10th Ideas That Work
Plzen
8/11/08
Project Work in English Language Teaching

Josef Schmied
Chair English Language & Linguistics
Chemnitz University of Technology
www.tu-chemnitz.de/phil/english/schmied
josef.schmied@phil.tu-chemnitz.de

Aims

1. Basic concepts: projects, project management
2. Projects in Society and Education
3. Media Project: English Wiki
4. Publication Project: SPELL (=Student Papers in English Language & Linguistics)
5. Outlook

1. Basic Concepts

1.1. Defining criteria for projects
- limited duration and a final product
- a collaborative effort: a new type of participatory learning
- an interdisciplinary effort: media-orientation
- public relevance
- an applied and job-related perspective: training for language services

2. Projects in Society and Education

2.1. Web 2.0 definitions and features
2.2. Teacher competences according to EU "expectations"
2.3. Project elements in teacher training: MA English at Chemnitz as example
2.1.1. Definitions of Web 2.0

Web 2.0 in Wikipedia (11/1/08)

Aims Concepts Projects in Soc/Edu Poject1: Wiki Project2: SPELL Outlook

Web 2.0 is a trend in World Wide Web technology, and web design, a second generation of web-based communities and hosted services such as social-networking sites, wikis, blogs, and folksonomies, which aim to facilitate creativity, collaboration, and sharing among users. The term became notable after the first O'Reilly Media Web 2.0 conference in 2004.[2][3]

Although the term suggests a new version of the World Wide Web, it does not refer to an update to any technical specifications, but to changes in the ways software developers and end-users use webs. According to Tim O'Reilly:

"Web 2.0 is the business revolution in the computer industry caused by the move to the Internet as platform, and an attempt to understand the rules for success on that new platform." [4]

Some technology experts, notably Tim Berners-Lee, have questioned whether one can use the term in a meaningful way, since many of the technology components of "Web 2.0" have existed since the early days of the Web.[5][6]

An IBM social-networking analyst, Dario de Judicibus, has proposed a different definition which focuses more on social interactions and on architectural implementation:

"Web 2.0 is a knowledge-oriented environment where human interactions generate content that is published, managed and used through network applications in a service-oriented architecture." [7]

2.1.2. Characteristics of "Web 2.0"

Web 2.0 in Wikipedia (11/1/08)

Aims Concepts Projects in Soc/Edu Poject1: Wiki Project2: SPELL Outlook

Web 2.0 websites allow users to do more than just retrieve information. They can build on the interactive facilities of "Web 1.0" to provide "Network as platform" computing, allowing users to run software-applications entirely through a browser.[12]

Users can own the data on a Web 2.0 site and exercise control over that data.[13][12]

These sites may have an "Architecture of participation" that encourages users to add value to the application as they use it.[12][12] This stands in contrast to very old traditional websites, the sort which limited visitors to viewing and whose content only the site's owner could modify. Web 2.0 sites often feature a rich, user-friendly interface based on Ajax,[12][2] Flex or similar RIA media. The sites may also have social-networking aspects.[13][12]

The concept of Web-as-participation-platform captures many of these characteristics. Bart Decrem, a founder and former CEO of Flock, calls Web 2.0 the "participatory Web"[14] and regards the Web-as-information-source as Web 1.0.

The impossibility of excluding group-members who don't contribute to the provision of goods from sharing profits gives rise to the possibility that rational members will prefer to withhold their contribution of effort and free-ride on the contribution of others.[15]
4. Publication Project: SPELL

SPELL = Student Papers in English Language & Linguistics

- applied MA: a modern language service provider needs skills, e.g. argumentative text production compatible to international peer-reviewed journals
- theoretical MA: scholars get more papers accepted for publication

combined EAP, esp. academic writing
- theory and practise
- with computing skills
to create a presentable product

4.1. Theoretical implications of Academic Writing

EAP (research) combines:
- a) practical strategies of optimising texts under normative criteria (e.g. cohesive devices to create coherence)
- b) theoretical models of writing practices (e.g. social constructivist)

acceptance of research papers depends on
- a) journal- or discipline-specific conventions
- b) national research traditions

4.2. Planning an academic student journal

e-publishing initiative by Chemnitz University library
Scholars need the means to launch a new generation of journals committed to open access, and to help existing journals that elect to make the transition to open access...”

Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2002

Open Journal Systems (OJS) is a journal management and publishing system that has been developed by the Public Knowledge Project

OJS Features

- OJS is installed locally and locally controlled.
- Editors configure requirements, sections, review process, etc.
- Online submission and management of all content.
- Subscription module with delayed open access options.
- Comprehensive indexing of content part of global system.
- Reading Tools for content, based on field and editors’ choice.
- Email notification and commenting ability for readers.
- Complete context-sensitive online Help support

http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ojs

Result: a model paper where linguistics meets LaTeX

Government and Binding: Case Theory

Aline Schikora*

Osnabrück University of Technology, Germany

Abstract

This paper introduces the main aspects of Case theory within the GB framework. The goal of GB theory is to develop a general theory of grammar, which can accommodate the knowledge that children acquire language. This paper discusses how GB theory can be applied to the current literature on Case in English and the literature of the recent years. The paper concludes with a discussion of the implications of the analysis for the current state of the literature on Case.

1 Introduction

The study of Government and Binding (GB) is the main framework for the study of English and other languages. The main motivation for the study of GB theory is that it is a theory of grammar which makes explicit the main ideas of the traditional English grammar. Although the analysis of Case in GB theory is not straightforward, the paper makes it clear that the analysis of Case is possible. The paper concludes with a discussion of the implications of the analysis for the current state of the literature on Case.
4.3. Teaching a publication project

Objectives: students learn to
- run OJS Database management
- set up a study journal
- test peer reviewing
- include citation indices
- understand impact factor calculation
- improve query hits
- train LaTeX editing
- focus on differences in publishing styles
- use descriptors/descriptor chains and free keywords creatively
- use preprint-servers like arXiv.org

4.4. Managing a publication project

4.4.1. Setting standards and policies

The “Five Cs” summarize the copy editor's job: make the copy (i) clear, (ii) correct, (iii) concise, (iv) comprehensible, and (v) consistent.

The localisation process is most generally related to cultural adaptation and translation of software, video games, and less frequently to any written translation (although these also involve cultural adaptation processes). The process of localising can be done for regions or countries where a language is spoken. The process of localising for businesses, ensuring consistent language. Authors are asked or required to use a style guide in preparing their work for publication; copy editors are charged with enforcing the publisher's style.

Aims Concepts Projects in Soc/Edu Poject1: Wiki Project2: SPELL Outlook

Role of the copy editor

Aims Concepts Projects in Soc/Edu Poject1: Wiki Project2: SPELL Outlook

The role of localization in globalization

The localization process is most generally related to cultural adaptation and translation of software, video games, and websites, and less frequently to any written translation (although these also involve cultural adaptation processes). The process of localizing can be done for regions or countries where people speak different languages, or were the same language is spoken.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_localisation

A style guide or style manual is a set of standards for design and writing of documents, either for general use or for a specific publication or organization. Style guides are prevalent for general and specialized use, for the general reading and writing audience, and for students and scholars of the various academic disciplines, medicine, journalism, the law, government, business, and many more. Some style guides are used in general editing, covering such areas as typography and white space. Web site style guides focus on a publication’s visual and technical aspects, prose style, best usage, grammar, punctuation, and fairness.

Publishers’ style guides establish house rules for language use, such as spelling rules and punctuation. They are rigorous for fairness, ensuring consistent language. Authors are asked or required to use a style guide in preparing their work for publication; copy editors are charged with enforcing the publisher’s style. Academic organization and publishing style guides are rigorous about documentation, formatting style for citations and bibliographies used for preparing term papers for course credit and management of publication. Professional scholars are advised to follow the style guides of organizations in their disciplines when they submit articles and books to academic journals and academic book publishers in those disciplines for consideration of publication.

Journal management: enrolment as reviewers

English grammar

5. Outlook

- projects are becoming more and more important in our societies, economies and thus educational systems
- language and information management are well suited for project work
- in university training, we can have many, e.g.
  - translation projects (e.g. with Metatexts)
  - study abroad projects (ERASMUS)
  - cultural encounters projects (intercultural competence)
  - media projects
  - ...