

An Attempt to Employ Facebook into College ESP Teaching

戴桂芬

Humanities and Social Sciences

kf-tai@chu.edu.tw

Abstract

Abstract

Though developed in the 1990' s, Social Networking Services (SNS) have quickly become an indispensable part of many people in the present society. Among them, Facebook®, open to the general public since 2006, immediately expands its population to over 500 million active users by the end of 2010 and is the most influential SNS nowadays. Meanwhile, the author' s attempts of conducting E-learning courses (Tai 2006, 2007, 2008) have brought about students' positive responses, including enhanced learning motivation, closer teacher-student relationship and better achievement of targeted English language skills. Following the track, this project aims to explore the efficacy of combining the heated Facebook® into traditional classroom teaching of ESP.

The subject students are non-English majors in the ESP class of “English for Workplace Uses” at Chung Hua University, whose level of English proficiency is around Intermediate and all of them have convenient accesses to the Internet. Through the processes of combining Facebook® into English teaching, the subjects have been reporting affirmative reactions and the author has also discovered the impressive educational power of Facebook®. Using SNS to promote students' learning interests and hence improve their English language abilities seems to be a right track to go on.

This paper initially introduces the application processes of the author' s Facebook®-aided English teaching and then categorizes some advantages and disadvantages of this experimental teaching method. The findings are expected to inspire ESL/EFL teachers who would like to add some vitality and innovation to their teaching.

Keyword : Keywords: ESP; Social Networking Services; SNS; Alternative teaching tool; Internet-based English Learning