Creating a SoTL Project

# Research Question Description

The research questions I wish to pursue involve the effectiveness of different online practice techniques for learning word stress in English. I find word stress to be one of the biggest challenges and one of the biggest improvements that ESL students can make to further their spoken English skills. After teaching and practicing as a group, which of the following techniques are most effective at improving clear and accurate production of stress?

* [Clear Pronunciation App](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CUser%5CDocuments%5CPD%5Cv), - interactive activities produced by a professional developer
* [H5P interactives](https://h5pstudio.ecampusontario.ca/?key=stress&h5ptype=&field_tags_target_id=&subject%5b%5d=138&author=&ocl=All) - more basic interactives developed by instructors to meet the needs and follow the themes of their classrooms
* [123apps’ Voice Recorder](https://online-voice-recorder.com/). – an app that produced a visual of the stress students produce so they can see (not just hear) if they are producing accurate stress.
* Video or audio sharing apps, such as [Flip](https://info.flip.com/) or [Padlet](https://padlet.com/), where students create videos and receive feedback from peers and their instructor.

# Prior Research to Undertake to Inform Research Design

Before engaging in this research, I would need to look at what techniques are currently being employed by professors at my college and in similar institutions. I would also need to look for any publications that describe similar research that has already been undertaken so as to avoid reinventing the wheel.

# Explanation of Plan of Action

I want to determine which technologies help ESL students to learn to produce accurate syllable stress in an online environment.

I would like to use several different technologies to measure improved outcomes for producing word stress, especially among students who do not yet speak a language that includes word stress. For example, some technologies that our institution currently uses are: [Clear Pronunciation App](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CUser%5CDocuments%5CPD%5Cv), [H5P interactives](https://h5pstudio.ecampusontario.ca/?key=stress&h5ptype=&field_tags_target_id=&subject%5b%5d=138&author=&ocl=All), [123apps’ Voice Recorder](https://online-voice-recorder.com/). Students would be measured in their ability to produce appropriate word stress in phrases and/or sentences. This could be accomplished using existing testing materials such as recorded assignments and live presentations, and the results could be compared to the diagnostic baseline of the students.

# Dissemination Strategy

I would first disseminate the research with my teaching peers via a presentation of findings during our semester start-up meetings. There are several conferences and workshop series that are appropriate for research into ESL pronunciation techniques. Possible conferences include [CALL](https://www.callontario.org/), [Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference,](https://brocku.ca/psllt-2022/) [TESL Ontario Conference,](https://www.teslontario.org/conference/) and [TESL Webinars](https://www.teslontario.org/webinar-series/upcoming-webinars).

# Visualization

My hope is that this research will inform best practices to help my students achieve the ability and the confidence to succeed in their future academic and professional careers.



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