Blended Learning Advantages and Disadvantages in the Classroom

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Language education

- Language education refers to the process and practice of acquiring a second/ foreign language.
- It primarily is a branch of applied linguistics, however can be considered an interdisciplinary field.

Education

(teaching, learning, acquisition, assessment

Applied Linguistics

Linguistics

(The study of the nature, structure, and variation of language, including phonetics, phonology, morphology and the study of human speech, language form, language meaning, and language in context

Anthropology

(the scientific study of the origin and behavior of man, including the physical, social, and cultural development of societies and cultures).

Sociology

(the scientific study of human social behavior and the study of society)

Psychology

(the science of mind and behavior, and the application of such knowledge of various spheres of human activity, such as education, health, occupational and employment services

Language education

Increasing globalization has created a great need for people in the workforce who can communicate in multiple languages:

- communicative competencies
- proficiencies
- * cross-cultural experiences
- multiple literacies

Language Education & Blended Learning

• There are many *approaches*, *methods*, *and techniques* (*strategies*) of teaching languages.

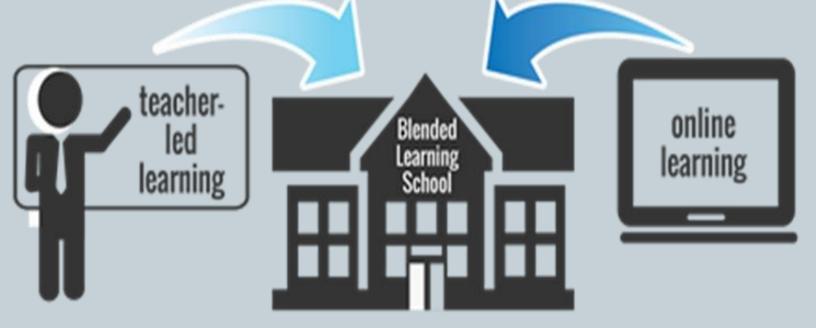
• One of the teaching strategies that has been a major growth point in the English Language Teaching (ELT) industry over the last ten years is *blended learning*. It combines *face-to-face teaching with distance education*, either computer-based or web-based.

Blended Learning (BL)

- BL is an education program that <u>combines</u> online digital media with traditional classroom methods.
- It requires the physical presence of both teacher and student, with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.
- While students still attend "brick-and-mortar" schools with a teacher present, in-person classroom practices are combined with computer-mediated activities regarding content and delivery.
- Blended learning is also used in professional development and training settings.
- A lack of consensus on a definition of blended learning has led to difficulties in research on its effectiveness in the classroom.
- Blended learning is also <u>highly context-dependent</u> and therefore a universal conception of it is hard to come by.

Blendedlearning

combining the best teaching methods



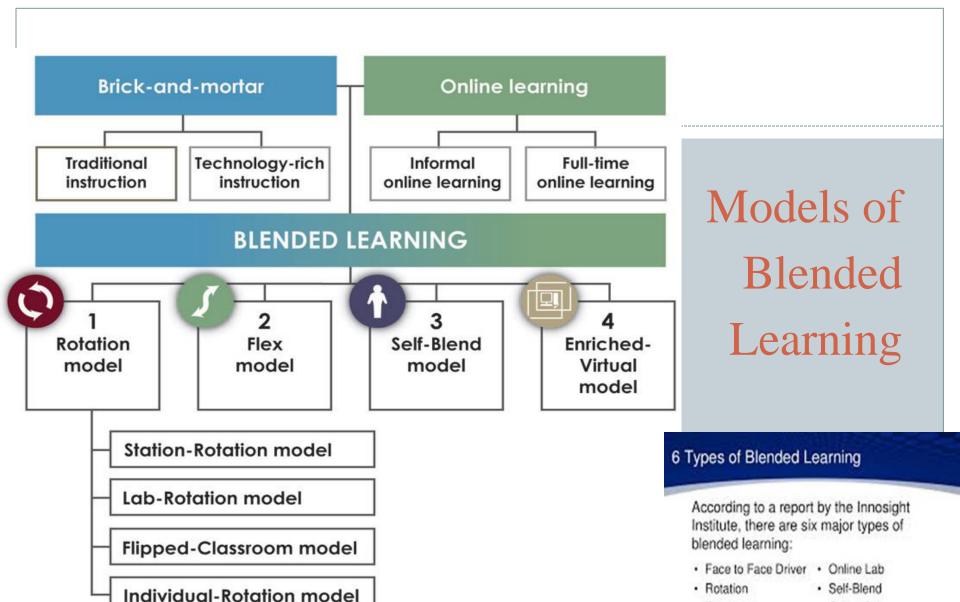
Definition of Blended Learning

"Blended learning"

is used interchangeably in research literature as "personalized learning", "differentiated instruction", "hybrid learning", "technology-mediated instruction", "web-enhanced instruction", "mixed-mode instruction".

The concepts behind blended learning first developed in the 1960s, the formal terminology to describe it did not take its current form until the late 1990s.

In 2006, the term became more concrete with the publication of the first Handbook of Blended Learning by Bonk and Graham.



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Stoker, H. (2011) The ripe of A12 blended learning. Chapel Hill, NG: Innosight ind Bade. http://ees.mondocation.org/condition. control places. 2011 for the fine of A. O. Sersen. Learning B.





· Online Driver



Flipped classroom is a more recent coinage.

• Students are expected to watch lectures online at home, and do homework while they are in class.

Flipped VS Traditional



Teacher instructs lesson at home (video / podcast / book/ website)

Students work in class.

- Deeper understanding of concepts, applications, and connections to content are made.
- Students receive support as needed.

Traditional

Teacher instructs

Students take notes

Students follow guided instruction

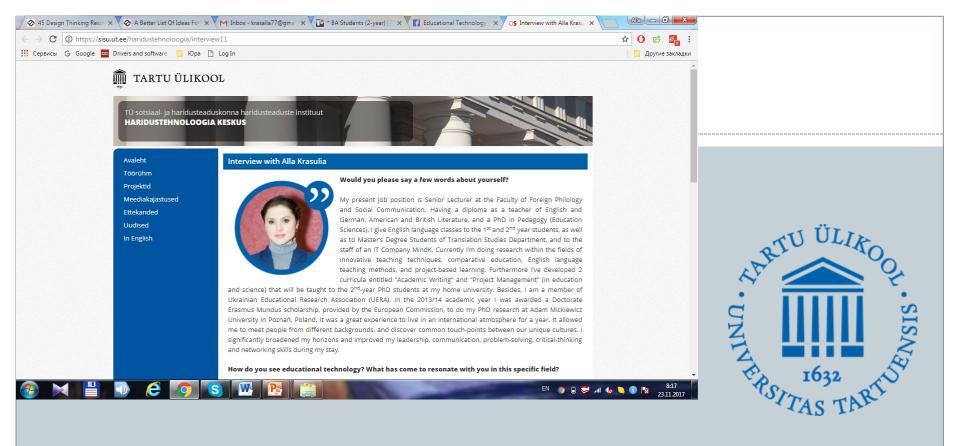
Teacher gives assessment

Students have homework

It is important to note:

- Even BL models can be blended together and many implementations use some, many, or even all of these as dimensions of larger BL strategy.
- These models, for the most part, are not mutually exclusive.
- There are many components that can comprise a BL model, including:

instructor-delivered content, e-learning, webinars, conference calls, live or online sessions with instructors, and other media and events, e.g., Facebook, e-mail, chat rooms, blogs, podcasting, Twitter, YouTube, Skype and web boards.



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"Students' Perceptions of Educational Value and Effectiveness of Integrating Electronic Gadgets (Mobile Phones/Tablets) with Teaching-Learning Activities in the EFL Classroom"

Courses I am taking



Technology Use in Education (SVHI.06.010), AÜ

Self-regulation (SVHI.08.003), AÜ

- Blended instruction is **more effective** than purely face-to-face or purely online classes.
- BL methods can also **result in high levels of student achievement** more effective than face-to-face learning.
- By using a combination of digital instruction and one-on-one face time, students can work on their own with new concepts which frees teachers up to circulate and support individual students who may need individualized attention.
- Rather than playing to the lowest common denominator as they would in a traditional classroom – <u>teachers can now</u> <u>streamline their instruction to help all students reach their full</u> <u>potential.</u>

- BL facilitates a simultaneous independent and collaborative learning experience for university students.
- The use of information and communication technologies has been found to **improve student attitudes towards learning.**
- By incorporating IT into class projects, **communication between lecturers and part-time students has improved**, and students were able to better evaluate their understanding of course material via the use of computer-based qualitative and quantitative assessment modules.
- BL also has the potential to **reduce educational expenses**, and **lower costs** by putting classrooms in the online space and it essentially replaces pricey textbooks with electronic devices.

- BL gives the opportunity for data collection and customization of instruction and assessment as two major benefits of this approach. It includes software that automatically collects student data and measures academic progress, providing teachers, students and parents detailed students' data (e.g. Stuudium in Estonia). Often, tests are automatically scored, providing instantaneous feedback. Student logins and work times are also measured to ensure accountability.
- Schools with BL programs may also choose to reallocate resources to boost student achievement outcomes.
- Students with special talents or interests outside of the available curricula use educational technology to advance their skills or exceed grade restrictions.

- BL allows for **personalized education**, replacing the model where a teacher stands in front of the classroom and everyone is expected to stay at the same pace. It allows <u>students to work at their own pace</u>, making sure they fully understand new concepts before moving on.
- A classroom environment that incorporates BL naturally requires learners to **demonstrate more autonomy, self-regulation**, and independence in order to succeed.
- This virtual learning environment **helps connect professors with students** without physically being present, thus making this a 'virtual café'.

- The advantages of BL are <u>dependent on the quality of the programs</u> being implemented. Some indicators of excellent dependent programs are:
 - *facilitating student learning,
- *communicating ideas effectively,
- *demonstrating an interest in learning,
- *organizing effectively,
- *showing respect for students,
- *and assessing progress fairly.

- Unless successfully planned and executed, BL could have disadvantages in technical aspects since it has a strong dependence on the technical resources or tools with which the BL experience is delivered. These tools need to be reliable, easy to use, and up to date, for them to have a meaningful impact on the learning experience.
- IT literacy can serve as a significant barrier for students attempting to get access to the course materials, making the availability of high-quality technical support paramount.
- Other aspects of BL that can be challenging is **group work** because of **difficulties with management in an online setting.**

- The use of lecture recording technologies can result in students falling behind on the materials. In a study performed across four different universities, it was found that only half of the students watched the lecture videos on a regular basis, and nearly 40% of students watched several weeks' worth of videos in one sitting.
- From an educator's perspective, most recently, it has been noted that **providing effective feedback is more time-consuming** (and therefore more expensive) when electronic media are used, in comparison to traditional (e.g. paper-based) assessments.

- Using e-learning platforms can be more time consuming than traditional methods and can also come with new costs as e-learning platforms.
- Another critical issue is **access to network infrastructure**. Although the digital divide is narrowing as the Internet becomes more pervasive, many students do not have access to the Internet, even in their classrooms. Any attempt to incorporate BL strategies into an organization's pedagogical strategy needs to account for this. This is why learning centers are built with good Wi-Fi connections to make sure this issue is addressed.

EduTech in Empowering Foreign Language Education

• Great success often comes from great collaborations, so it is exciting to see how educational technology (EduTech) is giving both students and teachers more opportunities to network through the use of collaborative tools

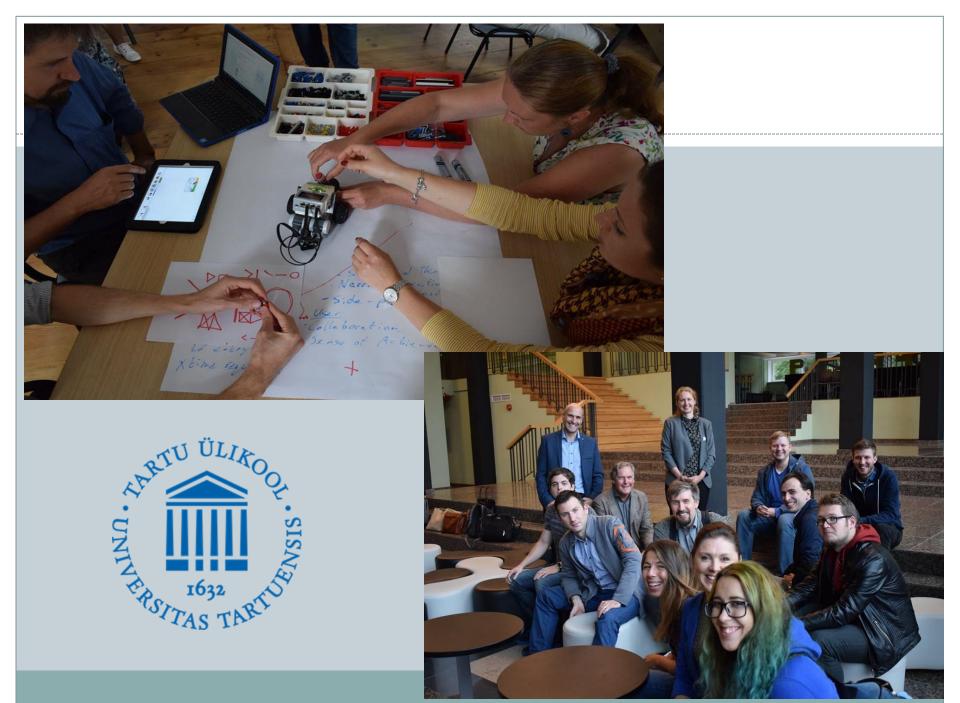
such as Google Docs, online calendars, and virtual workrooms.

Plus, Skype, email, and even texting allow us to stay in touch with each other and meet colleagues from around the world.











Thank you!

