

# Application of Mobile Learning in College English Teaching

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**Abstract.** With the progress of society, information technology has penetrated into many areas and provided a new space for education development. Mobile learning mode researched in this paper is new teaching modes, breaking the constraints of traditional teaching model and providing reference for college English teaching. Firstly, expounded the theoretical basis of mobile learning, including distributed learning theories, informal learning theory, situated cognition and learning theory; then, analyzed the feasibility of mobile learning applied to English teaching, described the application principles of mobile learning in English education; finally, studied the application of mobile learning in English education. The application of mobile learning in English teaching fully reflects the dominant position of students in the teaching process, not only brings a challenge for the traditional English teaching, but also provides a new way to improve the English teaching reform.

## Introduction

With the rapid development of education information technology, personnel training requirements is increasing, English as an important basic course is growing rapidly, although computer-aided English education is one of the important fruits of development, there is still problems, such as not full use of resources, time training limited, students lack enthusiasm, lack of personalization and classroom learning, after years of teaching practice reform, English education model should be supported by modernize information technology, make English teaching and learning can break the limits of time and space to a certain extent and oriented personalization and self-learning direction, therefore such as cell phones, e-readers, handheld computers and other mobile devices used in English in the classroom has become an inevitable trend, not only efficiently use of English classroom time, extend extra-curricular learning time, but also improve English education situation and bring up students self-learning and cooperative learning.

Mobile learning is a way to learning occurred at anytime and anywhere mainly rely on increasingly sophisticated wireless communications technology, wireless mobile networks, electronic information technology and other new electronic technology, its main feature is its mobility, the traditional teaching model request students must be learning in the classroom, mobile learning mode can learn English anytime and anywhere, without objective environmental constraints, the mobile computing device used in mobile learning can be effectively used to provide two-way interactive exchanges between teachers and learners, without the constraints of traditional English teaching model, improving student learning personalization and autonomy, it is indispensable for the future as a learning model and opens up a new avenues for lifelong learning and human disciplines education. By analyzing the characteristics of vocational students today and the way of mobile learning, mobile learning applications to English teaching and proved with the connection with mobile learning and English teaching is a very good aid outside the English classroom, has a great role in promoting to increase English learning for students [1-3]. This paper mainly studies the application of mobile learning in college English teaching.

## Mobile Learning Theory

Mobile learning is a new type of learning emerged in recent years with the rapid development of communication technology. For now, there are many the definition of mobile learning, Quinn explained that mobile learning is the combination of mobile computing and digital learning through new digital learning handheld computers, mobile phones and other information equipment performed as; Ericsson et al define mobile learning as, due to the increased mobility of people geospatial space requirements and flexible learning using mobile devices for learning a new way of learning; Dye and others defined that mobile learning in the mobile computing device with the help of able at any time and any place to carry out the study, and provides two-way communication between teachers and learners; Modern Educational Technology Center of Peking University Educational Laboratory move the definition of mobile learning means relying more mature wireless mobile networks, the Internet and multimedia technology, students and teachers to maximize flexibility in interactive teaching and learning activities. [4] By using a mobile device. In short mobile learning it means learning to use any device at any time and place, compared to the traditional advantages of mobile learning is learning the convenience of learning, teaching and learning, personalized, context-related diversification of and interaction. For the contents of this paper, English mobile learning occurs mainly in informal learning outside the classroom situation, the needs of students decided to implement location, but for the purposes of study areas, students not only learn English professional knowledge, professional skills, and to be concerned about the expansion of knowledge content, Learning also occurred at a time by the learner needs a decision. Mobile learning has mobility, immediacy, breadth, interactivity, sharing and personalization features, the main use of mobile computing devices, break time and space constraints, depending on the device characteristics of mobile learning and use, Mobile learning modes include locally based mobile learning mode, web-based learning model and mobile learning based on the search engine modes, mobile learning mode is shown in Fig. 1.

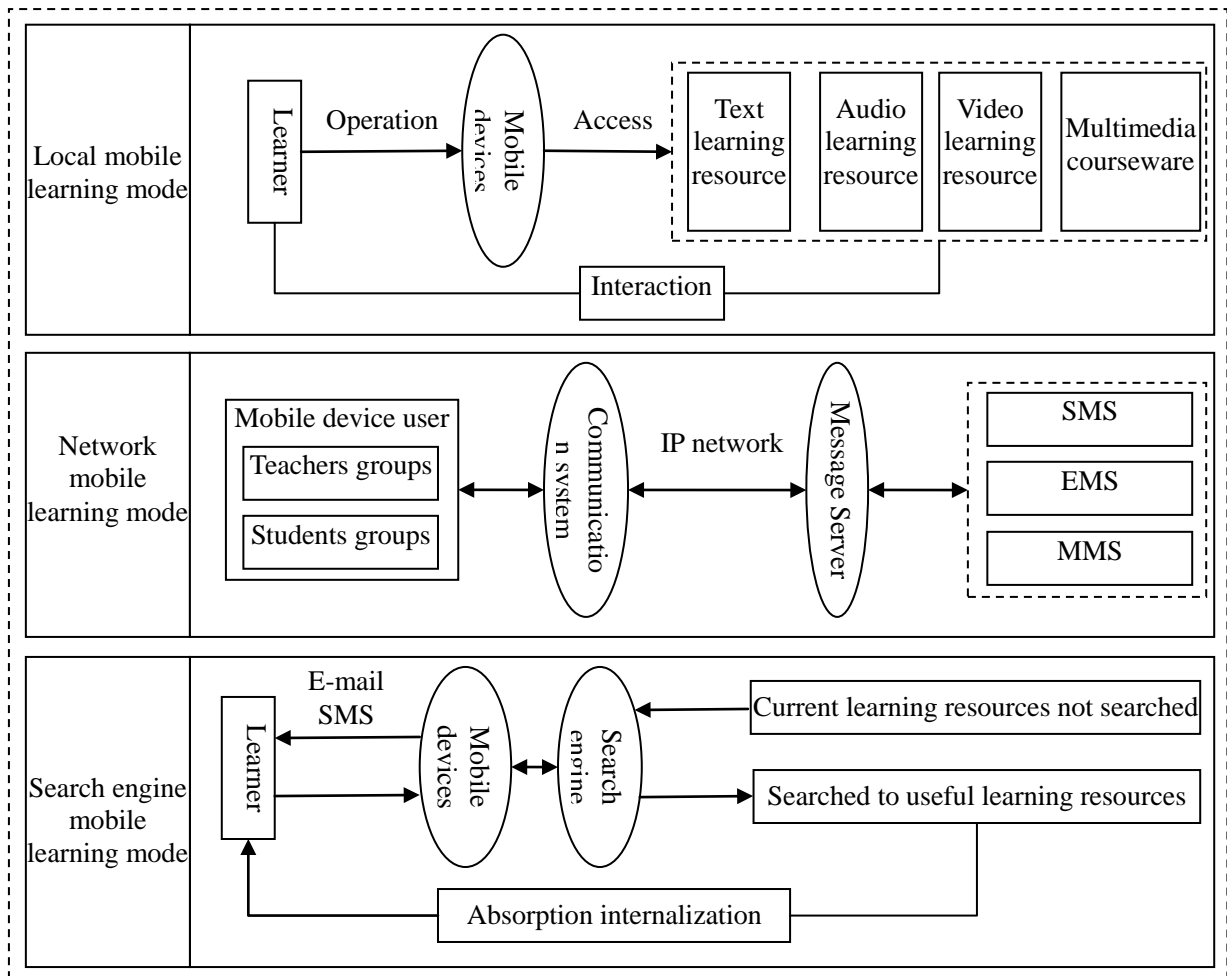


Fig. 1. Mobile learning mode

The theoretical basis of mobile learning is the theory of distributed learning, distributed learning theory is introduced the concept of distributed to education which emphasizes the learning resources centers of excellence, that is all the factors related to learning located in different non-central location, teach and learning can occur independently, distributed model can be combined with traditional classroom teaching, is a new way of learning for learners personality development of mobile learning flexibility, convenience, anytime, anywhere nature is a kind of distributed learning applications ; feasibility of mobile learning theory is based on informal learning theory, informal learning is a form of implicit learning, closely related to demand and practice, enabling learners can immediately apply to the practice of the process of knowledge and skills, culture competence ability to work with a key role, so English-based mobile learning mobile devices can be based on the characteristics of informal learning, providing learners with exchanges and cooperation in the environment in which the learners, discussing achieve the purpose of obtaining knowledge; mobile theoretical study also includes situated cognition and learning theory, situated cognition and learning theory emphasizes the important role of external learning environment for learning, teaching activities in the context of the activities focus more on the authenticity of knowledge reflected in real life Applications created for students to understand the knowledge and experience accumulated condition, and mobile learning that provides learners with real learning situation, so the mobile learning is the technical support for the situated cognition and learning theory [5].

## Mobile Learning Feasibility Analysis

Today Internet learners enjoy the convenience of the mobile communication device as the representative of the mobile phone, meanwhile suffer from the infinite grace come from massive data, so people want to teach or study in the mobile environment integrated the advantages of both them, so that each a learner can be free to enjoy the right of the world of information resources and learning, so that people can access to education and study uninterrupted use mobile learning tools easier and freer at anywhere and anytime [6]. Mobile learning as a new form of learning provides a new way to English teaching, so the application of mobile learning in English teaching is an inevitable trend. Mobile learning in English teaching should follow the following principles [7].

(1) The principles of learning forms diversity, due to mobile learning mainly rely on the help of wireless mobile devices to learn, so in the process of the teaching task design should be combined with experiential learning, collaborative learning, self-learning, discussion learning, personalized learning, online learning, offline learning and other methods to achieve the best learning outcomes;

(2) The principle of fragmentation for knowledge contents, due to mobile learning has the time interval fragmented, diverse learning environment, students cannot concentrate and other shortcomings, so the learning content should be designed to achieve short, fine, knowledge relatively independent, so that learners can complete a single independent knowledge within the fragmented time learning;

(3) Knowledge system integrity principle, it mainly reflects among the various knowledge in the content of learning, learning content should be achieve continuously and completely, according to the students' cognitive characteristics make the relatively independent learning tasks continue from front and rear, ensure the consistency of knowledge system and the flexibility of learning in a whole ;

(4) User-friendly interaction principle, it mainly refers to that mobile learning tasks and resources should be in a different form of text, graphics, images, audio, video, animation rendering and others, thus increasing the interest of teaching content.

The feasibility analysis that mobile learning is applied to English teaching can be analyzed from the following aspects, firstly, the mobile learning mode in line with the characteristics of college teaching, English education in our country mainly focus on classroom teaching, mobile learning is able to take full advantage of the time and space outside the classroom, assistance and expand the traditional classroom, and mobile language teaching can adapt to the need of flexible learning for students, which greatly facilitates the students' learning, and stimulate students' language learning broader participation, and encourage informal learning [8]; then, educational technology applied in the English teaching has a long history, mobile learning in line with English-disciplinary practices and resources characteristics, English is a discipline need for a lot of listening, speaking, reading, writing and other practical activities, in order to solve practice problems, certain technical equipment is essential, therefore English is the most used educational technology, but also from the very beginning teaching English speech laboratory development to the current use of mobile devices, the use of mobile learning in English teaching can make the classroom teaching becomes more flexible, convenient, help stimulate interest in learning the language and create a learning environment, enhance the ability of independent learning, make English teaching to achieve the desired effect [9]; and finally, to move in line with students' learning and communication features, contemporary students with higher ability to grasp and application of information technology, access to books from the traditional channels of information for change is now dependent on mobile devices, and as mobile devices more quickly move into the mass consumption stage embodiment provides a feasibility study that mobile learning to meet the language learning needs of students and contemporary communication, study habits, learning the language creates a rich and vivid, and without the constraints of the environment.

## English Mobile Learning Applications

How to learn English well and improve their language skills are largely dependent on extra language practice, and mobile assisted language learning just to play a positive role in this regard, it can combine formal classroom learning with after-school informal learning, make the learner receive formal language instruction in the classroom, after-school using language learning environment provided mobile devices to achieve language practice, using the convenience of time and space improve their language skills, and thus compensate for the lack of classroom teaching. English teaching includes vocabulary learning, listening and speaking and reading exercises three parts, in which vocabulary learning is the basis for learning English, the most common form of mobile English vocabulary learning is vocabulary learning based SMS, teachers send the word part of speech, meaning, sentence mass to students in the form of information, so that students can complete the exercise at any time, which is a classic case of Thornton & Houser teaching English vocabulary teaching, case results show that the method is a valuable way of teaching, teaching the use of mobile devices greatly expand the breadth and depth of learning, help students self-learning ability; listening and speaking is the use of portable audio and video players and recorders assisted classroom teaching and promote students' listening comprehension and oral expression, domestic research mainly use the Podcast technology, which improves the quality of teaching practical English listening and speaking, the use of mobile devices in English teaching solved the problem of lack of interaction and provided a number of two-language environment in the process of English learning, the study show that the training of English listening and speaking help culture the sense of English language and the accumulation of vocabulary, is very positive role in promoting English learning; reading learning is an important aspect of language learning, it can connect the smart phone with an Internet through mobile technology, using download information resources from Internet for completing a variety of learning activities, for the effectiveness of reading by using mobile devices has been proven for assisting learner [10].

The application method of mobile learning in English teaching include four type, such as alternative ways, the type of expanding mode, optimized approach and innovative ways, using four ways to expand the extension of the traditional English teaching, to deepen the meaning of English teaching. Alternative way, by definition is the use of mobile technology tools to replace traditional teaching methods; and expanded way is to use mobile technology to broaden the study of the extension, to stimulate student interest in learning; optimized way is to optimize the use of mobile technology in English teaching mode, and the design of new teaching tasks; innovative approach is the use of mobile technology for traditional English teaching mode innovation, design innovative teaching tasks in a mobile environment. Mobile learning in college English teaching existed many advantages in teaching, but there are some issues that need our attention, for students, mobile learning to rely on mobile devices such as smart phones, handheld computers, these mobile devices for the students themselves It is a temptation, so English learners should be rational use of mobile devices to learn English; for teachers, mobile learning requires teachers to have a strong teaching ability to control, to objectively determine the scope of the use of mobile learning and in teaching, Teachers have to understand the function of mobile technology and mobile devices, and thus achieve the mobile learning applications to English Teaching best results.

## Conclusion

With the appearance of mobile technology and the rapid development, the functions of mobile device are maturing, for the English teaching provides a diversified context, range in time and space, operation convenient and personalized learning new teaching environment, mobile technology and English education itself features make them have a natural contacts and good integration basis, the mobile learning based on mobile technology is an adjunct method for English teaching, break the boundaries of time and space and expand the classroom teaching for traditional English teaching model, effectively communicate the curricular formal learning with extracurricular informal

learning, to create the perfect environment for English learning, make up for the limitations of classroom teaching, and to improve the students' motivation to learn. In practice, the mobile learning applied in English teaching is a another technology and new teaching mode connected with language after speaking and listening education method and using computer or network help teaching, it has certain historical continuous, therefore, mobile learning in college English teaching can become English learning assistant for college students, also can make the traditional college English education mode change, provides a new idea to improve college English teaching work, it is important [11].

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