

**LEARNING THROUGH SHARING :
OPEN RESOURCES, OPEN PRACTICES, OPEN COMMUNICATION**

***Elledueò*: a learning environment
for Italian as a second language**

Andrea Gobbi, Francesco Scolastra, Stefania Spina
Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Italia
Piazza Fortebraccio, 4 – Perugia, 06122 Italia
+39 075 5746649

francesco.scolastra@unistrapg.it

andrea.gobbi@anche.no

stefania.spina@unistrapg.it

Abstract

In this paper we will first discuss about Elledueò, the social network for Italian as a second language and its usage in teaching and learning practice. We will focus our interest on the informal approach in the study of the Italian language, in comparison with the formal approach of structured online language courses; these are the two main parts of the three-year-long April project. April stands for “Ambiente personalizzato di rete per l'insegnamento linguistico”, meaning a personalized networked environment for language e-learning and teaching. The April project develops in three interconnected main research topics: the social aspects of web 2.0, natural language process (NLP) studies and tools, and research on conjugating formal and informal learning approaches. Learning a language involves all three of these aspects which we aim to integrate in a unique online learning environment in order to simulate a virtual native-speaker-like learning environment. In the second part of the paper we will then briefly analyse and discuss analogies between 2.0 dynamics and SLA, in a broader theoretical approach encompassing open dynamics as a starting point for considerations for future developments of CALL and in particular of the April project.

Keywords: Usability; Informal and formal learning; SLA; 2.0; scaffolding.

References

- LANINGHAM, S. (2006), *developerWorks Interviews: Tim Berners-Lee*. Available at: <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/podcast/dwi/cm-int082206.txt> [Accessed 22 February 2012].
- NEWSTEAD H. (2007), *Web 2.0 and Language Learning*. Available at: <http://web20andlanguagelearning.wikidot.com>.
- RAYMOND, E.S. (1997), *The Cathedral and the Bazaar*. Available at: <http://www.catb.org/esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/cathedral-bazaar/> [Accessed 22 February 2012].

- SCOLA STRA F., SPINA S. (2009), *Integrazione di “formale” e “sociale” in un ambiente di apprendimento linguistico per l’italiano L2*. Paper presented at SIEL 2009 (Salerno, 16,18 settembre 2009).
- SELINKER, L. (1972), *Interlanguage*, in “IRAL”, 10, 3, 209-231.
- SIGALA M. (2007), *Integrating Web 2.0 in e-learning environments: a socio-technical approach*. In: International Journal of Knowledge and Learning, 3:6, pp. 628 – 648.
- VAN BUREN, P. (1972), *The edges of language*, New York , Macmillan.
- WALKER R., DAVIES G. & HEWER S. (2012) *Introduction to the Internet. Module 1.5*, in Davies G. (ed.) Information and Communications Technology for Language Teachers (ICT4LT), Slough, Thames Valley University [Online]. Available at: http://www.ict4lt.org/en/en_mod1-5.htm [Accessed 22 February 2012].