

CALL (Computer-Assisted Language Learning) & Teaching Persian

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CALL: An Introduction (implementation for Persian (Demo)?)

Audio, video and text processing for
task-based material development.

What is “CALL”?

- **CALL:** Computer-Assisted Language Learning, CAI, CAL, CALT >> CBI >> CMI >> CDI (bigger role for computer)
- AI: Limitations exist in Artificial Intelligence. Computer has a relative role in language learning.
- But it is **NO THREAT** to teachers because CALL is still dependent upon the teacher (Ahmad et al., 1985). CALL Can't replace the teacher.
- A sophisticated source of teaching material.

Natural Language Processing (**NLP**), Natural Language Understanding (**NLU**), Automatic Speech Recognition (**ASR**), Text-to-Speech Synthesis (**TTS**), Machine Translation (**MT**), Dialogue & Knowledge-based Systems, Virtual Reality, Simulation, Authoring Courseware Applications (Director, Flash, CSLU Toolkit, **RAD**, etc.), and *E-learning* Technologies (Web, Discussion Forums, Yahoo Robots, WebCT, etc).

Advantages & Disadvantages of CALL

- CALL still **LACKS** intelligent speech interaction and understanding of natural language (let's keep this role still for the teacher). Lack of knowledge to implement CALL efficiently.
- CALL is **CAPABLE** of facilitating interactive assessments, **task-based simulation**, multimedia (audio-visual streaming &) communication, and feedback.
- Computer is **tireless**, **accurate**, meticulous, error-free, fair, flexible, **adaptable**, accessible but emotionless (advantages [reduce anxiety] & disadvantages).
- Dynamic text-books (HD colors, editable content) and adaptable activity-books add to the **productive** learning time while they are **incentive** for learners.

- CALL Limitations

Reading: YES	Writing: YES
Language Generation: (NO – Limited*)	Understanding: (NO – Limited*)
TTS: YES	ASR: YES

* Expert Systems: going-on research

- Some TBLT researchers are **against** CDI (Computer-Directed Instruction):
- itemized and largely de-contextualized presentation of materials to learners
- Lack the intelligence of the classroom teacher to make adaptations and appropriate pedagogic decisions (Skehan, 2003)
- Consider a kind of utilitarian role for CALL. **Pros** for web use only: it “contains virtually limitless input, and considerable opportunities for interaction”.

- “Simulations are one type of computer-based activity that allows students to be immersed and actively involved in an environment that is not otherwise accessible ...” (Marta González-Lloret, 2003:86)
- Accessible, HD Multimedia, Interactive learning, Virtual Reality Task:
“En Busca de Esmeraldas” (In Search of Emeralds):
Incorporates a sequence of tasks building towards a meaningful goal:
<http://llt.msu.edu/vol7num1/gonzalez/default.html>

Audio:

Sound manipulation software: CoolEdit, Adobe
Audition:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/audition/>

Sound capture all audio casts: Recording all audio
streaming formats from the web:

WaveCreator: <http://www.blazeaudio.com/>

FreeWare: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Video:

Video editing software: Adobe Premier Pro, Roxio, AvidXpress, After Effects:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/premier/>

Video capture all formats: Download ram. ra, mpeg, mpg, asx, wmv, avi (use it 30 days for free)

HiDownload: <http://www.streamingstar.com/>