

Title: Design and Development of Effective Tasks in an EFL Environment



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Research Contents:

1. Tasks

Tasks incorporated into communicative activities in foreign language classes have the potential to generate proactive, interactive, and deep learning in the classroom, and to make learners notice and motivated to learn. While tasks can be difficult to handle, if learners have difficulty with output-based tasks, it is possible to start with input-based tasks that require less cognitive load and gradually shift to output-based tasks, thereby making it possible to implement communicative tasks even for learners with limited language resources (Ellis, Skehan, Li, Shintani, & Lambert, 2020). The theme of this research is how tasks should be designed and how they should be effectively arranged.

2. Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT)

As advances in generative AI and globalization accelerate beyond human expectations, there is a growing demand for proactive, interactive, and deep learning for students to acquire the skills to survive in the world by improving the learning process. The introduction of a task syllabus, instead of the traditional teacher-driven grammar syllabus, may lead to a more proactive, interactive, and in-depth learning process. Thus, the development of syllabus as well as task development using AI is a theme of our research.

3. Technology-Mediated TBLT

It is known that technology can increase the potential of task utilization and its effects, and create many advantages for TBLT (Thomas and Reinders, 2010). We are considering the development of an LMS that can not only provide a variety of input materials, but can also complete the platform for performance and output on a single device, making it easier to work with.

4. ICT-supported Learning

ICT-supported learning motivates learners and has greatly changed the way of teaching. As time goes by, CALL (Computer-mediated Language Learning) has shifted to CALL in a wireless LAN environment with the spread of ICT utilization such as laptop PCs, tablet devices, and smartphones. We are currently researching how to effectively utilize them.

5. Generative AI and Task Design

The rapid evolution of generative AI is bringing new possibilities to the field of education. Normally, task design requires a lot of time and effort, but the use of AI can reduce this effort. One of our future research themes will be to generate not only task design but also task execution data for actual use.

【Reference】

- Ellis, R., Skehan, P., Li, S., Shintani, N. & Lambert, C. (2020). *Task-Based Language Teaching: Theory and Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Thomas, M. & Reinders, H. (eds.). (2010). *Task-Based Learning and Teaching with Technology*. London: Continuum.