

CAT 4 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Group 4-044

Bilingualism Resource Development

Chong Shao Yi Asher 1I4 (04)

Ni Haoran 1I4 (21)

Kong Shuozi 1A2 (16)

Foong Jing Heng 1A2 (12)

ABSTRACT

The “Bilingualism Reading Site” is a user-friendly and intuitive online platform that aims to allow Primary 5 and 6 students studying in Singapore to improve their reading and writing in the two languages, English and Chinese in a fun and interesting manner, allowing them to be more interested in learning these languages. Not only does it have several news articles in both languages regarding the recent news, it also contains the specific main ideas of every news article, providing further insights into the topic. There are also interactive games that allow the user to test his or her knowledge on the two different languages. There is even a comments and feedback portion at the bottom of every page which allows the user to ask any questions regarding the topic that may appear after reading the news articles, or providing any feedback that he may have on how to improve the site. With the increasing usage of handphones and computers around the nation, this reading site can be found online at just a click of a button wherever and whenever the user would like to find more information about recent news topics.

1 Introduction

1.1 Rationale

In Singapore, the government often encourages every student to embrace bilingualism and learn it to the full extent. However, students often lack the proper resources to allow them to be able to learn the two languages, English and Chinese well, or the resources may be compiled in a way that is confusing, hard to understand or outdated. For example, some websites used by teachers are more than a decade old, and most of the limited information is not up-to-date, causing trouble to the students when it comes to learning the language well by searching for information online.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the Bilingualism Reading Site are to:

- Allow students to speak both Chinese and English fluently using appropriate phrases and words
- Allow students to read widely and keep up with the recent news and possess a global outlook
- Allow students to use the skills they learn from a news article and apply it to their assignments e.g. composition
- Allow students to think deeper about issues and the two sides of a problem instead of having a fixed view to the problem

1.3 Target Audience

The target audience was Primary 5 and 6 students studying in Singapore, mainly targeting those who study Chinese as their second language.

1.4 Resources

The resource created for this project was an integrated online platform comprising of several news articles in two languages on recent news topics, a comments and feedback section, and several games.

1.5 Website

The website can be accessed from this link down below

<https://sites.google.com/student.hci.edu.sg/bilingualism-project-work/home?authuser=0>

2 Review

Currently, there are websites like 早报校园 (zao bao xiao yuan) and the other common news websites in our product (website). It is specifically meant to help students in primary 5 and 6. However, these news websites have multiple articles which are scattered around and can be quite an eyesore. They are also focusing on one language only, hence the news articles are usually either in English or Chinese so when there are words that are hard to understand, there are also no additional explanations. There could have been more information for students regarding several topics that are in both languages while the information is better organised for better understanding of each recent news topic.

Some news websites, such as Straits Times or CNA are also very hard to find articles as many of them have been archived. Through this website, we can find old but interesting articles and put it onto our sites for readers.

3 Methodology

3.1 Survey results

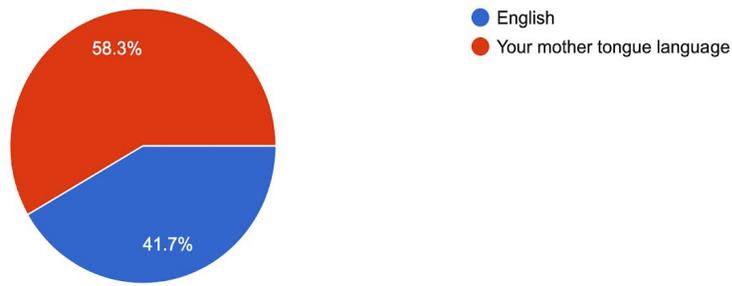
3. Do you think bilingualism is important?

36 responses



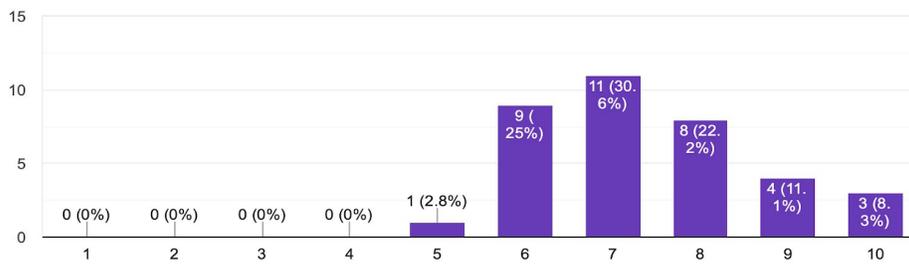
4. Which language do you think will be more important in the future?

36 responses



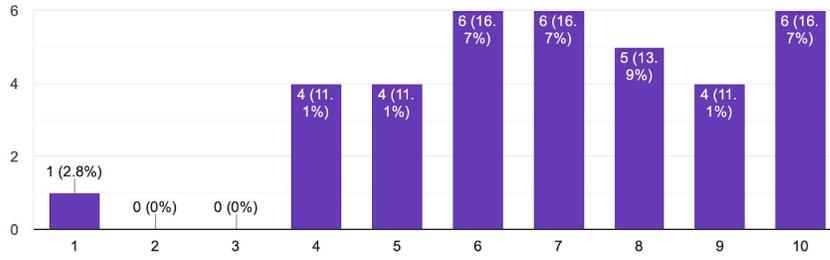
5. On the scale of 1 to 10, how would rate your proficiency in English?

36 responses



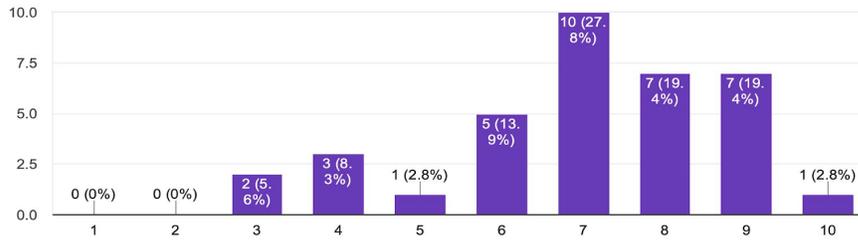
6. On the scale of 1 to 10, how much do you like English?

36 responses



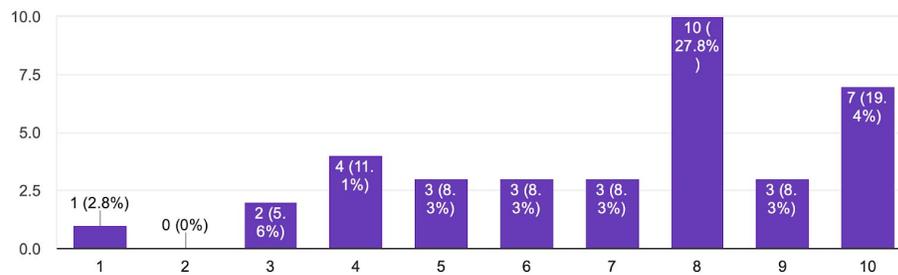
7. On the scale of 1 to 10, how would rate your proficiency in your mother tongue language?

36 responses



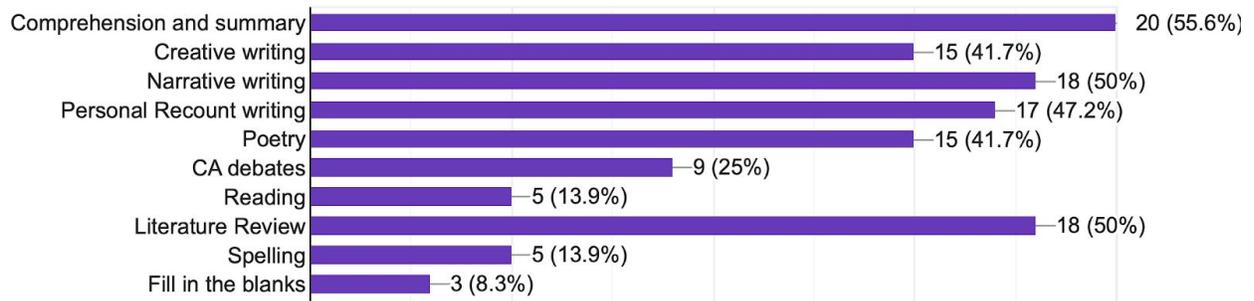
8. On the scale of 1 to 10, how much do you like your mother tongue language?

36 responses



9. What areas do you need help in English?

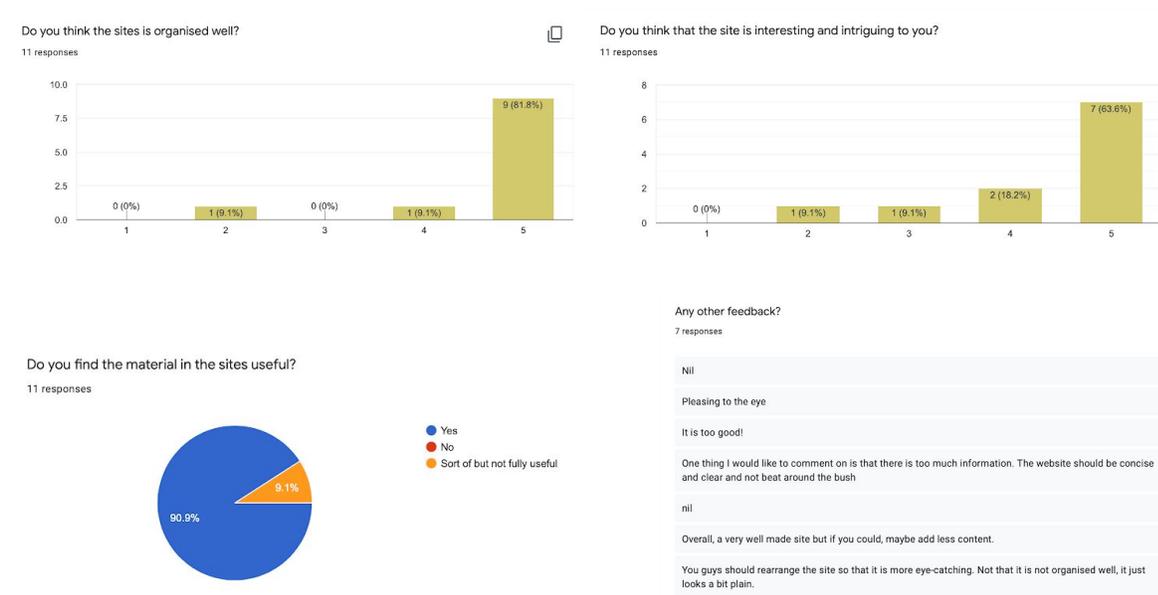
36 responses



3.2 Needs Analysis

A needs analysis was conducted to ascertain the need for such a project. Firstly, a questionnaire was constructed to find out how important people thought bilingualism was. This was to find out how applicable this project would be in their daily lives. Indeed, out of the 36 people surveyed with the majority of them agreeing that bilingualism is important. They were also asked if the current resources provided are sufficient and beneficial for their learnings. Most said that their resources are not enough for them so we took into account the areas which they needed help in. We took the textbook phrases and the good words and compiled all the information and created multiple quizzes for them to not only revise on what they have learnt but also to have fun. We firmly believe that it will leave a deeper imprint in their minds, hence, allowing them to remember these new information much better.

3.3 Survey results (for the our end product)



3.4 interpretation of the results

There were eleven people who did the survey. Our website was generally very well received, with 81.8% of them who thought that it was organised well, 63.6% who thought that it was intriguing and 90.9% who thought that it was useful for them. However, there were two comments that stated that we should condense the information and not beat around the bush as the huge amount of words made it seem like an eyesore. With this feedback, we added more pictures and videos to make it more interesting and eye catching.

One main flaw with these results is that it had been tested on sec 1s instead of our target audience, P5 and P6s. Due to Covid-19, it is very hard to get in connection with our primary school teachers to send out the sites to them and complete the survey as they are usually very busy. We originally decided to send it to our teachers and they will in turn share the survey and we could get at least about 60 responses from them.

However, we could not do that and got our classmates' brothers and sisters who fall in this category to do the survey for us.

4 Outcome and discussion

4.1 Follow-up after survey

After our discussion, we realised that we should change our focus from being exam-oriented to something really enjoyable but fruitful for their education. We decided to make quizzes and games to help them in their English comprehension, literature review, and narrative writing. To solve that, we made a quiz on good words and phrases and fun interactive games which will not fail to arouse their attention. We also made a section for daily Zaobao or Straits Times news to allow the reader to understand what is happening around the world and at the same time, let them learn some useful words that they have never seen before. We changed our target audience to students aged 11 to 12 years old who are studying in Primary 5 and 6. Our new objective was to allow students to learn their two languages in a fun and interactive way.

4.2 Challenges we faced along the way

At first, our work did not align with our objectives and goals which was a huge flaw. We were only preparing students for exams which aren't original and such resources can be easily obtained elsewhere in bookstores. We were supposed to make and encourage students to be more interested in becoming effectively bilingual. Our target audience is far too general and broad which may lead to the quality of the product to be affected negatively. We also did not interpret the statistics correctly, (e.g. exaggerating certain data and percentages).

4.2 Our limitations

This website can only go as far as to help and encourage students to put in as much effort as they can to improve their languages. Other than that, it is all up to the students about how much consideration and how important they think bilingualism actually is. If it is important in their eyes, they will naturally put in effort into studying it but if they don't, then there is not much we can do about it. The product was created with the goal of helping and encouraging them to be proficient in both languages in mind.

4.3 Successes we had

We successfully created our own website and online game for the first time. It definitely opened our eyes as it wasn't as challenging as we thought. However, we still had to put much effort into them so that the quality will be of the very best. The evaluator and our mentor gave us valuable and priceless feedback and advice which allowed us to improve our product significantly. This allowed our "journey" to completing the website and games to be a mainly smooth one. Everything went occurring to plan and the end product was better than we thought it would actually turn out.

5 Conclusion

In conclusion, through all of these changes that we have made throughout the project as a whole, we can definitely assure you that the project is a pleasing one. The reading material on our website can provide you with hours of fun as they help you learn and breeze through the language. The reading material is a bit more serious and could aid in helping students digest the information in the sites. Thus, we are happy to conclude our project with this report and are glad to report that we have met our goals in helping students to become bilingual.

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