ABSTRACT

A quasi-experimental study was conducted to investigate the effects of online tutorial for EFL learners' autonomous learning on grammar. Hence, the purposes of the study aimed at finding out whether online tutorial benefit EFL learners for learning grammar autonomously in terms of direct effect, transfer effect, and sentence-writing. Besides, the study attempted to understand if EFL learners hold favorable attitude toward online tutorial, to know which features of online tutorial are more helpful to them, and to collect EFL learners' suggestions for an efficient online grammar tutorial. Ninety-nine English-majored students in a university of Central Taiwan participated in the experiment. There were two self-learning modes, learning with the online tutorial and learning with the workbook. Instruments used in the study included learning materials of two grammar topics, pretests and posttests, and a questionnaire. The experiment lasted for 8 weeks, four weeks for each grammar topic. For each grammar topic, the pretest was conducted in the first week. During the two weeks of learning activities, students were required to learn through either the online tutorial or the workbook. The posttest was conducted in the fourth week. After the tests and learning activities, a questionnaire was given. Results of simple main effect under two-way ANOVA and independent-sample t-test revealed that students made progress no matter after learning with the online tutorial or with the workbook in terms of direct effect, transfer effect, and sentence-writing. Moreover, the findings from the Goodness of Fit Test indicated that some students held positive attitude toward the online tutorial, but some did not. Additionally, most students thought that immediate corrective feedback, immediate marking, and immediate exercise were more helpful for their autonomous grammar learning. Furthermore, the results from the content analysis showed that the online tutorial could provide animation, more exercise questions, clearer feedback, and teaching videos to be more effective.

Keywords: Online tutorial, Autonomous learning, Grammar learning
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