

Abstracts

Gaston Mialaret and Teacher Education

Gabriella Agrusti

Gaston Mialaret (Cahus, 1918-Garches, 2016) was one of the most prominent scholars in the field of psycho-pedagogy. This contribution tries to present briefly his career and principal works, and analyses specifically his study on Teacher Education (*La formation des enseignants*, Paris, Puf, “Que sais-je?”, 1977) as it still provides meaningful insights on open and debated issues, in Italy and abroad. Mialaret’s clear and concise view on the link between education and research, on a progressive and controlled future teachers’ sense of responsibility, on the continuous monitoring and evaluation needed casts a light on the interpretation of the current state of Educational Research.

Keywords

Gaston Mialaret, teacher education, research methods in education, pre-service teacher training, pedagogical content knowledge.

Pen or keyboard. An empirical study on the effects of technology on writing skills

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The research reported in this article underlines the need to adopt a reflective attitude to the use of digital resources in teaching and learning. This relates to a

growing body of research by different scholars in many countries. The present study underlines the need to adopt a reflective attitude to the use of digital resources in teaching and learning. The research starts from the assumption that students can develop their writing and critical thinking skills thanks to specific writing activities. Such activities regard the elaboration of short essays, both by hand and on computer keyboards, with the aim to highlight the difference in results. Within the paper, a specific assessment grid was outlined to evaluate students' essays. Short essays written by students were produced in two different ways: by hand or keyboard. All data have been collected and analyzed to highlight the different results in skills development, according to the writing tool employed. From the analyses carried out and the results collected, handwritten short essays got higher scores than computer written texts: computer use in writing activities apparently reduces performances level in the majority of students taken into consideration.

Keywords

Writing skills, higher education, teaching evaluation, critical thinking, handwriting.

A new approach to the creation of web-based core dictionaries

Nader A.M. Harb

Reading is one of the basic skills in learning, and often it represents one of the main skills required in distance learning courses. That being said, one of the most important characteristics of distance education is the construction and the design of the learning message offered to learners during a distance learning course (Agrusti & Vertecchi, 2007).

The present article focuses on Italian core dictionary, examining some known algorithms and approaches used by Tullio De Mauro in the creation of the Italian core dictionary and adapting it to a larger, yet less reliable, context: The World Wide Web. This synopsis will present a brief summary of the approaches adopted in order to identify the data of interest, data collection, filtering and in the end an assessment of viability and reliability of the newly created dictionary (Web-based core dictionary). All this in order to keep up with the effects the rapid advances of technology, globalization and connectivity have, not only on our life style, but also on our spoken and written language on a daily manner (Downes, 2008).

This research shows how little the useable data is, in analogy to bulks of Big Data collected from the internet, the need to be careful in the adoption of

new words and the need to adopt new approaches regarding the creation of a web-based core dictionary, as well as the need to consider new elements to refine the end product.

Keywords

Distance education, web-based basic vocabulary, core dictionaries, web crawling, Big Data, Internet.

Textisms, Texting and Teaching of Italian Language: Undergraduates' Perception

Alejandro Gómez-Camacho, Francisco Núñez-Román, Víctor Hugo Perera-Rodríguez

This study analyses the perception of the norm used in text messages among Italian university students, and its effects on the acquisition of orthographic competence in adolescent speakers. 107 graduate students from 48 provinces participated in the survey. Data were collected administering a 39 item ad hoc questionnaire. An exploratory factor analysis was conducted to gather construct validity of the developing instrument. The classification for italiano digitato textisms is confirmed by psycometric properties. The qualitative analysis showed a high degree of rejection in the educational context, although this writing norm was not considered as prejudicial to texts drafted by the participants of the study. The results revealed that the participants have a negative assessment of textisms related to the graphic and phonological level, while they accept textisms related to lexical and semantic level. Also, the dialectalisms are confirmed as relevant textisms in Italian digital writing.

Keywords

Text messaging, textisms, spelling, Italian Language, Higher Education.

ICTs as cultural mediation tools in archaeological museums

Paolo Campetella

The use of digital technologies is widespread in collecting, processing and presenting data derived from archaeological investigations, although it's not yet clear how much the use of technology has influenced and changed the

communications adopted in archaeological exhibitions. The research was aimed to investigate how ICTs are integrated as cultural mediation tools in archaeological museums. An analysis guide, inspired by the communicational model of Pignier and Drouillat (2004) for the analysis of web sites, was applied to two archaeological on site museums: the Grenoble - Saint Laurent Archaeological Museum and the Section dedicated to the Jupiter Temple in the Capitolini Museums. The data analysis identified some indicative characteristics of cultural mediation tools, whether analogue or digital, which could show the application of specific communication strategies. The research offers the possibility to highlight the relationship among devices in the archaeological exhibition to better understand how their integration can affect the meaning making processes of visitors.

Keywords

Archeological museum, cultural mediation, ICT, communication strategy, exhibition.

Attitudes toward cultural diversity of students in Grade of Primary Education Teacher. Analysis between the first and the last academic year

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The purpose of this text is to know if the training received by the faculty of education at the University of Cordoba substantially improved attitudes toward cultural diversity of students. This study includes the participation of a sample of 320 subjects of the Degree in Primary Education, with 184 first year and 136 in the fourth year. An ad hoc Likert scale called Attitudes Toward Cultural Diversity (ADC) is used. The results of this investigation confirms that there are significant differences between grades (1-4) they are future teachers.

Keywords

Attitudes, cultural diversity, teacher training, higher education, inclusive education, scale ADC.