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Correlation of Time on Task and TOEIC Change

In view of the fact that the online services iKnow! and EnglishCentral track student use, it is possible to pinpoint how much time students spend on task. Both services provide more appropriate, lexically graded, comprehensible input for individual students outside of class time. This longitudinal study of 20 students examines changes in TOEIC scores over a period of 6 months. Two cohorts of 10 students were identified by change in TOEIC score. Their respective TOEIC scores were compared with cumulative time spent on task. Time on task was calculated from student utilization of iKnow!, EnglishCentral, and a local installation of MoodleReader. Monthly reports of study time for iKnow! were created. EnglishCentral class completion reports of the weekly 2000 point (78 min.) goal were downloaded. Mean reading speed of 75 words-per-minute was estimated from time reading of graded readers for 10 students. The time on task for reading was then calculated by dividing the total number of words read by the mean reading speed. Preliminary, results show a mean positive correlation in TOEIC with the upper cohort spending double the amount of time on task for a 3-fold improvement in TOEIC score.