

The Evaluation of an Online Practice Tool, the Views of Students and Teachers on How to Better Use the Online Practice Center

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the possible reasons behind the unsuccessful implementation of an online practice program by Oxford University Press in Celal Bayar University's School of Foreign Languages and also attempts to find ways to turn around this unfortunate event in the following years. After looking at the numerical data, which showed that only 8 of the 589 students completed more than half of the practice program, the evaluator decided to set up interviews with select students and teachers to investigate the reasons behind the unsuccessful implementation. These 16 students along with 8 volunteer teachers from the institution were then asked several questions in the format of a semi-structured interview. The results show that there were several different reasons behind the unsuccessful implementation. The participants also offered some insights on how to deal with these issues and achieve a healthier practice program. The researcher hopes that this evaluation would prove useful in providing new ideas for future administrations of the program.

Today most language schools boast big computer labs with state-of-the-art computers for each student, many teachers prefer to 'hand out' the external materials on-line, libraries slowly wane while search engines and 'wikis' grow to fill in, and students often 'blog' for millions to read and comment on instead of writing to their pen-friends who may or may not respond within the month. The self-study books and resources also grew in abundance and students can now easily find many opportunities to practice the target language in a number of paid or free sites which cover the language thoroughly from exercises on form to authentic listening or speaking tasks.

This study aims to investigate the several possible reasons behind the unsuccessful implementation of such an online practice in the Celal Bayar University School of Foreign Languages.