Mobile Learning Modules to Enhance Language Proficiency  
Research Study

Background
The OUHK initiated and successfully bid for a grant of HK$1.5M for the project ‘Development of Four Mobile Learning Modules to Enhance the Language Proficiency of Students’ from the Quality Enhancement Grant Scheme (QEGS) in 2011.

Objectives
1. To exemplify learning effectiveness of the mobile modules and find out whether students can enhance their language proficiency through the study of mobile learning mobiles.
2. Examine students’ attitude towards mobile learning.

Participants
159 OUHK full-time students participated in the first stage. Only 61 participants (43 female, 18 male) successfully completed a pre-test, post-test and questionnaire.

Research Methods
Participants were required to complete the pre-test and download one course with 3 units and study the modules within three to four weeks. During the process, they sent in weekly study report, synchronized the activity logs as a way to track their study progress, and finally, took the post-test and questionnaire. In addition, they were invited to join focus groups based on random selection.

Results and Discussions
1. The mobile learning modules can effectively enhance students’ language proficiency.
2. By measuring the mean difference between their pre- and post-test scores, students obtained an overall average of 14.7% improvement.
3. Students obtained improvement from all four mobile learning modules, in particular, Use of Putonghua obtained the highest score.
4. In a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 and 5 represents “strongly disagree” and “strongly agree”, respectively. Students obtained an average score of 3.74 indicating a positive attitude toward the use of mobile learning.
5. Over 85% students from focus groups perceived the mobile learning modules as “interesting, attractive, and can motivate their study”.
6. Over 70% students reported that they will continue the use of mobile learning modules for language enhancement in the future.