

Learnosity



NCCA 
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta



National Centre for Technology in Education
Ionad Náisiúnta don Teicneolaíocht san Oideachas

Use of mobile phones for language testing.

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Learnosity
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Pilot project

- Investigate the use of ICT in post-primary schools in Ireland for teaching and learning Irish
- April – May 2007
- Technology used as a tool – not “accessorising education”

Pilot group

- Ratoath College, Co. Meath
- 69 students
- 13-14 years of age
- 3 classes – teachers Nuala, Áine and Amanda
- Three Parts:
 - SMS “Word-a-Day”
 - Text-based Instant Messenger Chat
 - Mobile phone based Oral e-Assessments

3

Oral Gaeilge (Irish Language) Assessment in Ireland

- The Junior Certificate (15 year old students) Irish Exam is comprised of a written exam, an aural exam and an optional school-based oral exam.
- At present, only twelve schools partake in the optional oral exam.
- March 2007: change in the weighting of the Irish Exam sections for 2010.
 - 50% for written exam
 - 10% for the aural exam
 - 40% for the optional oral exam
- This increased emphasis on the use and production of Irish is the foundation of one of the project aims – promotion of student oracy in Irish.

4

Government Objectives for Irish Language

- *"One of the key Government objectives for Irish is to increase the use and knowledge of Irish as a community language"*
(Mary Hanafin, Minister for Education and Science, 11 March 2007)

5

Project Aims

- promote oracy through audio-lingual and more communicative methods
- increase student motivation through the use of familiar technology each student uses daily
- increase student use of the four skills, reading, writing, speaking and listening, in Irish
- help students progress their Irish competency
- promote the use of Irish for communicating
- investigate the use of ICT to assist teachers in assessing students and students in self-assessment.

6

SMS “Word-a-Day”

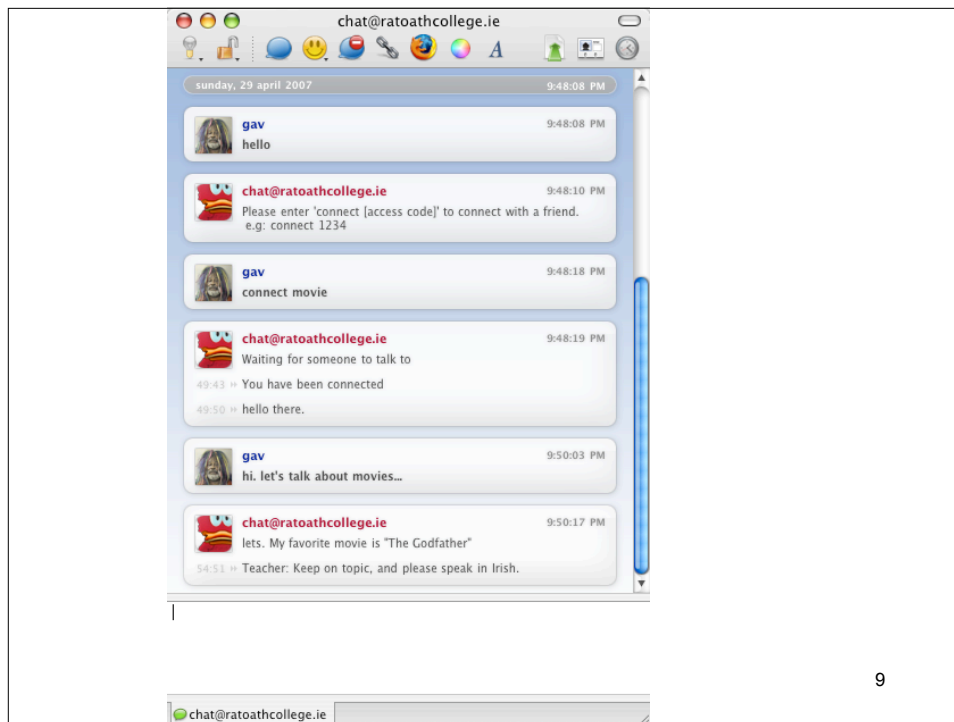
- Words, phrases & questions entered in a web interface
- Students receive one or two SMSs daily
- Different classes setup with different levels and topics
- Activities are designed around the SMSs
 - Use the word in today's oral e-Assessment or Chat
 - Look up definition of word or phrase and make note
 - Use in paper-based assessments
- Primary function = to build Irish language vocabulary

7

Text-based Instant Messenger Chat

- Web-based text chat application
 - Works on lowest possible specification of computer
 - Based on Jabber open standards
- Student converses with chat robot on server
 - Matched anonymously to another student
 - Conversation logged to web-based administration
 - Teachers monitor conversations in real-time and can join any conversation at any time
- Multilingual interface/ commands
- Chat to prompts and topics – music, video, image
- Chat - comhrá (conversation), scéal (story), litir (letter)

8



9

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[Logout gav](#)

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[Home](#)
[Tests](#)
[Chat](#)
[SMS](#)
[Users](#)
[Questions](#)
[Logs](#)
[Admin](#)
[Debug](#)

Summary

Chat Sessions

Participants

Conversations

Messages

Logging

Debug

Actions

[End Conversation](#)

Conversation

Summary

ID: 69

Exam: Chats about movies

Status: Active

Start Time: Apr 29, 2007 9:53 PM

End Time: Apr 29, 2007 9:53 PM

Send Message to all participants

Keep on topic, and please speak in Irish. [Send Message](#)

Participants

Participant	Assigned Mark	Comments
gavin.cooney@ratoathcollege.ie	<input type="text"/> %	<input type="text"/>
gavin.cooney@gmail.com	<input type="text"/> %	<input type="text"/>

Transcript [Refresh](#)

9:53 PM gavin.cooney@ratoathcollege.ie hello there.

9:53 PM gavin.cooney@gmail.com hi. let's talk about movies...

9:53 PM gavin.cooney@ratoathcollege.ie lets. My favorite movie is "The Godfather"

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Tortaí - don scrudíe cainte



Dalta: gavin.cooney@ratoathcollege.ie

Eolais

Ainteantais: 69

Scrudú: Chats about movies

Tús ama: Apr 29, 2007 9:53 PM

Críoch ama: Apr 29, 2007 9:58 PM

Grád

Marc: 60

Tuarisc: Just ok. Conversation was a bit short. Try harder.

An Comhrá

2007-04-29 21:53:30.0	Mise: hello there.
2007-04-29 21:53:43.0	Card: hi. let's talk about movies...
2007-04-29 21:53:57.0	Mise: lets. My favorite movie is "The Godfather"
2007-04-29 21:58:31.0	Mise: Teacher: Keep on topic, and please speak in Irish.
2007-04-29 21:58:31.0	Card: Teacher: Keep on topic, and please speak in Irish.



Mobile-phone based Oral e-Assessments

- ~ 70 Students given mobile phones
- Phone functions are limited:
 - Dial only one number
 - No outgoing SMS
 - No incoming calls or Voicemail
- Students dial a phone number and are given a series of question prompts

- Students call the supplied telephone number and log-in to the system using individual student numbers and PINs.
- Once students have passed through the log-in process, they are presented with a series of ten questions.
- These ten question prompts are randomly chosen from a larger item-bank of questions for this level.
- The student records an oral response, much like a voicemail system, and has an opportunity to re-record their answer if they are unhappy with their response.
- Answers are saved to a server as a WAV file.

13

Marking

- Teachers/ Markers play student responses in a web-based administration system
- Where a student response is deemed incorrect or lacking, the the answer is marked as such, and the question is returned to the pool of questions the student must complete to pass this level.
- Use of podcasting to set individual student response will be placed alongside an exemplary answer for that question.
 - Students can later compare their response to the exemplary answer and re-record their answers.

14

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[Home](#)
[Tests](#)
[Chat](#)
[SMS](#)
[Users](#)
[Questions](#)
[Logs](#)
[Admin](#)
[Debug](#)

[Logout gav](#)

[Summary](#)
[View Tests](#)
[Active Tests](#)
[Unmarked Tests](#)

Mark Test

Test ID: 4240

Course: NCCA Gaeilge Oral Pilot (1)

Details | **Mark Test**

Question 1

Question Cén t-ainm atá ar do mhúinteoir Gaeilge?

Notes What is your Irish teacher's name?

Score 80 of 100

Comment Good answer.

Status Marked

Listen to Response:

Question 2

Question Cad é an t-ábhar is fearr leat?

Notes What is your favourite subject?

Score 50 of 100

Comment Please expand. Explain why etc...

Status Marked

Listen to Response:

Question 3

Question Cad is ainm don scoil seo?

Notes What is the name of this school?

Score 85 of 100

Comment Correct!

Status Marked

Listen to Response:

Actions

Save Marks

Export PDF

Toradh an Scrúdú Cainte

Dalta: 11113036 **Uimhir Scrúdú:** 5148

Dáta agus Am: 14/05/07 13:54

Scrúdú: NCCA Tionscnamh Teicneolaíochta

An Méid Ceisteanna: 10 **Méan Marc:** 61.00

Ceist 1: An maith leat aon fhoireann sacar?

Marc: 50 as 100 **Tuairisc:** Dean cur síos ar..

Ceist 2: An dtogann tú an bus scoile gach maidin?

Marc: 80 as 100 **Tuairisc:** ar scoil

Ceist 3: Cén bliain ina rugadh tú?

Marc: 30 as 100 **Tuairisc:** rugadh??

Ceist 4: An maith leat Steve Staunton mar bhainisteoir?

Marc: 60 as 100 **Tuairisc:** Is bainisteoir maith é

Ceist 5: An reitíonn tú go maith le do dheirfiúr / do dheartháir?

Marc: 0 as 100 **Tuairisc:** ???

Ceist 6: Cad iad na cailtheamh aimsirí atá agat?

Marc: 60 as 100 **Tuairisc:** Imríme mé sacar le...

Ceist 7: An raibh tú riamh i bPáirc an Chrócaigh?

Marc: 80 as 100 **Tuairisc:** foireann is fearr in Éirinn

Ceist 8: Cad é an bia is fearr leat?

Marc: 80 as 100 **Tuairisc:**

16

Adaptive Formative e-Assessment

- Teachers decide when students move on to the next level of questions and which questions need to be re-answered within any given level.
- Students work their way through a series of levels. When marking the answers, teachers will provide detailed feedback to justify the mark given.
- At the end of a level, the teacher moves the student to a new level based on their abilities.
- A feedback booklet can then be sent to the student by email or printed out by teachers as required.
 - This feedback serves as a portfolio of competence for students.

17

Podcasting

- Students can subscribe to a podcast of their own responses using their own computer and iPod
 - Text feedback included with podcast
- Teachers/markers can also highlight a particular answer as an "exemplary" answer, and students could subscribe to a podcast of the exemplary answers on their iTunes/iPod.
- Alternatively, the teacher could subscribe to a podcast of the answers, print out a marking sheet and mark them wherever they want e.g. on the bus.

18

Comments from teachers

- *"It's nice to hear students you wouldn't usually hear too much in class talking on the recordings."*
(Áine, class teacher)
- *"It's more interesting and interactive than sitting with a red pen."*
(Áine, class teacher)
- *"He's gaining in confidence. He's not very clear in English but his recordings are getting better."*
(Nuala, class teacher)

19

Observations

- Teachers require solid training and support to use the technology
- Students are at home with the mobile technology
- Irish prompts for phone system
 - Barrier
 - Teachers overcome difficulty
- Unreliable wireless internet access in the school
- 67% of students & teachers stated students had made progress in speaking Irish as a result of participating
- 95% of students "enjoyed" using the technology
- Full report available on www.learnosity.com

20

Biometric Voice Verification

- Biometric voice prints uses spoken words to calculate a unique digital representation of an individual's voice.
- Future versions of this project will allow students to login using their voice, and have each of their Irish language responses verified against a previously recorded voice-print.
- Biometric voice verification will allow use of mobile technology for on-demand, high-stakes oral exams.
- If biometric voice verification is used, it is possible to all students complete their oral examinations from home, unsupervised.