Mobile Learning
Self-Study

mardi 21 mai 13
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The title is a kind of private joke. This research is a self study on what can be done with mobile learning, because I was the student/subject. It is also an echo to a question I want to answer: what is the difference between mobile learning and self study
User-centric investigation into the endeavors of Mobile Learning

In the following slides I will explain how I used mobile technologies in order to learn Mandarin (普通话). Even if the sample is very limited (me), this lead me to interesting questions first, and then discovering. Last but not least, I did not started this learning with the idea of writing a paper about it, I decided that in the end after I realized there was some value in this kind of experiment.
Scope of this research

- Learning Mandarin
- Total illiterate
- Benefits of Mobility
- M-Learning or Self-Study?
This was not a kind of role play, because I had to learn Mandarin and I was totally illiterate. As professors we have very few opportunities to be in this extreme situation.
An opportunity to put myself in the position of a student

Thanks to that, I think reflexivity is not a real problem, because my two roles are distinct with almost no interaction.
I started with traditional face to face lessons, then because of my poor results I decided to take my learning in charge. Bought a book to use while commuting and then realized my phone was a great tool to enhance learning. In the end, I had to go back to my teacher and include her back in my new way of learning.
Traditional courses were not very successful, because the time spent with my teacher was limited and I had not much time to do homework. To make it short, not enough time, not enough work turned into poor results.
Because I have long commute I tried to find a way to use this time. Started with one book, then another. But reading a book lacks interaction, this is where I found my phone was the perfect supplement to the book. You can use it with one hand, easy to put out and back in your pocket and with Cloud applications, I could share my m-work with my computer and then with my teacher.
At that point I had to explain my teacher what kind of homework I was doing. It turned out that the book was the «content provider», the phone the «knowledge assessment» and the teacher the «tutor» to give insight to my m-lessons (and practice oral...).
Findings
Without social interaction, the boundary between m-learning and self-study is quite thin.
Hints

- Motivation is king
- Ease of use
- Fun
- Quick Wins
Simple applications, working online or offline on a phone are easier to use in mobility. Heavy duty web platforms on a tablet tend to be used as homework.
A book and a phone can be a perfect fit. The book for the knowledge, robust and usable everywhere, the phone to auto-evaluate the learning.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION