Mobile Enhanced Language Learning

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Mobile learning

• Generally equated with mobile phones and apps
• Actually, use of a range of handheld devices in education, across a range of contexts, and both inside and outside the classroom
• Increasing awareness of the potential of learning via ever-increasing availability of mobile technologies
• Teachers need guidance in implementing and using mobile devices effectively in the language classroom
Mobile learning

• Ever-increasing availability of mobile technologies

• Students have uninterrupted, often unregulated access to technology

• Teachers need guidance in implementing and using mobile devices effectively in the language classroom
Aim of the Workshop

- to provide some guidance, and

- to consider both the choices and challenges involved in using mobile devices with students
Clarifying ‘mobile learning’

• When *devices* are mobile

• When *learners* are mobile

• When the *learning experiences* are mobile
Mobile learning

• Mobile *devices* – focus limited to apps

• Mobile *learners* – learners moving around the classroom or the school/college premises while learning (e.g., a photo-taking activity for vocabulary practice; treasure-hunt activity around the school for language review and practice)
Mobile learning

• Mobile *learning experiences*
  – Learners use devices across a range of real-world contexts to access information needed at the moment (e.g., creating multimedia recordings of their learning wherever they may be at the moment)

• Reference:

Mobile learning

• Involves the use of mobile technology, either alone or in combination with other ICTs, to enable learning anytime and anywhere

• Facilitates learning in a variety of ways:
  – Accessing educational resources
  – Connecting with others
  – Creating content, inside and outside classrooms

• Reference:
  UNESCO. 2013. UNESCO policy guidelines for mobile learning. France: UNESCO.
Variety of Mobile devices

- Mobile phones
- Tablet computers
- E-readers
- Portable audio players
- Hand-held gaming consoles
- Tomorrow’s new devices?

Mobile devices can bridge work in and out of class, by encouraging situated and open learning.

http://www.unesco.org/education/mlearning-resources/
Definition of Mobile devices

- Easily portable
- Digital
- Usually owned and controlled by an individual rather than an institution
- Can access the internet
- Have multimedia capabilities
- Employs more affordable, more easily procured and self-managed technology
- Can facilitate a large number of tasks, particularly those related to communication
Unique benefits of mobile technology

“Far from being a theoretical possibility, mobile learning is an on-the-ground reality: students and teachers from Mozambique to Mongolia are using mobile devices to access rich educational content, converse and share information with other learners, elicit support from peers and instructors, and facilitate productive communication.

While mobile technology is not and never will be an educational panacea, it is a powerful and often overlooked tool – in a repertoire of other tools – that can support education in ways not possible before.”

(UNESCO, 2013)
Benefits of mobile technology

• Expands the reach and equity of education
• Facilitates personalized learning
• Provides immediate feedback and assessment
• Enables anytime, anywhere learning
• Ensures the productive use of time spent in classrooms
• Builds new communities of learners
• Supports situated learning
• Enhances seamless learning
• Bridges formal and informal learning
• Improves communication