

Book Review

Tips for Teaching with CALL. Practical Approaches to Computer-Assisted Language Learning by Carol A. Chapelle and Joan Jamieson, Pearson Longman, New York, 2008, pp. 240, ISBN 978-0-13-240428-0

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Multimedia computing, Internet (as a compendium of different services) and the World Wide Web have transformed “CALL” from the status of simple newness into a streamline of applied linguistics research with an increasingly deserved recognition within the scientific community.

Computers are now able to play natural human speech together with full-screen interactive video, just an impossibility a few years ago. Interactive communication among users is not science-fiction any more and chats provide straightforward opportunities for authentic language use among native and non-native speakers on an unprecedented scale. The sudden proliferation of CD-ROMs offering language instruction is no surprise either. Finally, the development of the Web 2.0 (with blogs as a state-of-the-art and increasingly refined way of linguistic interaction) has added to CALL a gigantic feedback boost in the last few years.

This book supports a student-centred approach. Notwithstanding, this proposal does not leave aside the relevance of the teacher’s role when directing student’s efforts through the complex world of CALL resources. Thus it reflects how CALL has contributed to accelerate the process of role-changing in the student-teacher relationship in language learning. As Lamm & Lawrence (2002: 297) point out:

The advent of educational technology, notably computers (but not excluding other technologies such as audio lab programs), has helped to create an environment suitable to giving the learner more autonomy [...]. Learners are able to proceed at their own speed, even according to their own interests, thereby giving them control over the learning process. They are still recipients, but recipients of