LEARNING ITALIAN LANGUAGE: WHEN YOU WANT, WHEN YOU ARE FREE AND FROM THE PLACE YOU PREFER

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Abstract:Sometimes it is difficult to find the time to attend a language course that we are interested to learn. This is true especially for those who are working. The objective of this new program is to allow everyone to choose the best time to study without having to follow a certain tight schedule. It could be in the morning, in the afternoon, at night, during weekdays or even on public holidays. The novelty of this tool will allow one to study Italian language at a comfortable place of one's choice (home, office, car). What is required is only an internet connection. That's all. This on line course is useful to anyone (kids, adults, old folks) who is interested to study the Italian language in a fun and easy way. Although this new Italian program is totally free, it has the potential to be sold in the market.

Keywords: Italian , language, easy, UiTM , learn

1. Introduction

Many people are interested in learning a foreign language. One might be motivated to learn a foreign language, be it as a second language, third language etc., for various reasons. It might be for business purposes, for travelling, for job opportunities, for other personal reasons or perhaps it is a requirement for students at schools or tertiary level.

This program is created as an online interactive program. It gives the opportunity to anyone to study the Italian language starting from zero. In fact, this program is made for those who have no knowledge of Italian at all. The program is absolutely free and no registration is required. The only requirement is an internet connection. This course offers 14 video lessons, so it is like sitting in a proper classroom and the user has the privilege of having his/her own personal teacher.

Each video lesson is conducted in English to explain the basic rules of the Italian grammar, how to use nouns and adjectives, how to combine them, how to use the basic verbs "to be" (essere) and "to have" (avere), how to create and answer simple questions. For the video lessons, English is chosen to be the medium of instruction because it is the most important international language and as such it could be utilised worldwide.

It goes without saying that there are many advantages for those who are able to converse in more than one language. Many famous figures have stressed the importance of learning foreign languages.

According to Charlemagne:
"To have another language is to possess a second soul."

Frank Smith pointed out that:

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."

Roger Bacon said that:

"Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom."

In UiTM, it is compulsory for degree students to study a third language for three semesters among these foreign languages: Italian, French, German, Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean. Italian language has been taught in UiTM for many decades, however, all this while students have been depending almost entirely to the textbook used in class. At the moment, UiTM students are using Italian (2nd Edition) 4 as their textbook.

2. Problem Statement

Sometimes, although one is into learning a foreign language, unfortunately at times, it is very difficult to allocate time to attend a foreign language course due to time constraint pertaining perhaps to work or family. 24 hours a day, to some, seems not enough to engage oneself with a foreign language course as one normally has many other commitments. As for students, although they ought to follow their foreign language classes regularly but unfortunately, sometimes they have to skip classes due to various reasons such as fields trips, attending convocation or other personal matters. Without this program, it is difficult for UiTM students to learn Italian language according to the topics and grammar rules covered in their syllabus via internet because they are too vast. So, this program would narrow them down as it emphasizes things that are covered in their syllabus.

3. Objective

The objective of this new program is to give an opportunity for everyone to choose his or her own best time to study. With this new program, one does not have to follow any strict lesson schedule. So, one could decide when to learn the topics that he or she would like to cover. It could be in the morning, in the afternoon, at night, during weekdays or public holidays and it could also be at home, at the park or even at the beach. In short, one would be 100% the boss of oneself as far as learning Italian is concerned.

Timothy, the creator of the website Master of Memory, explained in his website regarding the best time to study: "It's important to schedule your study so that you're most awake and energetic. Finding the best possible time of the day will save you time, help you to learn better, and make your work a lot more fun."

As for UiTM students, the aim of this program is to ease the learning process of the Italian language as it caters the topics and grammar rules covered in their syllabus for Italian Level 1.

4. Novelty

The novelty of this program is to allow one to study Italian language from the comfortable place of one's choice. It could be at the comfort of the bedroom, office, car or even at the park or by the seaside. One only needs to have an internet connection for one's device. That's all.

Figure 1: One could learn indoor using this program.

Figure 2: One could learn outdoor too.

This course offers a variety of elements that would make the learner appreciates the country where Italian is spoken because language is always associated with the culture of a specific country.

In this online program, users will be able to view beautiful pictures of Italian cities like Rome (Roma), Milan (Milano), Florence (Firenze), Venice (Venezia) and many others. Learning the language and viewing images of Italy is something that would be useful and pleasant at the same time. It might also encourage the learner to visit Italy and this would be the best opportunity for the learner to practice Italian where the language is widely spoken.

It contains also many Italian songs and by listening to these songs, the users will be engaged in a sweet mood to study this foreign language. While following this program, users can test their ability with the exercises and these exercises can be updated from time to time by the program's authors. From this online interactive program, the learner will immediately know whether his or her answer is correct or incorrect.

Other than that, this program is a one stop solution as it caters directly to all the needs of those learning Level 1 Italian language at UiTM. It is an interactive fun learning program whereby students will be able to pronounce, read, understand, converse and repeat as many times as they wish in order to enhance their knowledge and pronunciation. At the same time, students will also be able to learn the Italian culture and civilization through Italian songs, proverbs, thematic daily expressions (restaurant, airport, hotel, post office) etc.

According to the wikiHow website 8 on having fun while studying, among others, it proposes the following:
- Try interactive learning software.
- Use music.
- The more fun, the more worthwhile.

5. Usefulness

Learning Italian not only becomes easy but it is fun too. It can be learnt by anyone, anywhere, anytime - place and time at one's own comfort. For those who are not really interested to study the Italian language from the beginning, but are travelling to Italy for various reasons (business, pleasure, holidays), this course can be useful because it contains many Italian expressions used in different places such as restaurants, airports, hotels, train and metro stations, police stations, entertainment places, schools, universities and museums.

6. Commercialisation Potential Or Impact Towards Socio Economy/Humanity

Even though this new interactive Italian language program is totally free, it has the potential to be sold at the national or international market. Although any Italian language learner could benefit this program, however it is best suited for UiTM level 1 Italian language students as it follows the syllabus closely.

7. Conclusion

This newly invented interactive Italian language program could be used by anyone, at the beginner's level, and can be used at any place convenient to the potential autodidactic learners as long as there is an internet connection.

It is also an amazing tool to help UiTM level 1 Italian language students as it covers all the topics an grammar rules of the syllabus. This program can be accessed by the UiTM students for free from the official UiTM website.

Impariamo l'italiano... Piano piano, arriviamo lontano (Let's learn Italian... Step by step, we'll go far).

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