

# Use of Technology in Collaborative Writing for Second Language Learning

*\*This study is a systematic review on studies examining technology-enhanced collaborative writing (TECW) for second language (L2) learning.*

1

## Study Questions:

What educational technologies were used to support TECW?

How did educational technologies affect students' learning outcomes and perceptions of TECW?

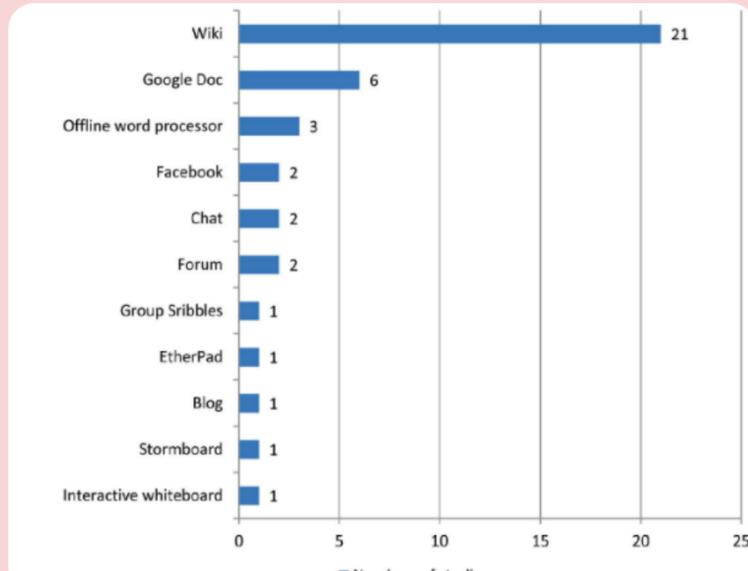


Figure 2 Types of Technology for TCEW

2

## Wikis:

Examples: Wikispaces, PB works, and Wetpaint

### Benefits for students:

- Convenient writing and revising
- Convenient group interactions: affording asynchronous communication
- Learning materials and tools: resources available in the toolbar
- Multimedia technologies: image, audio, video, etc
- Personalized scaffolding: various writing templates were provided

### Benefits for researchers and educators:

- Automatic saving, organizing, and analysis of historical records of the process of TECW: students' interactions are all color-coded and recorded
- Group setting: class wikis and wiki pages for different groups can be established
- Feedback giving during the writing process

3

## Google Docs and EtherPad

### Benefits for researchers and educators:

- Automatic saving, organizing, and analysis of historical records of the process of TECW: students' interactions are all color-coded and recorded.
- Group setting: class wikis and wiki pages for different groups can be established.
- Feedback given during the writing process
- Simplicity to be incorporated in a course

4

## Facebook and blog

### Benefits for students

- Providing learning materials
- Convenient group interactions
- Availability on various devices
- User-friendly

### Benefits for researchers and educators

- Students' posts and interactions are available for analysis

## When is TECW effective?

5

## Results are mixed regarding students' perception of TECW

### Reasons for the effectiveness of technologies:

- Prompt group interactions
- Help students reflect on their work and identify errors and weaknesses
- Boost learner motivation and confidence
- Facilitate writing
- Encourage students to learn from others
- Make the learning process enjoyable

### Conditions that may lead to ineffective use of technology

- When technologies were inconvenient to use
- When students did not devote adequate effort to planning and reflection
- When students lacked co-responsibility for the writing

## Teaching Suggestions

- Teachers should select proper technologies.
- Teachers should assess students' technical literacy and provide them with instruction and training needed.
- Explicit instruction on TECW should be in place.