DIALANG - An Internet-Based System For Diagnostic Language Assessment

Peppi Taalas, University of Jyvaskyla, Finland

DIALANG is a European project which develops diagnostic language assessment tools in 14 European languages. These languages include all the official EU languages as well as Irish, Icelandic and Norwegian. The assessment materials will cover all levels from beginners to advanced, the skills being reading, writing, listening, and speaking, structures and vocabulary. The project will complement traditional approaches to language assessment by exploiting the use of new technologies in assessing the use of language.

Characteristics of the system:

- An assessment system, based on a shared foundation (assessment framework and test specifications) and constructed by assessment experts from all EU countries.
- A diagnostically oriented system, and one of its purposes is to promote diversified language learning in Europe.
- Self-assessment as an integral part.
- Internet delivery. (Existing computer-based assessment systems usually run on single machines or on local networks.)
- Adaptiveness over the Internet. (Adaptive language assessment systems are being, but the Internet is a new context for adaptive engines.)