

Demystifying Greek, Latin, and other Foreign Languages



The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency commissioned Tata Interactive Systems to produce e-learning courseware for its Modern Foreign Language students that would extend and enhance their classroom courses.

The National Learning Network (NLN) is a national partnership program designed to increase the uptake of Information and Learning Technology across post-16 education in England. British Educational Communications and Technology agency (BECTA) is the managing agent for the National Learning Network and supports all the four UK education departments in their strategic Information and Communications Technology (ICT) developments. BECTA provides strategic leadership in the innovative and effective use of ICT to enable the transformation of learning, teaching, and educational organizations for the benefit of every learner.

THE NEED FOR ILT

The study of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) is a popular element of Adult and Community Learning (ACL) programs. The courses are often delivered by native speakers in evening sessions, and the most widely taught languages are French, Spanish, German, and Italian. As a range of language-specific electronic materials already exist in the most popular languages, BECTA wanted to create a greater impact on this curriculum area with the creation of generic materials to support and complement tutor-delivered learning and the existing e-learning resources. They wanted the materials to be engaging and motivating to the language learners and offer them an opportunity to acquire skills and knowledge that would make their language learning more effective.



With the use of interactivities, hints, and tips the MFL courseware developed by TIS for adult learners provided them an enhanced learning experience.

HOW OUR SOLUTION HELPED

In-depth analysis by the Tata Interactive Systems team led to the idea that the learning objects (LO) of the Modern Foreign Languages should be based on three main areas where the learner's experience could be enriched: knowledge, strategies, and attitude.

We believed that learning an MFL should be fun, exciting, and exhilarating. However, adult learners of an MFL in the UK often expressed fear and anxiety in learning a foreign language, which often hampered both the engagement level and learning effectiveness.

Since, the potential target group for this learning had already taken the first step in learning an MFL by attending a class in the MFL of their choice, TIS's product supported and enhanced their learning experience by offering content that would be difficult to obtain within a classroom context. TIS also provided hints and tips throughout the material advising the learners about how to improve learning. The LOs also used a variety of interactive elements that provided the learner with an enhanced learning experience.

TECHNOLOGY USED

The technologies used to develop the program are HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Macromedia Flash.