



Collection

Thesaurus

moodle

Search

[Advanced](#)
[Search Tips](#)

☐ Peer reviewed only ☐ Full text available on ERIC

[Back to results](#)

Creating a Technology-Enhanced Constructivist Learning Environment for Research Ability Development in a BA Thesis Writing Course

Gu, Peiya; Zhang, Ye; Gu, Haibo

Computer Assisted Language Learning, v33 n5-6 p538-566 2020

This qualitative case study investigates the technology-enhanced constructivist learning environment (CLE) for developing undergraduate English-majors' research abilities at a Chinese university. The faculty group attempted at transforming an English Writing course into BA Thesis Writing, supported by a free online learning management system (Moodle) with multi-faceted scenario, resources, tools and management. Situated in the broader context of the 10-year curriculum reform, two BA Thesis Writing classes from two semesters were examined using observation notes, interviews and student products. Findings show the CLE has enhanced the students' problem-based learning (PBL) processes and research ability development in terms of problem awareness, information literacy, reasoning and research designing. The CLE contributed to the whole learning experience by continuous instructional support, forum discussions, and information resources and tools. However, faculty tended to avoid teaching such a course because it is not only demanding but it clashes with norms of Chinese higher education in terms of professional values, pedagogical philosophy and institutional culture. The paper concludes by assessing the reform efforts' overall gains and challenges, and its implications for future technology integration in foreign language learning and teaching in China.

Descriptors: [Technology Integration](#), [Constructivism \(Learning\)](#), [Research Skills](#), [Theses](#), [Writing Instruction](#), [Undergraduate Students](#), [Bachelors Degrees](#), [Problem Based Learning](#), [Information Literacy](#), [Thinking Skills](#), [Foreign Countries](#), [Cultural Context](#), [Integrated Learning Systems](#), [English \(Second Language\)](#), [English Instruction](#), [Majors \(Students\)](#)

Routledge. Available from: Taylor & Francis, Ltd. 530 Walnut Street Suite 850, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Tel: 800-354-1420; Tel: 215-625-8900; Fax: 215-207-0050; Web site: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals>

 Peer reviewed

 [Direct link](#)

ERIC Number: EJ1263818

Record Type: Journal

Publication Date: 2020

Pages: 29

Abstractor: As Provided

ISBN: N/A

ISSN: ISSN-0958-8221

Publication Type: Journal Articles; Reports - Research; Tests/Questionnaires

Education Level: Higher Education; Postsecondary Education

Audience: N/A

Language: English

Sponsor: N/A

Authoring Institution: N/A

Identifiers - Location: China

