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Using mobile devices for language learning in a higher education distance learning context: motivations and behaviours.

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Agnes Kukulska-Hulme

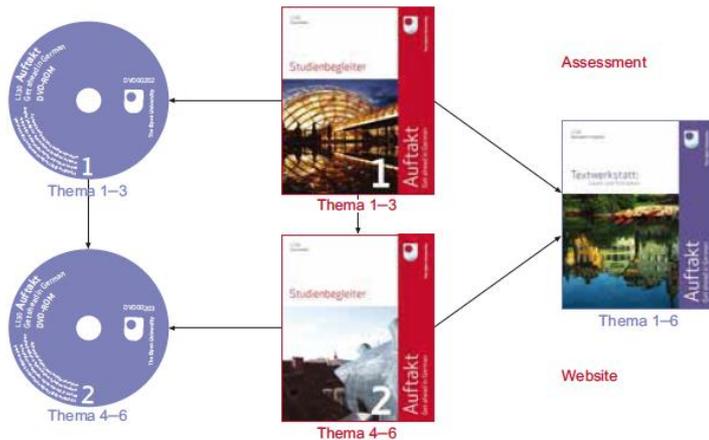
Delivering languages at the OU in the last 10 years



From ...



To ...



The Open University | Study at the OU | Research at the OU | OU Community | About the OU

Study planner

L194 Portales: beginners' Spanish

Week

Welcome to L194 *Portales: beginners' Spanish*. Before you start Unit 1, we suggest you familiarise yourself with the module by reading the [L194 Guide](#) and looking at the various sections in this website.

Progress ?

1

5 Oct

Unidad 1

In this unit you will learn how to greet and introduce people, give personal information and seek clarification when you don't understand (see overview *Unidad 1*).
The materials for this unit are Book 1 Unit 1 and CD1 Unit 1.

2

12 Oct

Continue with Unid 1

3

Continue with Unid 1

Search this website ?

News

There is no news yet

Resources

- Assessment resources
- Study resources
- Audio resources
- Library resources
- Additional resources
- Accessibility area
- Language Studies Website
- Acknowledgements and credits
- Online rooms (OU Live) guidance

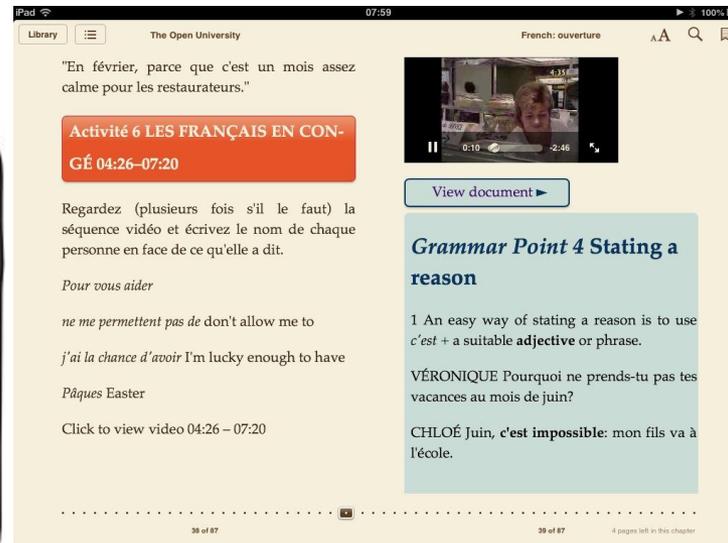
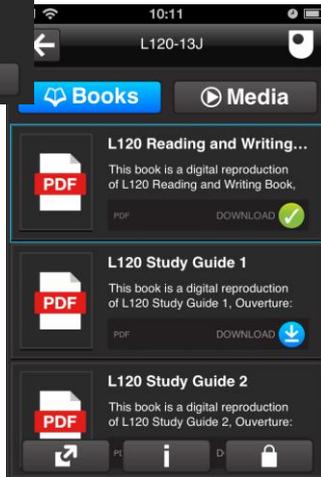
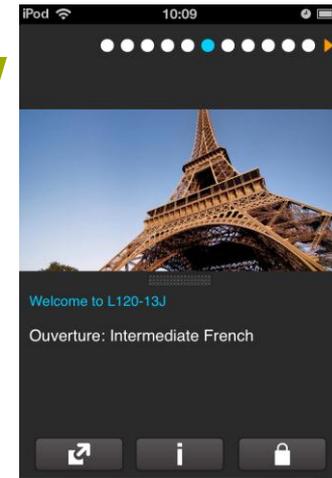
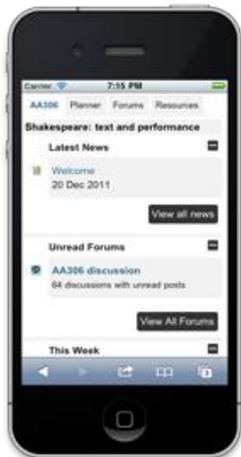
Forums (new)

- Student forum
- Technical support forum (Unread posts)

Learning with mobile devices at the OU now



- Mobile VLE
- Ebooks, ibooks
- OUAnywhere
- iTunesU



The project



- What are the students' motivations for using mobile devices to learn the language they are currently studying? Has their motivation changed since they began using the phone/device for this purpose?
- How do they see their use of mobile devices evolving in relation to language learning and what mobile language learning materials, services or resources would the students like to have available to them in the future as part of their studies at the OU?
- Are mobile language learning activities an important (regular?) and scheduled feature in their language learning? Or are they more punctual and opportunistic? And do they spend more time on language learning as a result?

Methodology



- Sample of 8 language modules (across languages and levels)
- Online survey (mostly quantitative data)
- Follow-up interviews (8 Beginners students)
- Participation rates (ranging from 11% to 32%)
- Around 150 users of mobile devices for language learning across all 8 modules surveyed (10% of the participants)

Some consistent findings:



- Main two devices used: mobile phones and tablets
- First resource or service ever accessed: OU language website
- Most dominant activity done: listening, closely followed by vocabulary and grammar practice.
- Some reading but no writing
- High on their wish list: resources/apps for speaking practice and more interactivity
- The affordances of the device and its regular use got them started, not an identified need related to language learning

So what type of resources are accessed then?



- OU language module materials (books in pdf or ebook format, audio files)
- Raw resources in the TL for listening or reading (news, audio books, songs, films, video/audio clips, books etc.)
- Reference tools (dictionaries, verb tables)
- Language learning activities & packages (website & cloud-based apps such as Duolingo, Busuu, Memrise, Babbel, Anki etc.)



Busuu



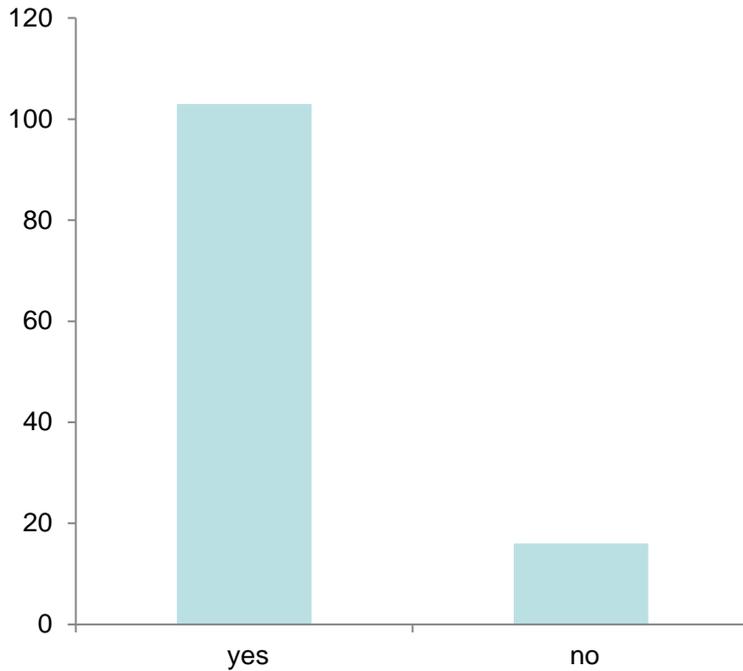
Duolingo

Using their device ...

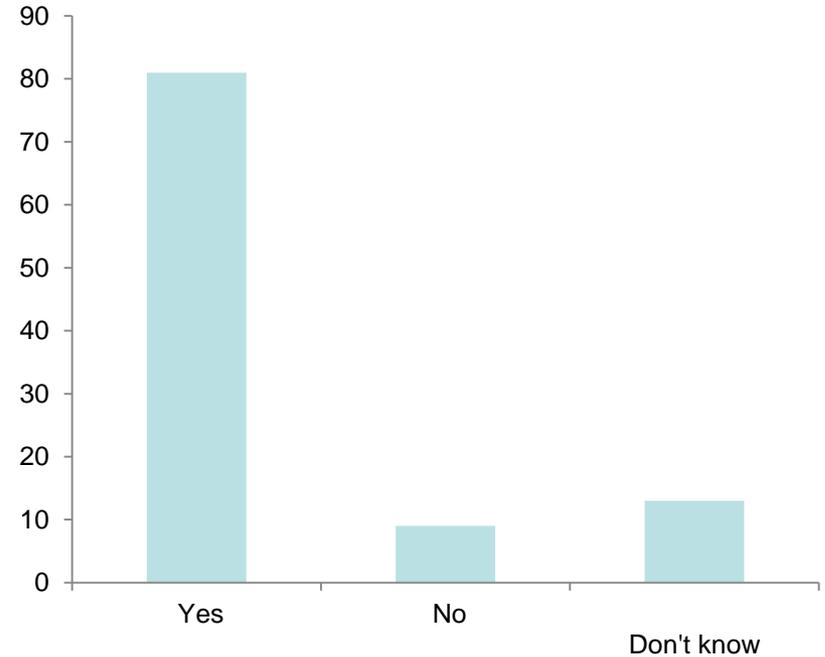


	in planned sessions	informally	both
Spanish Beg	3	26	18
Chinese Beg	1	3	4
French Int	0	12	7
Italian Int	1	10	4
German level 2	1	8	6
French level 2	0	10	0
German level 3	1	2	3
Spanish level 3	0	7	6

Impact on their learning:



Has the use of mobile devices enabled you to study at times and in places you would not normally have studied in the past?



Do you think you are spending more time on language learning as a result?

What are the motivations behind the use of mobile devices?



- Enabling frequent connection with the course
- Keeping it fun and light and informal
- Maximising exposure and creating a sense of authenticity and immersion
- Fostering motivation and a sense of progression and achievement
- Promoting autonomy

And about immersion ...



yabla 
Online Language Immersion

View page in:   

Username / Email Password

[Home](#) [Spanish](#) [French](#) [German](#) [Italian](#) [Chinese](#) [Educators](#) [About](#)



Language Immersion Through Online Video

The revolutionary way to immerse yourself in a foreign language is here!

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iPad 09:31 100%

Done Canadian Chocolate Seller - Chocolats



yabla
PLAYER

French » English

English » French

Bi-Lingual Dictionary
Tap any word on the transcript or translation and a definition will appear here

« Back Pause Skip » Slow Loop

CAPTION 6/40 Game

Et on fabrique les chocolats et les desserts sur place.

And we make the chocolates and desserts here in-house.

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