



Language learning in online environments: The role of online discussion forums

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Presentation Outline

1. Context of the study
2. Current study
3. Results & discussion
4. Conclusion & implications



1. Context of the study

- A joint business degree articulation
- EAP at level 5

Level	Certificate	Diploma	Degree
10 (i)			Doctoral Degree
9 (i)			Master's Degree
8 (i)	Postgraduate Certificate	Postgraduate Diploma	Bachelor Honours Degree
7 (i)	Graduate Certificate	Graduate Diploma Diploma	Bachelor's Degree
6 (i)	Certificate	Diploma	
5 (i)	Certificate	Diploma	
4 (i)	Certificate		
3 (i)	Certificate		
2 (i)	Certificate		
1 (i)	Certificate		



1. Context of the study

- Blended learning
 - Face to face
 - Online
 - A: quizzes
 - B: online discussion forum



1. Context of the study

Features of the online forum discussion

- in small groups
- a minimum of 3 contributions (240 words)
- 3 questions to team members
- 2 resources
- student-facilitated (Baran & Correia, 2009)
- 7% of the overall course assessments
- the same topic for a group oral presentation worth of 15%



2. Current study

What affordances does the online discussion forum offer during their language learning?

2.1. data collection

2.2. data analysis



3. Results & discussion

- 3.1. Co-constructive, collaborative learning environment
- 3.2. Group affiliation
- 3.3. Critical thinking
- 3.4. Learner autonomy



3. Results & discussion

3.1. Co-constructive, collaborative learning environment

Category	Quantity
Resources	41
Evidence and examples	74
Replies	96
Questions	76



3. Results & discussion

I have a probelm need your help. Recently I know the Starbucks purchases coffee beans from famers with a higher price in order to protect famer's profits. The Starbucks's action is the performance of CSR. But in another hand, the Starbucks's behaviour of wasting water also catch the public's attention like the teachers said. So how can we juge a corporation whether a responsible corporation or not if it have both good actions and bad actions?

(Participant 8)



3. Results & discussion

This situation as you said could not be judged. No one can be a perfect person, so corporations are. Even though a corporation do something doesn't conform to CSR, it does not mean it is not a responsible corporation. For example, there is an industry, and its manager decide to provide jobs to people who are out of work. Well, this corporation do its duty of CSR about labor, but it is an industry which have to make so much pollution to product their goods. Just like this, there are too many examples. (Participant 10)



3. Results & discussion

Just now i give some views to Evan. I am inspaired and i have some questions ... many enterprises have been taking measures to make environment better and make labor live better and so on. But even they do more, some phenomenons, such as making pollution, laying out staff, can not be avoided at present. So what measures we could take to reduce the bad effects happen? And what resources or organizations we could ask for to help do CSR? (Participant 10)



3. Results & discussion

Both government and non-government organizations have responsibility to improve our environment. And I think the young people should take more activities because they have more energy and time than others. So schools should encourage their students to improve our environment. (Participant 7)



3. Results & discussion

3.2. Group affiliation

*I am really **glad** to be one of your partners to study with you this term (Participant 11)*

*I **learn a lot** from the example shared by Mei (pseudonym). It is really a good example (Participant 19)*

*Our team slogan is **Making amazing miracles forever** (Participant 14)*



3. Results & discussion

3.3. Critical thinking

...I don't agree this opinion, in contrast, the CSR will increase the company's profit. The corporate social responsibility will heighten the company's reputation, at the same time, I believe that it will bring more profit to the company. (Participant 12)



3. Results & discussion

3.3. Critical thinking

First of all, the government should deliver more policies about CSR because the attitude of government is one of the main drivers of the Chinese CSR growth as many companies pay more attention about government's policies in China.

(Participant 6)



3. Results & discussion

2.4. Learner autonomy

*I'm really **honored** to be one of your team member and I 'm looking forward to your **active participation**, which will definitely boost our work efficiency and morale ... Then, we will communicate with each other online to share new ideas, leading to create a fantastic group presentation. (Participant 15)*



3. Results & discussion

2.4. Learner autonomy

*As at today, we have said a lot of information about CSR. **Let me to make a summarize.** We talked lots of internal stakeholders (e.g. employees and their family members , shareholders and enterprise). And we also list many companies or organizations like Google, Nike , Lock&Lock and P&G to approve the benefits of CSR. We also said some bad of influence of CSR. **In a word I think we should talk something about the external stakeholders of CSR.** Just like we have already said the environment. Right? I am searching some information about the external stakeholders, **did you have some idea about the aspects of the external stakeholders?** (participant 1)*



3. Results & discussion

2.4. Learner autonomy

*Yesterday we haven't got the chance to practice our PPT in class due to limited time. However, **we still need to spare some time practicing it and modifying our PPT. Could you please send me your reference links as soon as possible? Could you send your contents to Jiang at the same time as she will reference them to introduce us. I'm looking forward to your fluent speech on Next Tuesday, but **we all need to try hard everyday. Do you agree with me? Then, have a good holiday!*****

(participant 16)



3. Results & discussion

2.4. Learner autonomy

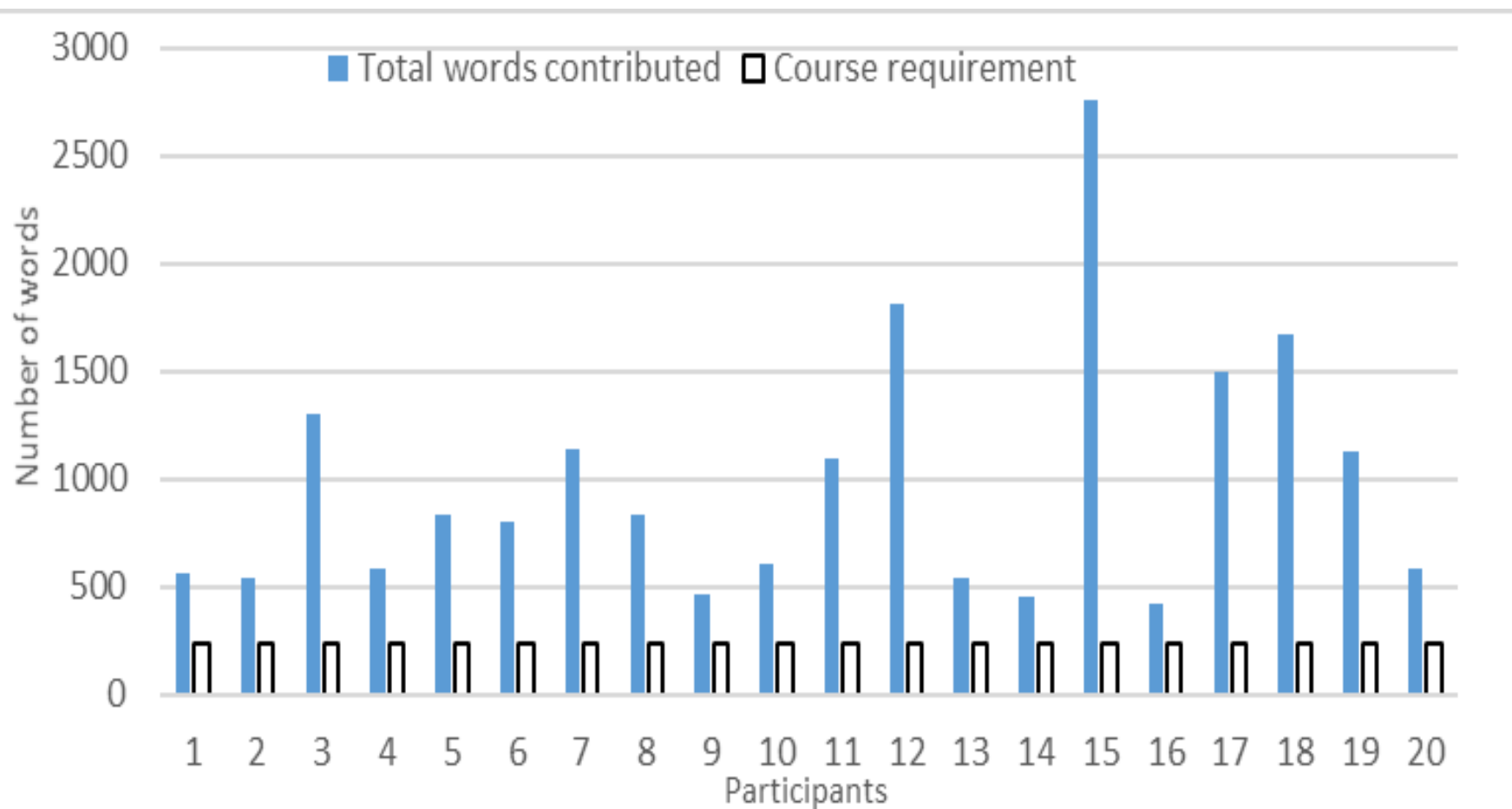


Fig.1. A comparison of word contributions between each participant and the course requirement



3. Results & discussion

2.4. Learner autonomy

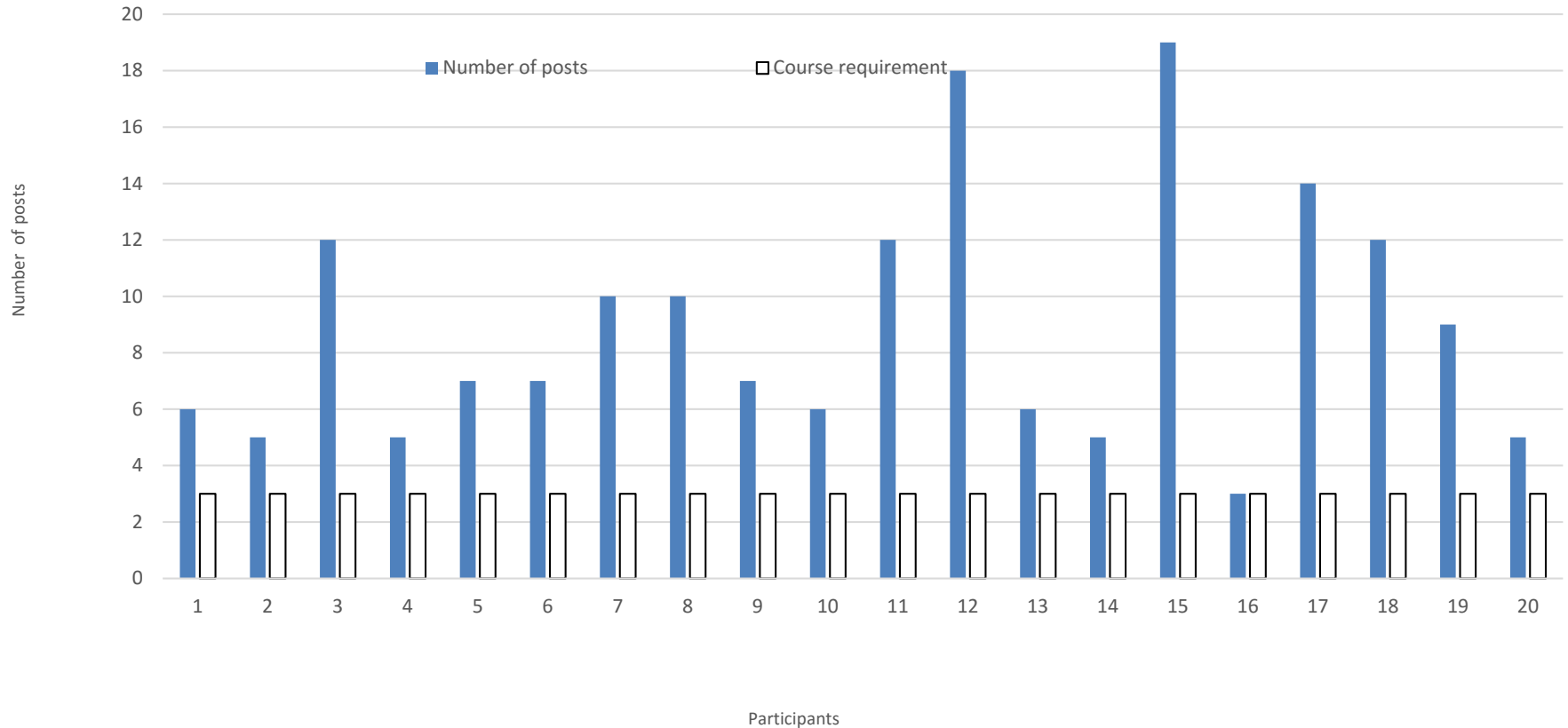


Fig.2. A comparison of the number of posts between each participant and the course requirement



4. Conclusion

- active participation
- co-construction of content knowledge
- learner autonomy
- community of learning
- a proper design of tasks



Thank you!



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