobile learning is becoming increasingly popular. It is both a cost-effective way to cater for the needs of different people and the ideal platform to offer learning opportunities to citizens.

Language learning books have traditionally been written to cater for the needs of everybody, assuming every learner shares the same needs and learning paths. **However, wouldn't it make sense if adult learners could personalize their learning and use their own language output (using their text and their own voices) to further acquire language skills?**

TELL-OP is an ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership that seeks to promote the take-up of innovative practices in European language learning (Data Driven Learning, DDL) by supporting personalised learning approaches that rely on the use of ICT and Open Educational Resources (OERs). It brings together the knowledge and expertise of European stakeholders in the fields of l**anguage education, corpus** and **applied linguistics, e-learning** and **knowledge engineering** in order to promote cooperation and contribute to unleash the potential behind already available web 2.0 services to **promote the personalised e-learning of languages in the contexts of higher and adult education**, in particular, through mobile devices.

Instead of producing new OER resources, TELL-OP is interested in finding existing natural language processing (NLP) OERs that can suit the needs of language learner across different European languages (English, German & Spanish) and learning scenarios (Adult & HE education). It then streamlines these services by carrying out an exchange of good practices and evidence-based research that is focused on learners' needs and not so much on context-free academic endeavours.

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OUTPUT 6
Adult language learning in informal settings. The role of mobile learning.

This output explores the role of mobile learning, analyzing adult language learning in informal settings and the use of mobile devices in non-formal environments.
Output 6 deals with concepts such as mobile learning, open learning, open educational resources, or language acquisition itself. Special emphasis is put on mobile learning, the capabilities of mobile devices and the possibilities they offer in the field of language education. Finally, O6 deals with mobile learning applied to adult education in non-formal settings, establishing the benefits of digital technologies for adult learning and how to address their implementation and uptake.

The output, may be seen as a contribution to understanding the role of mobile learning in adult language education.

Output 6 can be found in two formats:

PDF Executive summary: 12 pages
http://www.tellop.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Output_06.pdf
Readership: Language teachers in adult education; adult learning course managers; adult education policy makers.

Online WWW resource. Full text: ca 5500 words
http://www.tellop.eu/output-6/
Readership: researchers and advanced practitioners in language education, MALL and CALL.

OUTPUT 7

Language learning in Higher education institutions. The role of mobile learning and the possibilities of Data-driven language learning.

This output offers a series of policy recommendations for Higher Education institutions to use mobile devices and open educational resources in the context of language learning.

The policies are based on an extensive literature review of Higher Education institutions' practices in Europe and beyond, Mobile Learning in HE institutions, Data-Driven Language and previous policies regarding the use of mobile devices in education. This output covers a wide range of issues such as technical requirements, budget and cost, safety, usage of apps, learning and teaching materials, task creation, skills and teacher practices. DDL-specific recommendations are offered as well.

These policy recommendations are a contribution to a more efficient application of mobile devices and open educational resources in the context of language teaching and learning.

Output 7 can be found in two formats:

PDF Executive summary: 14 pages
http://www.tellop.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Output_07.pdf
Readership: Language teachers in adult education; HE language learning course managers; HE education policy makers.

Online WWW resource. Full text: ca 10000 words
http://www.tellop.eu/output-6/
Readership: Mobile language learning researchers and advanced practitioners in language education, MALL and CALL.

OUTPUT 8
Open Educational Resources survey: language processing technologies.

One of our aims is to promote the use and knowledge of Open Educational Resources in the field of language learning. Output 8 tries to capture how language teachers use technologies that process natural language for educational purposes.

This survey was devised in five different languages (Spanish, English, French, German and Turkish) and distributed to second language and foreign language teachers across Europe. The survey comprised 21 different questions grouped into three main blocks: Personal Data, Technology & Mobile Devices and use and knowledge about Open Educational Resources.

The results collected can be found in five separate reports:

PDF Survey: 12 pages
English http://www.tellop.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/TELL-OP-Survey-ENG.pdf
Spanish http://www.tellop.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/TELL-OP-Survey-ES.pdf
Turkish http://www.tellop.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/TELL-OP-Survey-TUR.pdf
French http://www.tellop.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/TELL-OP-Survey-FR.pdf
German http://www.tellop.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/TELL-OP-Survey-DE.pdf

Online WWW resource reports: ca 1000 words
UK results http://www.tellop.eu/survey-report-united-kingdom/
Spain results http://www.tellop.eu/survey-report-spain/
Turkey results http://www.tellop.eu/survey-report-turkey/
Belgium results http://www.tellop.eu/survey-report-belgium
Germany results http://www.tellop.eu/survey-report-germany/

Readership: Mobile language learning researchers and advanced practitioners in language education, MALL and CALL, language teachers, policy makers.

OUTPUT 9
Training module for language professionals.

This is a training online course for second and foreign language teachers adressing the different types of language learning OERs that deal with language learning processing technologies. The aim of the course is for teachers to know which resources to use, how to use them and the potential impact on language learners.

The module is fully online and built on our Moodle platform. Following the project's philosophy, it has been devised so that users can access it via their smartphones, tablets, laptops or desktop computers. It is also available in Spanish, French, German, Turkish and English.

It may be considered as one of the most important outputs produced in the project, for it comprises relevant information gathered through Outputs 6, 7 and 8. Besides, it fulfills TELL-OP's main goal, that is, to spread the use and knowledge of language learning Open Educational Resources among the educative community.

The course covers, among others, the following areas:

Pronunciation, vocabulary acquisition, interaction, writing skills and reading skills.

The OERs discussed in the course include, among others, online dictionaries, visual representation of lexis, social networking, word lists, frequency counts, vocabulary profiling tools and readability indexes.

For registration please visit: http://tellop.um.es/moodle

Readership: Language teachers in secondary, adult education and HE;
adult learning course managers: policy makers.

OUTPUT 10
TELL-OP Desktop and mobile platform/app development, testing and integration.
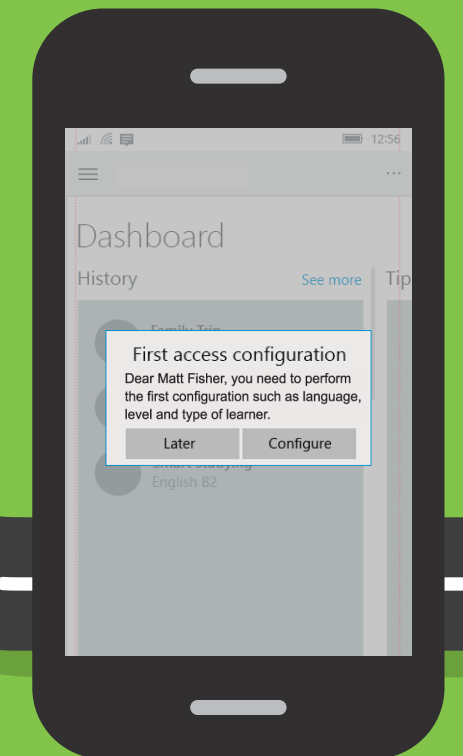
Why mobile learning?

The European Space of Higher Education (HE) and the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR; Council of Europe 2009) demand **new teaching and learning methodologies** that promote **more active participation** of the language learner. Learning is increasingly turning into a learner-centered process where **the needs of the learners** are catered for, and the teacher, if any, acts as a guide or facilitator while students become proactive subjects. Besides, in an **ever-increasingly techno-centric learning context** (Traxler & Kukulska-Hulme, 2016), learning can happen anywhere, anytime.
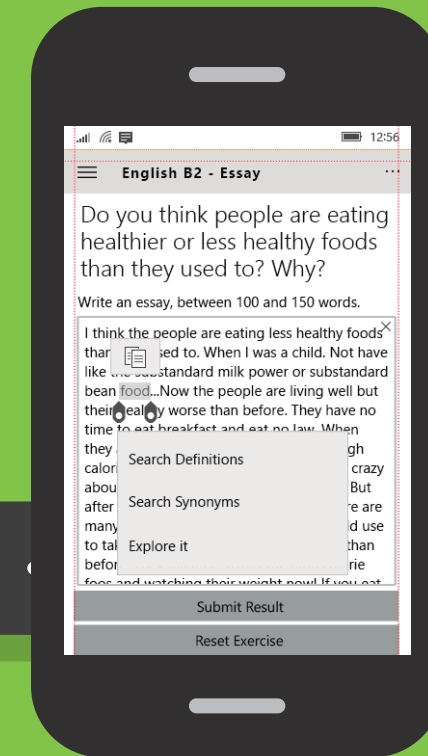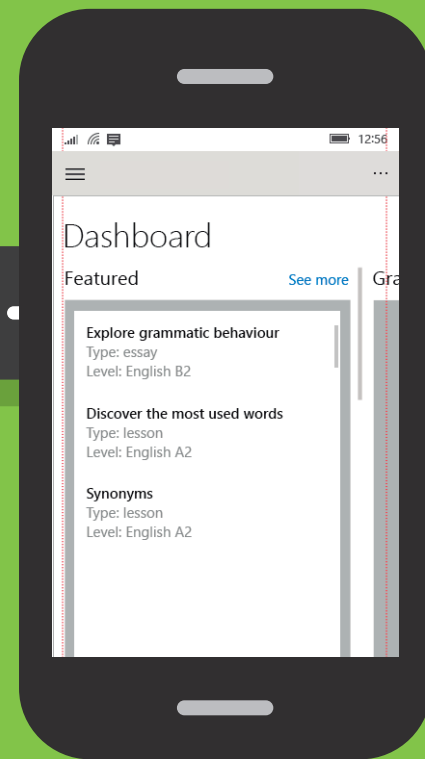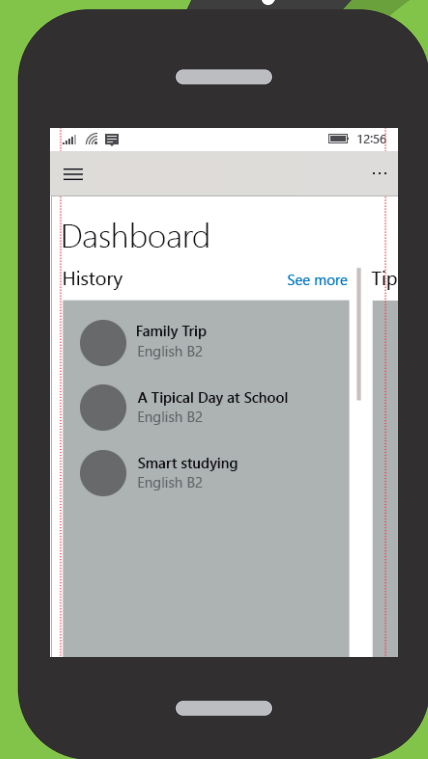
The TELL-OP App

Our app gives learners the possibility to use their own language production to increase awareness and gain further understanding of how language works and how richer expression can be achieved. The starting point, this is the interesting bit, is the user's own language.

This is how it works:

• Users sign in and choose language and level.
• Then they choose from a range of activities and provide language input.
• TELL-OP App returns a breakdown of the user's language in terms of vocabulary frequency bands.
• The user is given a choice of exploration opportunities geared towards increasing their understanding of how expression can become richer.
• The users choose which lexical items are to be explored and for how long they will be interacting with the proposed activities.
• Users are presented with pointers and opportunities for further learning.
• Users can save their progression and come back later.

TELL-OP App: technical aspects

The TELL-OP App implements a client-server architecture in which each client (mobile app) queries the server through a RESTful API service. Users' accounts are completely independent from the clients, which means that each user profile is available at any moment on any device by personal credentials. Thanks to the "Xamarin.forms" technology the app is natively compiled for each operative systems, which guarantee high performances, fluidity and device-characteristic "look-and-feel" interfaces. Technically speaking, the application is based on Xamarin Portable Class Libraries (PCLs) that allow sharing across multiple platforms (iOS, Android, Windows Universal) the whole app logic, resulting in OS-specific DLL.

The control flow is linear. Firstly, the app provides a login screen, and via oAuth2 protocol, it restores the user's data. The main page/screen of the application is the dashboard, which provides a global overview of each function available, such as activity history, suggested exercise, profile settings, etc. Most of the functionalities implemented are available only online since the application needs to gather information from multiple sources before providing the results to the user. All the applications integrated interrogate the main server, which forwards the query, or part of it, to specific-third-party online tools to aggregate the corresponding answers in an organic and user-friendly page/screen.

Collaboration Opportunities

The beta version of the TELL-OP APP will be available for Android and IOS by mid-September 2016. At this point, extensive testing of the APP will be carried out under the leadership of the 5 TELL-OP partners.

If you would like to download the App as soon as it is available, please sign up to our newsletter on the tellop.eu website. We'll let you know first.

If you are interested in using the app with your students of English, German or Spanish, please let us know by sending an e-mail to tellop@um.es

@eutellop // www.tellop.eu // tellop@um.es

These outputs will be released before **31 March 2017**
Check out our output site on www.tellop.eu/outputs/

Output 11
Adult/Higher education scenario testing. Study design, implementation, data collection and preliminary analysis.

Output 11 deals with the study design, implementation, data collection and preliminary analysis of the use of the TELL-OP app and ICT-driven methodology in the adult and higher education scenario testing across the foreign languages in the study (EN, GE, SP). It is one of the most important outputs for the TELL-OP project, as it could be considered the realization of all the previous outputs combined. This output is a major step in presenting large-scale evidence on the use of learner language input for language learning purposes and certainly an excellent opportunity to discuss the benefits and the challenges of mobile language learning and personalized environments for adult and HE education scenarios.

Readership: researchers and advanced practitioners in language education, MALL and CALL.

Output 12
Multimedia portfolio of good practices in using learner language and DLL on mobile devices for language learning

This is a multimedia portfolio of good practices in using learner language and DDL on mobile devices for language learning based on our previous studies and testing of our app.

Readership: language teachers and advanced practitioners and researchers in language education MALL and CALL; policy makers.

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MORE INFO