REVIEW OF THE POWER OF CALL

Martha C. Pennington, Ed.
The Power of CALL
1996
ISBN 0-940753-03-0
$24.95 (paperback)
224 pp.

Athelstan Publications
2476 Bolsover, Suite 464
Houston, Texas 77005
USA

E-mail: info@athel.com
Website: http://www.athel.com/power.html

Reviewed by Charles Kisner, Center for the Advancement of Language Learning

When the University of Maryland Baltimore County asked me to teach a graduate course in computer-assisted language learning (CALL) this past school year, I began searching for a text that would serve as the foundation for the course. After examining many different titles, I decided to use Martha Pennington's new book, The Power of CALL. At the end of the semester, my students and I agreed it was an excellent choice. The book meets its two main goals: to provide a comprehensive overview of computer-assisted language learning; and to present some ideas which might "fire the imagination of teachers, course developers, and software designers."

The book is a collection of nine chapters that are clustered around three main topics. Part 1, Background, provides a comprehensive overview of computer-assisted language learning. This section recounts the history of computers in the classroom, outlines the advantages of technology, and provides the theoretical foundation for the rest of the book. Part 2, Technology, examines three important CALL technologies: networking, hypertext, and concordancing. Part 3, Language Skills Areas, provides specific examples of how CALL can be used to teach reading, writing, and speaking. Each chapter is authored by one or more experts in the field.

The book has two major strengths. Most importantly, it cites the research that shows that CALL can be highly effective. For example, in "The Power of the Computer in Language Education," the book's opening chapter, Martha Pennington discusses the growing body of research that shows that language lessons delivered via computer "may be inherently more salient, less threatening, and more easily available than some other presentational modes...." She also cites a wide variety of studies that show that CALL is more focused and more individualized than many other learning media thus increasing the "effectiveness of instruction for some individuals or populations of learners." Each ensuing chapter provides quantitative or qualitative evidence that CALL promotes a better teaching and learning...
environment." Pennington's chapter alone, I would argue, is worth the price of the book. It can convince even the most skeptical technophobes to reevaluate their positions.

Although the book's main strength is its articulation of a theoretical position based on the research, it is also quite readable and practical. The language is clear and concise, free of the technical jargon that can discourage many language teachers. Furthermore, the selections focus on language-learning rather than technical issues. Various specialists explain how to use computer software, interactive simulations, hypertext, and virtual reality to create rich, authentic language learning environments which can engage students and speed the process of second language acquisition. The book is full of practical tips. For example, Tom Cobb and Vance Stevens suggest specific ways to use CALL in the reading classroom. They define "reading courseware" and provide guidelines for evaluating good software programs. Marianne Phinney shows how to use CALL in the writing classroom. She reviews the advantages of composing on the word processor and she discusses the shift to collaborative writing via computer and email. In still another chapter, Martha Pennington and John H. Esling discuss the potentials (and drawbacks) of using CALL to improve speaking skills.

Despite its many strengths, The Power of CALL has one obvious weakness, however: it focuses too narrowly on instructional software and pays too little attention to the Internet. Although Robert Hoffman provides a chapter on computer networks, and Marianne Phinney has a short section on email, the book fails to adequately examine instructional tools like, MOOs, MUDs, IRCs, and lists. The World Wide Web and virtual reality are barely mentioned, and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, and WebCasting are totally ignored.

But despite these shortcomings, The Power of CALL should be required reading for anyone studying the subject. It thoroughly cites the research, provides a sound theoretical basis for adopting CALL, and offers practical suggestions for integrating it into the language classroom. The Power of CALL shows that language teachers should no longer debate whether technology can play an important role in the modern language classroom. Teachers need not be threatened by technology, for the research shows that well-designed CALL programs can engage our students and energize our classrooms. Language teachers of the present Ö not just the future Ö have a responsibility to go beyond the confines of their textbooks and learn how to incorporate technology into their classes. As Philip Hubbard reminds us in his contribution to the book, "computer-assisted language learning has moved in the past decade from being a mere sideshow, a curiosity, to holding a solid position in modern language teaching."

**ABOUT THE REVIEWER**

Charles Kisner is a researcher at the Center for the Advancement of Language Learning (CALL) in Arlington, Virginia. He follows trends in language learning and technology and helps language teachers integrate technology into their classrooms. He also teaches a course in CALL at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

E-mail: cekisner@call.gov
The Power of Now: why this book can change your life. Summary, review and guide of Eckhart Tolle masterpiece. Also available in PDF.

What we call the past is nothing but a collection of once-present moments. And the future is made of present moments that have yet to materialize. How "Now Empowers You. Dwelling on past pains and future worries does nothing good for you. If you deal with them in the now instead you will only be dealing with smaller problems that you will be tackling without any future worries. For example, you might have a huge project you are running behind schedule. Most people project the future worry of not making it on time or having to face an angry boss on the now, which does nothing good neither for Semantic Scholar extracted view of "Review of The Power of CALL" by C Kisner. Â @article{Kisner1997ReviewOT, title={Review of The Power of CALL}, author={C Kisner}, journal={Language Learning & Technology}, year={1997}, volume={1}, pages={13-14} }. C Kisner. Published 1997. Computer Science. Language Learning & Technology. Save to Library. Create Alert.
The goal of this article is to discuss how digital war games such as the Call of Duty series elicit consent for the U.S. military, militarism and the wars waged by the U.S. and its allies abroad. Building bridges between the humanities approach to Game Studies, American Studies, International Relations and Critical Geopolitics, we start from the assumption that digital games are more than â€œkidâ€™s gamesâ€​; they are sophisticated vehicles inhabiting and disseminating specific ideologies (Leonard 2004). Moreover, the fact that Call of Duty is one of the most popular war games is not without significance here: it shows that the messages embedded in the series have reached millions of people. Call-to-action is the popular marketing term that people tend to use widely in recent years in advertising and selling. Since it contains messages or quick access, it seems to effectively encourage visitors to take prompt action. Look at some following BASIC CTA often used. Does it catch your eyes? Description: Basically, CTA Bots is the cloud based system allowing anyone to create call to action bots that use cutting edge, automated text to speech tech to provoke an immediate response. Visitor will hear this short and direct call to action message when the page loads. Offer price: 27. Currency: USD. Stopping Power is a Tier Two perk in Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare, Call of Duty: World at War, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2, Call of Duty: Black Ops (Nintendo DS) and Call of Duty: Modern Warfare Remastered. It also appears as a perk in Chaos Mode of Call of Duty: Ghosts, a Throwback Basic Training in Call of Duty: WWII, and a Field Upgrade in Call of Duty: Modern Warfare. Stopping Power increases the damage dealt by bullets fired from primary or secondary weapons by 40%.