

Review of: "Enhancing Academic Speaking Skills: An Immersive Virtual World Approach"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

General comments

1. The paper is clearly presented, all the format features of a research paper in English are closely observed.
2. The paper draws on insights from different research instruments.
3. The findings of the study are beneficial in the current increasingly technologically-driven pedagogical environment.

Introduction

The aims and the significance of the study should be added in the Introduction section.

Literature Review

1. Strong points of view and critical criticism from the authors on the previous studies should be provided in the Literature review section.
2. What the literature review helps to form the current research should be emphasized.
3. The gaps in existing studies should be clearly identified.

Methodology

1. One more item "Research Procedures" should be added in the Methodology section. The course content should be moved here. Also, classroom activities, assignments, tasks should be clearly described.
2. How long was the treatment? (or how long did the pilot course last?). Please clearly specify, as the length of the course has a significant impact on the effectiveness of the treatment.

Participants

1. Participants should be more clearly described.
2. Only 20.5 % (41/200) is quite a low rate of participant population to ensure the reliability and validity of the study.
3. Merely 28 out of 200 students who did the pre- and post- tests are not representative for the whole population.

4. Why did the authors select to observe only 120 out of 200 course students? Please specify.

5. An explanation should be given for three above items 2, 3, 4.

Results

The length of the findings and discussion sections do not meet a research paper's requirement. They should be 50% of the whole paper length.

Discussion

The discussion should interpret the meaning of the results.

All discussion opinions should be put in context and explained why they mattered.