

TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS FOR ASSESSING STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN A VIRTUAL LANGUAGE-LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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Working in a virtual language-learning environment has become a norm in higher education due to the shift towards remote learning as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian aggression against Ukraine. The issues of online learning have been considered by A. W. Bates [1], A. K. Bazylenko [2], I. B. Ivanova [2], N. V. Kondukoczova [2], V. G. Kyrylenko [2], M. L. Manegre [5] and others. Having studied the practices of Columbia University (USA) [3] and Cornell University (USA) [4] we singled out some effective techniques and tools that can be appropriate for assessing student performance in a virtual language learning environment. The main techniques include grading rubrics, Canvas Assignments, plagiarism detection, self-assessment, peer assessment, surveys, classroom polling. The main tools are:

Zoom's polling feature enables teachers to create single-choice and multiple-choice (standard plan) and matching, rank order, short answer, long answer, fill in the blank or rating scale questions (advanced plan) to gather feedback, gauge understanding, and facilitate engagement among students. A teacher can set the correct answers turning the polling feature into a quizzing platform. But here is a limitation: only single-choice, multiple-choice, matching and rank order polls have a correct answer setting. Zoom's polling feature provides teachers with real-time results and reports for each poll. It is available for Pro, Business, Education, or Enterprise accounts.

Poll Everywhere is a web-based audience response system that allows teachers to create and conduct polls, surveys, quizzes, and brainstorming sessions in real-time. It supports a wide range of question types, including multiple-choice, open-ended, word clouds, clickable images, ranking questions, etc. Poll Everywhere integrates with a variety of other tools, including PowerPoint, Google Slides, Microsoft Teams, and Slack. This feature makes it easy to incorporate polls and surveys into existing workflows and systems.

Canvas Rubrics is a scoring tool within the Canvas LMS that defines the criteria for assessing student work and the levels of performance for each criterion. Teachers can create rubrics for various types of assignments, including essays, projects, presentations, etc. Rubrics can be customized to meet the specific needs of the assignment and the course, and can be shared with students to provide clear expectations for assessment. By using a rubric to assess student work, educators can provide detailed feedback on areas where students are doing well and areas where they need to improve.

FeedbackFruits is a set of assignment tools (Peer Review Assignment, Group Member Evaluation Assignment, Assignment Review, Interactive Document, Interactive Audio and Interactive Video Assignments, Skill Review, Self-Assessment of Work and Self-Assessment of Skills, Comprehension, Discussion Assignment) that enable students to get feedback and work collaboratively on a range of assessment

activities. By incorporating these tools into their courses, teachers can assess students' understanding of course content, their ability to evaluate and provide constructive feedback, work effectively in a team, articulate their ideas and defend their positions in a debate setting, etc.

Gradescope is an online grading platform which uses AI technology and optical character recognition to recognize and grade handwritten or typed answers. It allows teachers to create assignments or exams and upload them to the platform. After students' submission, teachers can grade the assignments online using a number of grading options, such as rubrics, partial credit, and group grading. Custom rubrics are used to grade assignments based on specific criteria and learning objectives.

Qualtrics is a web-based survey and data analysis platform that allows creating surveys tailored to the specific course needs. It may be applied to conduct course evaluations, allowing students to provide feedback on the course content, teacher performance, and overall learning experience. Qualtrics provides a range of question types, including multiple choice, ranking, matrix, and open-ended questions. Surveys and quizzes can be sent via email, social media, or embedded in a website. The platform allows visualizing survey results and tracking key metrics. It also includes features for analyzing open-ended responses and text analytics.

Turnitin is an online tool that is widely used by educators to check for plagiarism in students' written work. It compares submitted papers to a vast database of sources, including previously submitted student papers, academic journals, and websites, to identify any matches or similarities in the text. Turnitin's grading tool helps teachers provide feedback on grammar, style, and organization of a text, while Turnitin's citation feature enables students to properly credit their sources.

We have concluded that the main advantages of assessment of online language learning performance is its flexibility, accessibility, efficiency and reduced paperwork, while its disadvantages are lack of personal interaction, technical support issues and high pricing plans for some platforms and tools.

References

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