

Comparing asynchronous and synchronous interaction using online technology

ABSTRACT

The move from traditional face-to-face classroom learning to the use of information and communication technology (ICT) has been implemented by universities in Malaysia and abroad vigorously with computer-mediated communication (CMC) systems. These technologies promote interaction among tertiary level students in collaboration where they can have discussions with peers for collaborative tasks by means of posting messages (asynchronous) and instant messaging (synchronous). This review paper focused on comparative studies of asynchronous and synchronous interaction among university students using online tools. The quantitative and qualitative research studies were reviewed preliminarily based on the types of CMC used, looking at the theories, methods, respondents, and findings. This paper also discusses the online tools used for interaction such as Wiki and Skype, and concludes with an understanding of students' experience of different online systems and tools in their communication that may affect their learning.

Keyword: Asynchronous; Computer-mediated communication; Interaction; Skype; Synchronous; Wiki