

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

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The article is well written (despite some minor grammar mistakes) and it is very interesting for current education. However, the title does not correspond to what the paper explains, it should be revised.

The abstract is correct but in the introduction there are some statements that should be backed up. For instance, when saying "In the past, academic English courses (EAP, English for Academic Purposes) were based primarily on reading skills", which studies have you taken into consideration?

The literature review section is concise and correct but it lacks a bit of dynamism. It frequently provides references that are quite old. This is an important issue due to the novelty of the study with Virtual Reality and the fast development of technology. Education has considerably changed in the last decades and old references may be questionable.

The data analysis is detailed and interesting but it would be advisory to explain the instruments further. The pre and post-test is not properly described and the reader does not know what this test really assesses and what. Can the reader get access to the virtual reality game? It would be very interesting to really try the gadget to know how it really works. The open questions of the questionnaire are not presented properly ordered so it may be a bit confusing for the reader. Nevertheless, the statistic analyses of the results are presented correctly, though in some occasions they lack depth (e.g. Why isn't there a significant difference in grammar and vocabulary?; What is the interpretation of some correlations and what do they infer in the study?).

Conclusions are a bit succinct but adequate and I would suggest to develop the pedagogical implications a bit more.

All in all it is a good paper with a deep understanding and analysis of an immersive virtual world in an EAP classroom.