Leveraging Open-Source Multimedia for Second Language Development

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Abstract

The biggest challenge teachers of Chinese in America encounter are the lack of culturally responsive Chinese materials. Traditional textbooks and resources often fail to reflect the lived experiences, cultural diversity, and linguistic needs of students learning Chinese as a second or heritage language. To effectively engage these learners, educators need access to materials that resonate with students' cultural backgrounds, while also providing compelling and comprehensible input necessary for language acquisition. This study will present how open-source Chinese multimedia was utilized as well as its impact on students' motivation and acquisition of Chinese. This study reveals that free digital resources such as videos, audio files, podcasts, interactive social media, and e-books offer engaging, culturally rich content and are instrumental in making Chinese language learning more accessible, relatable, and effective. Key findings will be shared on how the thoughtful integration of language acquisition theories with modern multimedia technologies can enhance students' engagement and improve their language proficiency. These results indicate the potential for digital platforms to revolutionize language education in the 21st century, making second language learning more accessible, less daunting, and more aligned with learners' diverse needs and interests.