

Wooclap's Interactive Superpowers: Fostering Language Teaching in the Digital Age

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Technology has played a pivotal role in driving change in the field of Education, leading to a significant reshaping of traditional teaching practices. Among the innovative tools embraced by educators, Wooclap has emerged as a versatile interactive platform that captivates students and enriches their learning experience. Wooclap is based on the principles of cognitive science and neuroscience. One of these principles is attention, the first of the four essential components that facilitate effective learning, according to Dehaene (2020). The other three components are active engagement, feedback, and consolidation.

Attention refers to selecting the relevant stimuli from a complex environment to achieve a goal or perform a behaviour (Dehaene & Changeux, 2011). It is vital to filter out distractions and emphasise important information to facilitate students' attention. Wooclap can help educators to achieve this goal by using various strategies, such as quizzing the students or adjusting the tone of the presenter's voice, prioritising or repeating the most essential information, and displaying the slides on the participants' screen in real-time.

Another component of effective learning is active engagement. Skinner et al. (1998) suggest that active engagement of students is associated with positive academic outcomes, such as achievement, motivation, and persistence. Educators can exploit Wooclap to encourage students to actively engage in learning by providing targeted questions, inviting them to explore several hypotheses, or performing experiments to understand the subject matter better.

Feedback is the third component of effective learning, and it refers to the information students receive about their performance and progress. According to Leibold and Swartz (2015), feedback can enhance students' learning outcomes by helping them identify their strengths and areas for improvement, deepen their understanding, increase their motivation and foster their metacognition. With its functionalities and collaborative tools, Wooclap can be an effective instrument for collecting students' questions and comments and providing real-time feedback.

The last component of effective learning is consolidation, stabilising and automating what the student has learned. Wooclap can help teachers facilitate consolidation in various ways, e.g. creating engaging quizzes that challenge students to recall and apply their knowledge or using reports to identify the topics that students need to consolidate and provide additional practice or feedback. Concurrently, teachers can benefit from ongoing formative assessment, as it records and integrates data into the Learning Management System (LMS) grade book.

Wooclap distinguishes itself as a powerful learning tool that facilitates personalised language learning through its valuable data analytics and identification of recurring patterns. It effectively addresses the challenges associated with different learning styles and Special Educational Needs (SEN) among students. The platform supports content sharing and multimedia integration, including images, videos, and audio recordings, thereby enhancing language input and practice. Among the highly engaging activities offered by Wooclap, anonymous live polls contribute to a more inclusive learning environment by alleviating students' fear of judgment and fostering comfort in sharing their thoughts. Another captivating aspect is the creation of effective

presentations that incorporate word clouds, multiple-choice questions, and open-ended questions.

The platform boasts a user-friendly interface that is intuitive and easy to navigate, accommodating compatibility with various devices such as smartphones, laptops, and tablets. One of the standout features of Wooclap is its integration with Learning Management Systems (LMS). By its easy embedding with popular LMS platforms like Moodle, Wooclap offers educators a streamlined approach to incorporating interactive elements directly into existing course materials. This integration ensures a smooth and efficient workflow, allowing educators to enhance their teaching materials.

While using Wooclap in instructional design, it is crucial to consider certain critical aspects. The importance of valid pedagogical integration cannot be overstated, making teacher training highly beneficial. The interactive activities' effectiveness relies heavily on their seamless integration into instructors' teaching and learning methodologies. Furthermore, it is worth acknowledging that there may be a learning curve during the initial implementation phase as users familiarise themselves with the platform's features and functionalities.

In broader terms, Wooclap presents ample opportunities to gamify language lessons by incorporating elements such as friendly competitions, leaderboards, and point systems. These gamification features foster motivation and promote positive learning experiences within Second Language Environments. Moreover, the diverse range of features offered by Wooclap caters to in-person and remote learning environments, ultimately creating an inclusive and dynamic learning experience for students.

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