



CeSLiC Research Project

CO-METS: Computer-Mediated Teacher Student interaction

Contact information

Dr. Antonella Luporini antonella.luporini@unibo.it

Prof. Sabrina Fusari sabrina.fusari2@unibo.it

Prof. Donna R. Miller donnarose.miller@unibo.it

The project

The project aims at deepening our understanding of the relationship between computer-mediated communication (CMC) and language teaching/ learning, in the context of the Italian university system and, more specifically, of undergraduate Degree courses in foreign languages/ cultures. To this end, we focus on two main research questions:

Research Question 1:

What is the impact of CMC on the linguistic/ communicative skills of undergraduate students of English as a Foreign Language?

From this perspective, the project has a two-fold aim:

- Investigating the extent to which different forms of CMC (e-mail, e-forum, social networks, e-learning platforms, video-conferencing systems used for online teaching) can make teacher-student, or student-student, interaction more effective;
- Investigating the extent to which CMC tools can foster learner autonomy and motivation in the language learning process.

Research Question 2:

What are the main features of the students' computer-mediated discourse?

From this viewpoint, within the project we analyse real texts written in English by the students and exchanged through the above-mentioned channels. We take into account different parameters such as age, gender, and CEFR proficiency level, adopting an analytical approach based on discourse analysis and Systemic Functional Linguistics, which also takes advantage of the tools and methods of corpus linguistics.



The most recent (as of 2020) developments of this project include investigation of remote teaching and learning techniques during the Covid-19 health crisis and of their impact on the learning process, also taking into account student feedback collected specifically for this purpose.

Main publications related to the project

Fusari, S. e Luporini, A. (2016). “La comunicazione tra studenti e docenti via forum e e-mail: strategie di cortesia”. In F. Bianchi e P. Leone (a cura di), *Linguaggio e apprendimento linguistico. Metodi e strumenti tecnologici. Studi AltLA 4*. Milano: Officinaventuno, 67-82.

Fusari, S. and Luporini, A. (2017). “Interpersonal Meaning in a Corpus of Students-Teachers Computer Mediated Communication”. In L. Landolfi, E. Federici and F. Cavaliere (Eds), *Transnational Subjects. Linguistic Encounters. Selected papers from XXVII AIA Conference, Volume II*. Naples: Liguori, 223-234.

Luporini, A. (2020). “Implementing an online English linguistics course during the Covid-19 emergency in Italy: Teacher’s and students’ perspectives”. *ASp* 78, 75-88.

Main conference presentations and seminars related to the project

Fusari, S. and Luporini, A. (2015). “The role of Computer-Mediated Communication in learning English as a Foreign Language: A comparison between e-mails and Moodle forum posts in a university course of English Language and Linguistics”. *XV AitLA Conference*, Lecce, February 19-21, 2015.

Fusari, S. and Luporini, A. (2015). “Interpersonal meaning in a corpus of students-teachers computer mediated communication”. *XXVII AIA Conference*, Naples, September 10-12, 2015.

Fusari, S. and Luporini, A. (2017). “CO-METS: La comunicazione docente-studente mediata dal computer”. *IDEAR – Incontri Dipartimentali su Esperienze e Attività di Ricerca*, University of Bologna, LILEC Department, May 11, 2017.

Fusari, S. (2021). “‘Yeah, you know, these are the miracles of technology’: interactivity in the COVID-19 ERT university classroom”. *5th International Conference on Contemporary Challenges in LSP Teaching*, University of Zagreb (Croatia), Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, July 1-2, 2021.

Fusari S. (2021). “ERT at University”. *International Symposium on Linguacultural Spaces: Inclusion, Extension and Identification in Discourse and Society*, Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures (LILEC), University of Bologna, May 6-7, 2021.

Fusari S. (2021, forthcoming). “‘It is a little ironic, but it’s also serious’: problem solving in the COVID-19 ERT university classroom”. *International Conference on Linguaging Diversity: The Linguistic Construction of Emotional Challenges in a Changing Society*. University of Lille (France), October 13-15, 2021.