<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peranan Bahasa Menangani Cabaran Menjadi Sebuah Universiti Bertaraf Dunia – Pengalaman Universiti Teknologi MARA</td>
<td>Md Noh Nyata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lecturer's Evaluation Form: A Critical Response by Students and Lecturers</td>
<td>Julina Munchar, Paul Ang Ban Hock, Choy Tuck Onn, Anna Fung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Errors as Functions of Language</td>
<td>Patrick Touchon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Times and New Texts: Reconceptualising Literacy Education for the Twenty-first Century</td>
<td>Moses Samuel, Saratha Sithamparam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Personal Perspective of an ESP Teacher's Professional Development</td>
<td>Hawa Rohany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategi Pengajaran Bahasa Arab Sebagai Bahasa Ketiga Menggunakan Pendekatan Bahasa Inggeris: Suatu Pengalaman di UiTM</td>
<td>Naimah Abdullah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexist Language: Terms of Reference for Women and Men</td>
<td>Ramesh Nair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apakah Makna Perkataan &quot;Méi&quot; (Cantik) dalam Bahasa Mandarin?</td>
<td>Neo Kian Sen, Heng Buai Chin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WeB-CEPT: A Content Creation Tool for English Language Teaching</td>
<td>Mohamed Amin Embi, Afendi Hamat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Communication: Role and Impact of Verbs, Nouns, Adjectives and Adverbs</td>
<td>Fatimah Dinna Mohd. Din</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WeB-CEPT: A Content Creation Tool for English Language Teaching

Mohamed Amin Embi
Afendi Hamat

Although e-learning is more available than before with the advent of Learning Networks, there is still a lack of localised tools for creating online language learning and teaching materials, especially for the teaching and learning of ESL in the Malaysian context. The purpose of this paper is to describe a 3-in-1 tool known as WeB-CEPT (http://www.eltrec.ukm.my/add_modules.asp) designed to assist ESL teachers create, edit and publish online language learning and teaching materials. WeB-CEPT which is the acronym for Web-Based Creating, Editing and Publishing Tool is a Content Creation Tool (CCT) that enables ESL teachers to create WYSIWYG (What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get) HTML documents online and save them into an educational portal known as ELT-TReC (ELT-Online Teacher Resource Center) developed by the authors. The documents may contain simple text formatting, hyperlinks and images. WeB-CEPT also offers ESL teachers the ability to switch between WYSIWYG view and HTML code view. This enables teachers proficient with HTML to directly edit their contents in the WeB-CEPT work area.

Introduction

The phenomenal growth of the Internet has benefited the education sector and is identified as the main benefactor of multimedia technology (Manjit & Ramesh, 2001). As the content is generally very current and up-to-date and the language used to present it is real and authentic (Brown, 1999), the Internet is a potentially useful source for ESL teachers and learners. There are two views regarding the use of Internet in ESL classrooms (Chantrill, 2000). The first sees the Internet as just another way of using computers to assist ESL teaching and learning. On the other hand, the other holds the opinion that the Internet and Computer
Assisted Language Learning (CALL) are two separate areas. Regardless of these two contrasting schools of thought, the fact that the Internet possesses the potential to retrieve and provide almost unlimited information very fast has made it to be a great tool in ESL classrooms. In fact, Maddux, Johnson and Willis (1997) believe that the capability of the Internet as an educational tool is only limited by the imagination and creativity of ESL teachers and learners.

There is little doubt that the advent of the Internet has transformed the way information is disseminated. Virtually anyone, including individual ESL teachers and students can become an information provider to the world. In addition, the web offers the possibility of ESL teachers to contribute supplementary language teaching and learning materials available electronically and putting them into an interactive environment (Jones, 1986). These online language learning materials can be updated or added from time to time and students have 24-hours, remote, platform-independent access (the accessibility to the web regardless of the type of computer the students use) largely due to the use of Hypertext Markup Language (HTML).

The strength of the web as a language learning teaching and learning tool has prompted many ESL educators to start presenting their materials online. Nevertheless, Malaysian educators, especially ESL teachers, usually do not have access to the tools or skills needed to successfully implement it in their institutions (Mohamed Amin Embi, 2004). Those who are competent enough could develop basic delivery tools that may or may not meet all their instructional needs. Tools that provide facilities to help ESL educators deliver their materials and instructions are usually very costly or do not fit into the institutions' needs (Abbey, 2001). Although there are a few commercially available products that offer solutions for online language learning, they are expensive to acquire and maintain. They are also not designed specifically for the Malaysian scenario, catering instead to global markets. Mohamed Amin Embi, Ramlee Mustapha and Sidek Abdul Aziz (2001) also argue that although online learning is more available than before with the advent of Learning Networks, there is still lack of localised tools for creating online language learning and teaching materials, especially for the learning and teaching of English in the Malaysian context. The purpose of this paper is to describe a 3-in-1 tool known as WeB-CEPT designed to assist ESL teachers create, edit and publish online language learning and teaching materials.
Features of WeB-CEPT

WeB-CEPT (Mohamed Amin Embi, 2003) which is the acronym for Web-Based Creating, Editing and Publishing Tool is a tool that enables users to create documents into database embedded in an online resource center known as ELT-TReC or ELT-Online Teacher Resource Center (see Picture 1) (Mohamed Amin Embi, Afendi Hamat & Muhammad Kamarul Kabilan, 2002, 2003). The documents may contain simple text formatting, hyperlinks and images. WeB-CEPT also offers users the ability to switch between WYSIWYG (What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get) view and HTML code view. This enables users proficient with HTML to directly edit their contents in the WeB-CEPT work area. WeB-CEPT is based on client side DHTML (Dynamic HTML) and JavaScript technologies. As such, it is very dependant on the type of browser used. Currently, the browser supported for use with WeB-CEPT is Internet Explorer 5.5 and above. Other browsers lack the DHTML support available in Internet Explorer 5.5 and above. Basically, WeB-CEPT offers the following features to users:

1. Basic text formatting such as bold, italics and underline (see Appendix 1).
2. Switching from WYSIWYG view to HTML view. This lets advanced users tweak the underlying HTML if they so desire.
Creating, Publishing & Editing Online Language Materials

Mohamed Amin Embi (2003, 2004) argues that Malaysian ESL teachers wanting to manage online language learning materials on the web often encounter three major obstacles. Firstly, they require a web authoring tool to create a web site that can display the materials they have produced. Secondly, they need to look for a host server to upload and publish the web site developed. Thirdly, and more importantly, they face problem updating the materials already published on the web. Web-CEPT (http://www.eltrec.ukm.my/add_modules.asp) is a 3-in-1 Content Creation Tool (CCT) designed to assist ESL teachers create, edit and publish online English language learning and teaching materials.

To create a unit of language teaching or learning material, users need to click on the ‘Web-CEPT’ button in ELT-TReC and start by clicking the ‘Add Your Module’ button. After filling in the ‘Title’ and ‘Description’ of the module, users can begin typing in the work area provided on the screen (see Picture 2).

Once the materials are typed in the work area or alternatively being ‘cut-and-pasted’ from a word document, the module will be published on the web as soon as the ‘Save Document’ button is clicked. The module is then displayed in ELT-TReC (see Picture 3) and is accessible to students to be viewed (see Picture 4).

To edit an existing module already created, a user needs to click the ‘Edit’ button placed next to the module(s) he/she has created and start adding or formatting the text. Web-CEPT allows users to format text with the following formats:

1. **Bold**
2. *Italics*
WeB-CEPT: A Content Creation Tool for English Language Teaching

3. Underline
4. Numbered List
5. Bulleted List
6. Text Alignment (Left, Centre and Right)
7. Indent
8. Horizontal Line

Details on the procedures involved in formatting texts, uploading and inserting images as well as inserting hyperlinks in WeB-CEPT can be found in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

Summary

This paper presents briefly a 3-in-1 tool known as WeB-CEPT designed to assist ESL teachers manage online language learning and teaching
Examples of Sentences in the present tense:

She goes to schools.
He plays football.
WeB-CEPT: A Content Creation Tool for English Language Teaching

materials. It also provides guidelines for teachers to create, publish and edit online English language teaching and learning materials. A related study undertaken by Mohamed Amin Embi and Affendi Hamat (2003) investigating learners' perception towards online learning materials created and delivered using WeB-CEPT revealed positive results indicating the potential role of WeB-CEPT as a localized Content Creation Tool in the World Wide Web.

References


Mohamed Amin Embi & Afendi Hamat (2003). Trainees’ perception toward online modules created and delivered using WeB-CEPT. Paper presented at the International Conference on Teaching and Teacher Education, 16-18 September 2003, IIUM.


MOHAMED AMIN EMBI, Ph.D is an Associate Professor in TESL at the Faculty of Education, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. His research interests include CALL, Language Learning Strategies, Learning-to-learn English and e-Learning.

AFENDI HAMAT, is a lecturer in CALL and e-Learning at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, University Kebangsaan Malaysia.
Appendix A – Text Formatting in WeB-CEPT

Doing Basic Text Formatting

1. To do basic formatting in WeB-CEPT, just highlight the text to be formatted.

2. Then click on one of the formatting options (Bold, Italics or Underline) and the text will be formatted accordingly.

Changing Fonts and Font Size

1. Highlight the text that needs to be changed.

2. Then choose the font and size.
3. The changes will be shown immediately.

**Inserting a Bulleted Numbered List**

1. Type something in the first line of WeB-CEPT text area.

2. Press Enter click on the bulleted list button.

3. Type the first item in the list
4. Press Enter again to get to the second item. Type the second item.

5. When you are done, just press Enter twice to get out of list mode.

**Inserting a Horizontal Line**

HTML allows users to insert a horizontal line by using the `<hr>` tag. In WeB-CEPT, this is done simply with a mouse click on the ‘Insert Horizontal Line’ button.

The result is as shown below.
Appendix 2 - Uploading and Inserting Images in WeB-CEPT

WeB-CEPT allows users to upload images from their computers into the online. Only GIF and JPEG images are supported at the moment.

1. To upload an image, click on the image button
2. A new window titled ‘My Image Library’ will open. If an image has never been uploaded before, the window will contain no picture.

3. Click on the browse button. Then browse through the computer and look for the file to be upload. Click on the ‘Open’ button.
4. The path to the image file will be automatically added to the Image textbox. Now name the image and then click on the ‘Upload’ button.

5. To insert the picture, just click on the image.
Among the free services offered on the World Wide Web are web directories. Yahoo is an example directory.
Appendix 3 - Inserting Hyperlinks in WeB-CEPT

WeB-CEPT allows users to insert hyperlinks into their documents. Four different kinds of hyperlinks are supported:

b. mailto: - for linking directly to mail addresses
c. ftp:// - for links to File Transfer Protocol sites and services.
d. https:// - for links to sites that use secure http connection.

The following is the process of inserting hyperlinks in a document:

1. Choose the link type in the dropdown menu (http, mailto, ftp or https) and type the address to be linked to.

2. Next, highlight the text to be used as the hyperlink.

3. Click on the 'Add' button at the end of the address textbox. The result is as shown below.