Telecollaboration for Intercultural Language Acquisition

TILA Task Specification

Topic: New Technologies and Social Media

Lifelong Learning Programme

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TILA Task Specification

Topic: New Technologies and Social Media

Title of TILA task	New Technologies and Social Media
Partner team (schools and teachers)	• Catherine Saint-Jean (Lycée français de Barcelone, ES) 26 students, age: 15-16, Level A2/B2 • Mark Hatlie (Johannes Kepler Gymnasium, DE) 23 students, age: 15-16, Level A2/B1
Thematic description	Students exchange information on their use of social media and new technologies and discuss problems and benefits
Target language	English
CEF level	A2/B1 (B2)
Learning objectives (linguistic, communicative, and intercultural) See the CEF and ICC "can do" statements	• Students reflect on their own behaviour and habits concerning the use of the new technologies social media. Students can talk about their behaviour. • Students discuss problems and benefits of new technologies in free and unprepared dialogue. • They try to state their own opinion and react to their partners' opinions. They can make a point in the target language that is understood by the partner.
Description of blended learning approach	Preparation in class • Introduction into the topic using the following videos for awareness raising and discussion: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRl8EIhrQjQ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5P_0s1TYpJU Main telecollaboration task • Students meet synchronously in BBB or the Moodle chat or they discuss the topic asynchronously in the forum Follow-up session in class:

	• Discussion of insights and experiences of the conversation
Task outcome(s) (products produced by students)	• Worksheets with students' own answers and answers from their partners
Technical specifications (tools that will be used)	Multi-modal approach: Students use one of the following communication options: • BigBlueButton (depending on availability of technology at home, i.e. good internet connection, headset with microphone, webcam) • Moodle chat (if BBB does not work at home) • Moodle forum (if students do not find a time for a synchronous meeting)

Preparatory Phase

Description of subtask(s)	Watch and discuss videos on the use of social media and new technologies
Learning objective(s)	• Be aware of own use of social media and new technologies • Be able to from opinions regarding problems and advantages of social media and new technologies
Environment and tools (classroom, homework, forum etc.)	Classroom
Form of interaction (pair work, small groups, teacher centred)	Pair work, group work
Expected outcome(s)	• Students are aware of their own use of social media and new technologies • Students have their own opinions regarding advantages and problems of social media and new technologies

Main Phase	
Description of subtask(s)	Students use the emails to make an appointment with their partner(s). Students meet in BBB or the Moodle chat and discuss the following questions (also see worksheet below): A. Which social media do you use and how? What do you like or dislike about them? B. What would it mean to you to be without a computer or smartphone for a day/week/month or longer? C. Are the new technologies (Smartphones, I-Pad) and social media and communication tools (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, Skype, email) a blessing or a curse? Discuss problems and benefits. Students are asked to use the provided worksheet (see below) to note down the main results of their conversation so that they can talk about it in the follow-up session in class.
Learning objective(s)	• Being able to talk about own habits regarding the use of social media and new technologies • Being able to express one's opinion regarding advantages and problems of social media and new technologies • React adequately to the opinion of others.
Environment and tools: synchronous (e.g. OpenSim, BigBlueButton) or asynchronous (e.g. forum)	Multi-modal approach: Students use one of the following communication options: • BigBlueButton (depending on availability of technology at home, i.e. good internet connection, headset with microphone, webcam) • Moodle chat (if BBB does not work at home) • Moodle forum (if partners do not find a time for a synchronous meeting)
Form and organisation of telecollaborative interaction: Number and size of telecollaboration groups; other participant roles	• Students were matched in pairs of two • Partners arrange a time for their meeting in BBB or the Moodle chat • Access to BBB or chat from home computer

Expected outcome(s)	Worksheet/protocol with students' own answers and answers from their partners

Post Phase

Description of post task	Students discuss results of their interactions in class and talk about their experience in the exchange. Students evaluate differences, similarities, and maybe new insights on the topic.
Learning objective(s)	Become aware of similarities and differences with regard to the use and problems or advantages of social media and new technologies. Students reflect on their communicative behaviour (showing interest, being open, asking questions, being polite, etc.)
Environment and tools (classroom, homework etc.)	Classroom
Form of interaction (pair work, small groups, teacher centred)	Pair work or small groups
Expected outcome(s)	Increased awareness • of own use and opinions regarding social media and new technologies • of similarities and differences with regard to the use and problems or advantages of social media and new technologies. • Of own communicative behaviour

Task Description and Worksheet

New technology and social media

Based on the internet technology you have available at home, you have been assigned either to telecollaboration via the video conference tool Big Blue Button (option A) or to a written chat or forum discussion (option B). Choose the appropriate option below to discuss a few questions on new technologies and social media with your partner.

Option A: Discussion in BigBlueButton (BBB)

1. **Make an appointment with your partner**

   Write an email to your partner and make an appointment (arrange day and time) for your meeting in BBB

2. **Test your equipment**

   Go to the BBB room that has been assigned to you and check whether you can open BBB, check your webcam and sound (you need a webcam and a headset with microphone and a good internet connection)

3. **Meet your partner in BBB**

   Meet your partner in the BBB room assigned to you at the arranged time and discuss the following questions:

   A. Which social media do you use and how? What do you like or dislike about them?
   B. What would it mean to you to be without a computer or smartphone for a day/week/month or longer?
   C. Are the new technologies (Smartphones, I-Pad) and social media and communication tools (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, Skype, email) a blessing or a curse? Discuss problems and benefits of new technologies.

   Discuss one question after the other. Address the different issues in a back-and-forth discussion. When discussing C., be sure to consider your own personal experience with these media.

   Your discussion should last about 30 minutes. The discussion will be recorded and can later be accessed by your instructor.

   Use the attached Worksheet to jot down your impressions of the conversation so that you can tell your classmates about your TILA experience during English class later.

4. **Trouble shooting – switch to chat or forum**

   Should you or your partner encounter problems using BBB, switch to your Moodle Chat room to discuss the questions.

   If you and your partner(s) are not able to agree on a time slot for an online meeting in BBB, please use the discussion forum in Moodle (see Option C in Task 2) instead.

Option B: Written chat in Moodle chat room

1. Make an appointment with your partner

Write an email to your partner and make an appointment (arrange day and time) for your meeting in your assigned Moodle chat room

2. Meet your partner in the Moodle chat room

Meet your partner in the Moodle chat room assigned to you at the arranged time and discuss the following questions:

A. Which social media do you use and how? What do you like or dislike about them?
B. What would it mean to you to be without a computer or smartphone for a day/week/month or longer?
C. Are the new technologies (Smartphones, I-Pad) and social media and communication tools (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, Skype, email) a blessing or a curse? Discuss problems and benefits of new technologies.

Discuss one question after the other. Address the different issues in a back-and-forth discussion. When discussing C., be sure to consider your own personal experience with these media.

Your discussion should last about 30 minutes. The chat will be saved and you can access it again to review your discussion.

Use the attached Worksheet to jot down your impressions of the conversation so that you can tell your classmates about your TILA experience during English class later.

If you and your partner(s) are not able to agree on a time slot for an online meeting, please use the discussion forum in Moodle (see Option C in Task 2) instead.

Option C: Forum discussion

If you and your partner(s) were not able to agree on a time slot for an online meeting in BBB or the Moodle chat room, please use the discussion forum in Moodle (see Option C in Task 2) and discuss the following questions:

A. Which social media do you use and how? What do you like or dislike about them?
B. What would it mean to you to be without a computer or smartphone for a day/week/month or longer?
C. Are the new technologies (Smartphones, I-Pad) and social media and communication tools (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, Skype, email) a blessing or a curse? Discuss problems and benefits of new technologies.

Discuss one question after the other. Address the different issues in a back-and-forth discussion. When discussing C., be sure to consider your own personal experience with these media.

Use the attached Worksheet to jot down your impressions of the conversation so that you can tell your classmates about your TILA experience during English class later.

TILA WORKSHEET / PROTOCOL

Use the worksheet to note down the gist of how you and your TILA partner addressed the different issues discussed?

A. Which media do you use and how? What do you like or dislike about them?

You	Your partner(s)

B. What would it mean to you to be without a computer or smartphone for a day/week/month or longer?

You	Your partner(s)

C. Are the new technologies (Smartphones, I-Pad) and social media and communication tools (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, Skype, email) a blessing or a curse? Discuss problems and benefits of new technologies.

You	Your partner(s)

Did you and your partner have a similar or different opinion about the implications of new technologies? Did you recognize and talk about the same advantages and disadvantages?