A Report of Needs Analysis Survey on the Web Materials for Teaching English*

Hee-Jeong Ihm
(Seoul National University of Education)

Ihm, Hee-Jeong. 2010. A Report of Needs Analysis Survey on the Web Materials for Teaching English. *The Linguistic Association of Korea Journal*. 18(3). 111-124. This study provides summary information on the survey carried out to find out whether the web-materials developed by the British Council at the EBS website, under the heading Elementary School Subject Activities provide practical teaching tips to Korean English teachers in the elementary school. In addition, this survey was also conducted to gather the feedback from teachers necessary for updating the site in future. For this purposes, the survey was conducted to two hundred seventy teachers. The results of the survey indicate teachers' portal sites are the most popular gateway to gain information on teaching English. The matter is how much the materials are applicable to real elementary school English classrooms. If the more detailed information, for differentiated instruction is added to the introduction of each teaching tip, it is easier for teachers to apply to teaching English. The results of the survey also suggested that to make this teachers' portal usable and resourceful, there should be space where information is shared among teachers.

**Key Words**: web material, elementary English education, web site evaluation

1. Introduction

The development of information and technology has had a great impact on language learning and teaching. Teachers could get access to ready-made

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teaching materials which help them save time for preparing their classes. Although language learners may not be able to visit English-speaking countries, they are able to have access to different web materials that lead learners to the Internet immersion. However in spite of the increase of the teaching materials on the Internet, teachers are not still satisfied with the materials. Most Korean elementary school teachers use commercial sites to share the information and materials to better their teaching English skill. This signifies that teachers still need teaching resources that can be easily adaptable to their English classes.

To meet the need of the current elementary school English teachers in Korea, the British Council initiated the project to adapt the web materials developed by the council to the current elementary English curriculum in Korea. The aim of this project was to match the web materials to the units of the national English textbooks, providing teaching tips. For these purposes online and print-based materials from Learn English Kids, a web site developed by the British council, were analyzed in terms of its types and topics. One hundred ninety materials were mapped to each unit of the Korean Elementary English textbooks. The teaching tips about how to use the material were added to each mapped material. Since April, 2009, the adapted materials have been uploaded to EBS site and serviced to the site users.

This study provides summary information on the survey carried out to find out whether the adapted materials under the title, Elementary School Subject Activities provide practical teaching tips to Korean English teachers in the elementary school. In addition, this survey was also conducted to gather the feedback from teachers necessary for updating the materials in future as well as the site. For these purposes the on-line survey was conducted for ten days (from July 30th to August 9th, 2009) through the EBS site website. The research questions for this study are as follows:

1) Are the materials on the Elementary School Subject Activities easily adaptable to teaching English in the elementary school?
2) Are the materials matched properly to each unit of the national English textbooks for the elementary school students?
3) What are the things to be done for improving the materials?