

**DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF A LANGUAGE COURSEWARE FRAMEWORK
USING AN AUTHORIZING TOOL**

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USING AN AUTHORING TOOL**

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ABSTRACT

The popularity of courseware and the advancement of authoring tools used in its development are progressing fast. Studies show that courseware developed based on a solid framework is indeed an effective tool in learning.

The study focuses on the development and design of a language courseware framework. Languages will include English, Mandarin and Filipino for the reason that these are the most commonly used languages in the Philippines today. Also covered by the study is setting of criteria used as basis for selection of the most appropriate authoring tool to use for the implementation of the framework.

Research on existing courseware precedes the development of the framework, and the authoring tool that satisfies all the requirements of the framework is selected for implementation. To prove that the developed framework is effective, tests are conducted on randomly selected learners.

It is recommended that more language courseware components be used to advance the level of learning of the user. Specifying a target market would help especially in defining the courseware's area of focus. To allow easier updates on the courseware, a database in which to store vocabulary is also recommended.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the universal medium used for communication among people. Methods of communicating are through speech and writing, with the former being the more prominent form of communication.

Today, the country boasts of people coming from diverse cultures and who speak a variety of languages. With this in mind, the proponents have conceptualized the idea of developing a language courseware framework. The said framework will be implemented in the development of a language courseware that is envisioned to aid foreigners and Filipinos to learn the basics of the commonly used languages in the Philippines, these are English, Filipino and Mandarin. This will allow the users to participate in and understand basic conversations.

Courseware is an instructional material that is designed as an alternative form of education. The design and development of these courseware materials are crucial, thus a framework would prove beneficial to developers especially in guiding them through decision making as courseware development progresses. A proper framework must be established as the backbone of an effective courseware. The value of such framework is that it will benefit the student, if the courseware will be efficient in imparting knowledge.

The authoring tool, which is the medium used to develop courseware, should be properly researched and evaluated. One of the most important choices to be made during the process of courseware development is that of which authoring tool should be used. This choice is particularly difficult because of the confusing number of authoring tools and programming languages on the market, all of which are advertised as "the definitive development tool", "tomorrow's software standard", "the ultimate hypermedia tool", "the professional's choice", and so on. Boastful claims are made for these systems which, whilst never direct lies, are often highly inflated exaggerations of what turn out to be, on inspection, fairly rudimentary capabilities. The wrong choice will cost money and time. An authoring tool that does not perform well in the initial phases of development will result in a less than desirable courseware. The time used to develop the courseware will have been wasted needlessly and the money spent will be lost for nothing. A set of criteria must then be set to guide the developers in tool selection.

The study is most likely to be of use to developers who are in the process of selecting suitable authoring tools for courseware development and determining how to create effective and productive materials. It will also benefit the users who will be able to learn the languages effectively and promptly.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The study will address the problem of creating a framework to be implemented in the development of a language courseware.

Specifically, it will address the following problems:

- What will be a good design and framework for a language courseware?
- What criteria will be used in deciding the appropriate authoring tool to use?
- What will be the appropriate authoring tool to use in implementing the developed framework for the language courseware?

The thesis centers on the idea that a framework must be developed to create an effective courseware. An authoring tool that will assist in achieving this goal is a necessity. There is a great difficulty in deciding on the right authoring tool to use in developing a language courseware. In so saying, a set of criteria must be satisfied.

1.3 Objectives

The general objective of the study is to develop and implement a framework for a language courseware. The courseware will include the basic words and phrases used in conversations on three of the country's most prominent languages – Filipino, English and Mandarin.

Specifically, the proponents have the following objectives:

- To be able to design a framework that is suitable for a language courseware
- To be able to identify a set of criteria as basis for choosing the right authoring tool for a language courseware

- To be able to design a language courseware on English, Filipino and Mandarin using the most appropriate authoring tool and implementing the developed framework

1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study will focus on the development of a framework for a language courseware. The framework will comprise of the design of a language courseware, its components and its area of emphasis.

The language courseware to be implemented based on the developed framework will include the basics of English, Mandarin and Filipino. It will focus on correct pronunciation and simple word use rather than grammar and sentence construction. It will not attempt to educate the user on complex word structures.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The Philippines is a home to an atmosphere of diverse cultures. The language courseware aims to aid foreigners and Filipinos who wish to communicate using the common languages of the country. Foreigners who are able to converse easily with Filipinos are confident to be accommodated with less difficulty. On the other hand,

Filipinos would benefit as knowledge in English or Chinese will be an advantage in conducting business transactions.

With an electronic courseware, those who want to learn these three languages can easily do so, as long as they have access to computers. The output is not just to create a courseware, but also to develop a framework that is appropriate for a language courseware. Hence, the developed framework can be used as a basis for future language courseware developers.

Moreover, no courseware has yet been created to do translation among these three languages. It becomes more significant because the languages included in the study are those that are predominantly used in the country.

There is no identified authoring tool created specifically for a language courseware. Thus, this study will be able to help in identifying an authoring tool that would have the capability to support the developer in creating a language courseware.