



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

FACULTÉ DE TRADUCTION
ET D'INTERPRÉTATION



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS



LARA: THE LEARNING AND READING ASSISTANT

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Joint WG1 & WG3 enetCollect meeting, Lisbon, 14 March 2019



cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



EnetCollect (CA16105)
European Network for
Combining Language
Learning with
Crowdsourcing Techniques

OUTLINE

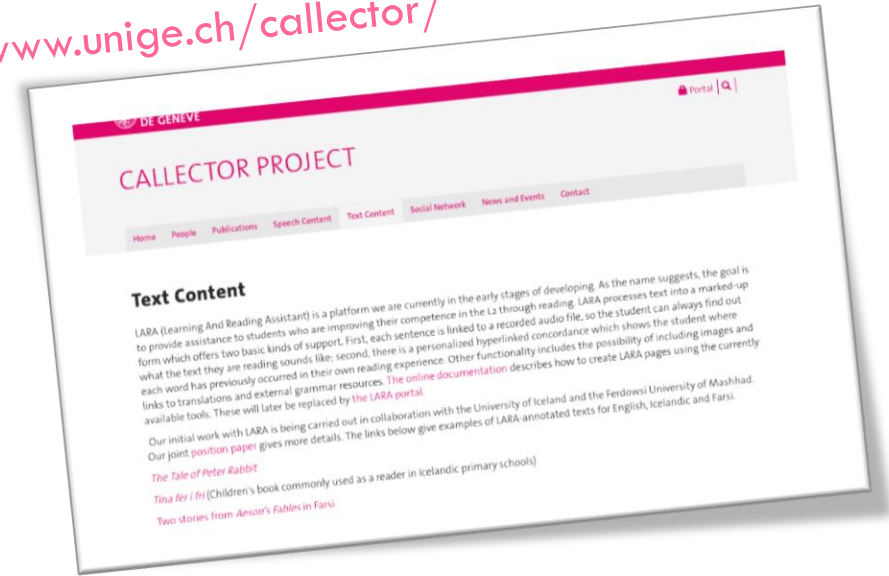
- Background on COLLECTOR & LARA: what it is, how it works (Hanieh)
- Pedagogy and user testing: A case study of LARA for Icelandic (Branislav)

BACKGROUND

CALLECTOR

- Three year project funded by Swiss National Science Foundation
 - (Apr 2018 – Dec 2021)
- Linked to enetCollect (CA16105) under SNSF COST funding
- Top-level goal: social network for crowdsourcing CALL content
- Two kinds of content: speech and **text**

<https://www.unige.ch/collector/>



LARA

- Subproject started Q3 2018
- Informal international collaboration: University of Iceland, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Samara National Research University, others!
- Top-level goal: text content
 - to help teachers create specific reading material
 - to help students learn a language by reading

DEMO: PETER RABBIT



LARA FUNCTIONALITY

Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, 'Stop thief!'



Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate.

He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe

“Personalised concordance”

run

Translation

- ← 'Now **run** along, and don't get into mischief. I am going out.'
- ← But Peter, who was very naughty, **ran** straight away to Mr. McGregor's garden, and squeezed under the gate!
- ← Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and **ran** after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, 'Stop thief!'
- ← After losing them, he **ran** on four legs and went faster so that I think he might have got away altogether if he had not unfortunately **run** into a gooseberry net, and got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass buttons, quite new.
- ← An old mouse was **running** in and out over the stone doorstep, carrying peas and beans to her family in the wood.
- ← Peter got down very quietly off the wheelbarrow; and started **running** as fast as he could go, along a straight walk behind some black-currant bushes.
- ← Peter never stopped **running** or looked behind him till he got home to the big fir-tree.

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EXISTING LARA CONTENT : ENGLISH

Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages,

but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out,

'Stop thief!' 🗣️



Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden,

for he had forgotten the way back to the gate. 🗣️

He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe

amongst the potatoes. 🗣️

rabbit

Translation

← Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were-- Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter. 🗣️

← 'Now my dears,' said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, 'you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden: your Father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor.' 🗣️

← Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella, and went through the wood to the baker's. She bought a loaf of brown bread and five currant buns. 🗣️

← He found a door in a wall; but it was locked, and there was no room for a fat little rabbit to squeeze underneath. 🗣️

← He was so tired that he flopped down upon the nice soft sand on the floor of the rabbit-hole and shut his eyes. 🗣️

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EXISTING LARA CONTENT : ICELANDIC

segir hún

í símann:

"Tína er komin,

þá getur þú sjálf

sagt henni þetta." 🗣️



Mamma lítur á Tínu:

"Komdu, Tína.

sjálfur

[Translation: English](#)

[Grammar information](#)

← Þegar mamma sér Tínu segir hún í símann: "Tína er komin, þá getur þú sjálf sagt henni þetta." 🗣️

← En Rósa finnur banana. Hún getur sjálf náð hýðinu af. Hún fær sér nokkra bita. Svo makar hún banananum á hnéð á sér. 🗣️

← En Tína sér hvað er að. Hún er oft bílveik sjálf. 🗣️

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EXISTING LARA CONTENT : JAPANESE

100万年も **知らない** ねこがいました。

100万回も **しんで** 100万回も **生きた**のです。

りっぱな **とらねこ**でした。

100万人の人が **そのねこをかわいがり**

100万人の人が **そのねこがしんだ**ときなきました。

ねこは **1回も**なきませんでした。



なきました

← 100万人の人が **そのねこをかわいがり** 100万人の人が **そのねこがしんだ**とき**なきました**。

← 王さまはたたかいの まっさいちゅうに **ねこを だいて なきました**。

← 船のりはぬれた ぞうきんのようになった **ねこを だいて 大きな声で なきました**。
そして遠い **みなと町**のこうえんの木の下に**ねこ**をうめました。

← 手品つかいは まっぶたつになっちゃった**ねこを** 両手にぶらさげて大 **きな声で なきました**。

← よぼよぼの おばあさんは よぼよぼの **しんだねこを だいて 一日じゅう なきました**。

← ぐらぐらの頭になっちゃった **ねこを だいて 女の子は 一日じゅう なきました**。
そして **ねこを** にわの 木の下に うめました。

← **ねこは はじめて****なきました**。夜になって 朝になって また夜になって 朝になって
ねこは100万回も**なきました**。

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EXISTING LARA CONTENT : RUSSIAN

Но сразу за парником с огурцами, он наткнулся на самого мистера Мак-Грегора.



Мистер Мак-Грегор стоял на коленях и сажал молодую капусту, но он тут же вскочил и помчался за Питером, размахивая своими граблями, с криком: «Держи вора!»



наткнулся

← Но сразу за парником с огурцами, он **наткнулся** на самого мистера Мак-Грегора.

← Потеряв их, он побежал на четырех ногах и стал двигаться быстрее, так что я думаю, что он мог бы вообще сбежать, если бы, к сожалению, не **наткнулся** на крыжовник и зацепился большими пуговицами на куртке. Это был синий пиджак с медными пуговицами, совсем новый.

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EXISTING LARA CONTENT : FARSI

کلبه

- ← یک روز بیزقندی برای خرید از **کلبه** بیرون می‌رفت. ❧
- ← آقا گرگه یشت درخت‌ها بود و **کلبه‌ی** بیزقندی را تماشا می‌کرد. ❧
- ← وقتی بیزقندی از **کلبه** بیرون رفت آقا گرگه خوشحال شد. ❧
- ← کمی که گذشت آقا گرگه به طرف **کلبه** رفت و در زد. ❧
- ← به طرف **کلبه** دوید و دست‌هایش را از زیر در نشان داد. ❧
- ← و به سرعت برق و باد به **کلبه** مامان بزی برگشت. ❧
- ← آقا گرگه به داخل **کلبه** پرید ❧
- ← گرگ ناگلا با شکم بادکرده وسط **کلبه** دراز به دراز افتاده بود ❧

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بیزقندی بچه‌ها را **بوسید** و **خدا حافظی** کرد و **رفت**. ❧

آقا گرگه **یشت درخت‌ها** بود و کلبه‌ی بیزقندی را **تماشا** می‌کرد.

❧ **وقتی** بیزقندی از کلبه **بیرون** رفت آقا گرگه **خوشحال** شد. ❧ او برای **ناهار** سه بزغاله‌ی **خوشمزه** را می‌خواست.

❧ **کمی** که گذشت آقا گرگه به طرف کلبه **رفت** و در زد. ❧



بچه‌ها **پرسیدند**: ❧ «**کیه کیه** در می‌زنه؟» ❧

گرگه گفت: ❧ «منم منم مادرتون. ❧ مادر مهربونتون. ❧ غذا آوردم براتون. ❧ درو باز کنین.» ❧

CREATING LARA CONTENT

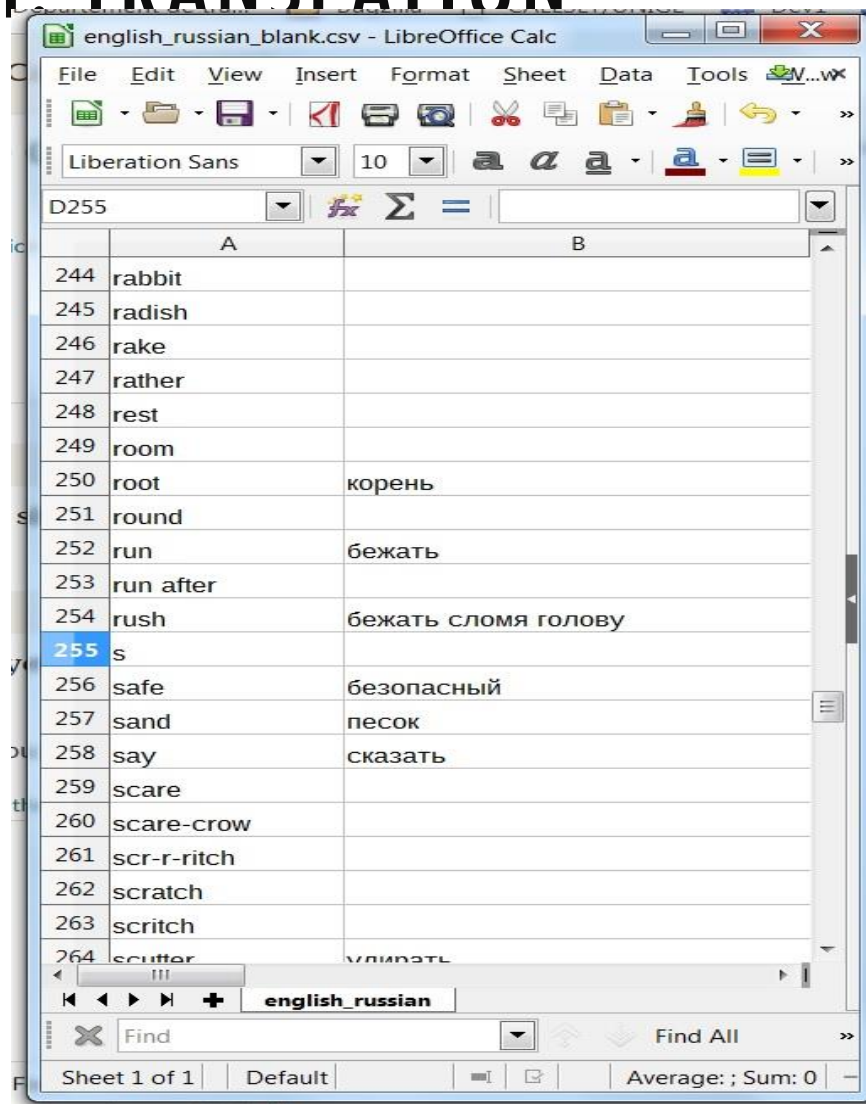
- Tagging
- Translation
- Recording

CREATING LARA CONTENT: TAGGING

```
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
peter_rabbit.txt
1 <h1>The Tale of Peter#Peter# Rabbit</h1>
2
3 <h2>Beatrix Potter</h2>||
4
5 @Once upon a time@ there were#be# four little Rabbits#rabbit#, and their names#name#
6 were#be#--
7         Flopsy#Flopsy#,
8         Mopsy#Mopsy#,
9         Cotton-tail#Cottontail#,
10 and Peter#Peter#.||
11
12 They lived#live# with their Mother in a sand-|bank, underneath the root of a
13 very big fir-|tree.||
14 
15 'Now my dears#dear#,' said#say# old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, 'you may go into
16 the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor#McGregor#|'s garden:
17 your Father had#have# an accident there; he was#be# put in a pie by Mrs.
18 McGregor#McGregor#.'||
19 
```

Normal text file length: 9,383 lines: 137 Ln: 10 Col: 20 Sel: 0|0 Windows (CR LF) UTF-8 INS

CREATING LARA CONTENT: TRANSLATION



The screenshot shows a LibreOffice Calc window titled "english_russian_blank.csv". The spreadsheet contains a list of English words in column A and their Russian translations in column B. The rows are numbered from 244 to 264. The word "s" in row 255 is highlighted in blue. The status bar at the bottom indicates "Sheet 1 of 1", "Default", and "Average: ; Sum: 0".

	A	B
244	rabbit	
245	radish	
246	rake	
247	rather	
248	rest	
249	room	
250	root	корень
251	round	
252	run	бежать
253	run after	
254	rush	бежать сломя голову
255	s	
256	safe	безопасный
257	sand	песок
258	say	сказать
259	scare	
260	scare-crow	
261	scr-r-itch	
262	scratch	
263	scritch	
264	scutter	шуметь

CREATING LARA CONTENT: RECORDING

LiteDevTools

Français

cathyc ⚙ Logout

Data

Annotation

Recording

Testing

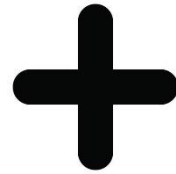
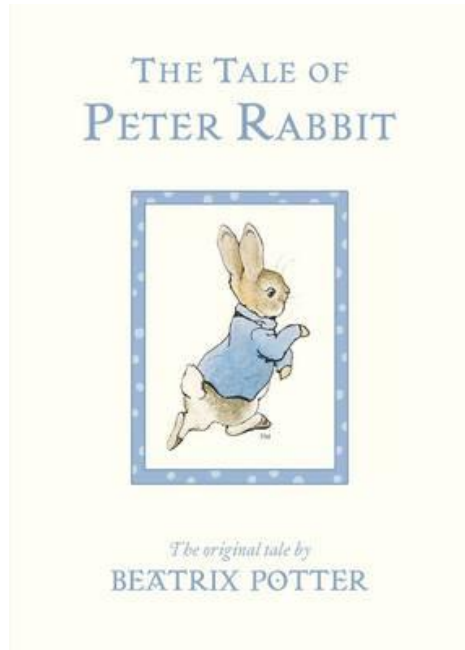
Translation

50768	Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were-- Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter.	▶ Play	⦿ Record
50769	They lived with their Mother in a sand-bank, underneath the root of a very big fir-tree.	▶ Play	⦿ Record
50770	'Now my dears,' said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, 'you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden: your Father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor.'	▶ Play	⦿ Record
50771	'Now run along, and don't get into mischief. I am going out.'	▶ Play	⦿ Record
50772	Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella, and went through the wood to the baker's. She bought a loaf of brown bread and five currant buns.	▶ Play	⦿ Record
50773	Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail, who were good little bunnies, went down the lane to gather blackberries:	▶ Play	⦿ Record

COMING SOON: THE LARA PORTAL

- The first step in creating CALlector social network
- Easier way for teachers to create LARA content
- Personalized LARA pages for students' reading history
- Will be available in the middle of April.

DISTRIBUTED LARA: “READING PROGRESS”



DISTRIBUTED LARA: “READING PROGRESS”

to take out of it, and burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.



In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.

hole

Translation

← He was so tired that he flopped down upon the nice soft sand on the floor of the rabbit-hole and shut his eyes. 🔊

← CHAPTER I. Down the Rabbit-Hole

← and burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

← The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well.

← Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage, not much larger than a rat-hole: she knelt down and looked along the passage into the loveliest garden you ever saw.

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DISTRIBUTED LARA: CUSTOMIZING CONTENT

Mr McGregor! 🗣️

[Peter meets Mr McGregor]

Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, 'Stop thief!' 🗣️

[Mr McGregor chases Peter]

Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate. 🗣️

He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe amongst the potatoes. 🗣️

run

Translation

← 'Now **run** along, and don't get into mischief. I am going out.' 🗣️

← But Peter, who was very naughty, **ran** straight away to Mr. McGregor's garden, and squeezed under the gate! 🗣️

← Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and **ran** after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, 'Stop thief!' 🗣️

← After losing them, he **ran** on four legs and went faster, so that I think he might have got away altogether if he had not unfortunately **run** into a gooseberry net, and got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass buttons, quite new. 🗣️

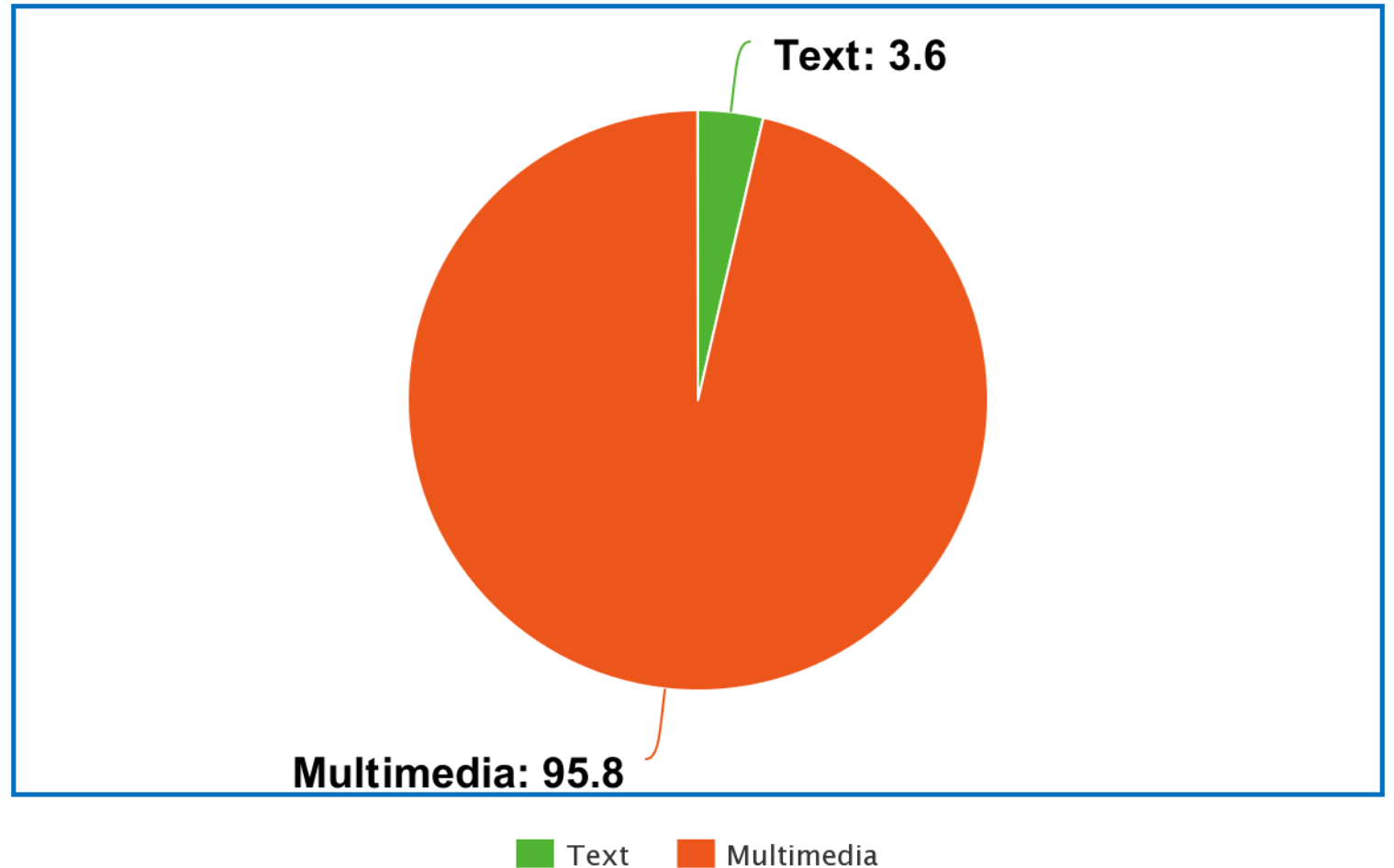
← An old mouse was **running** in and out over the stone doorstep, carrying peas and beans to her family in the wood. 🗣️

← Peter got down very quietly off the wheelbarrow; and started **running** as fast as he could go, along a straight walk behind some black-currant bushes. 🗣️

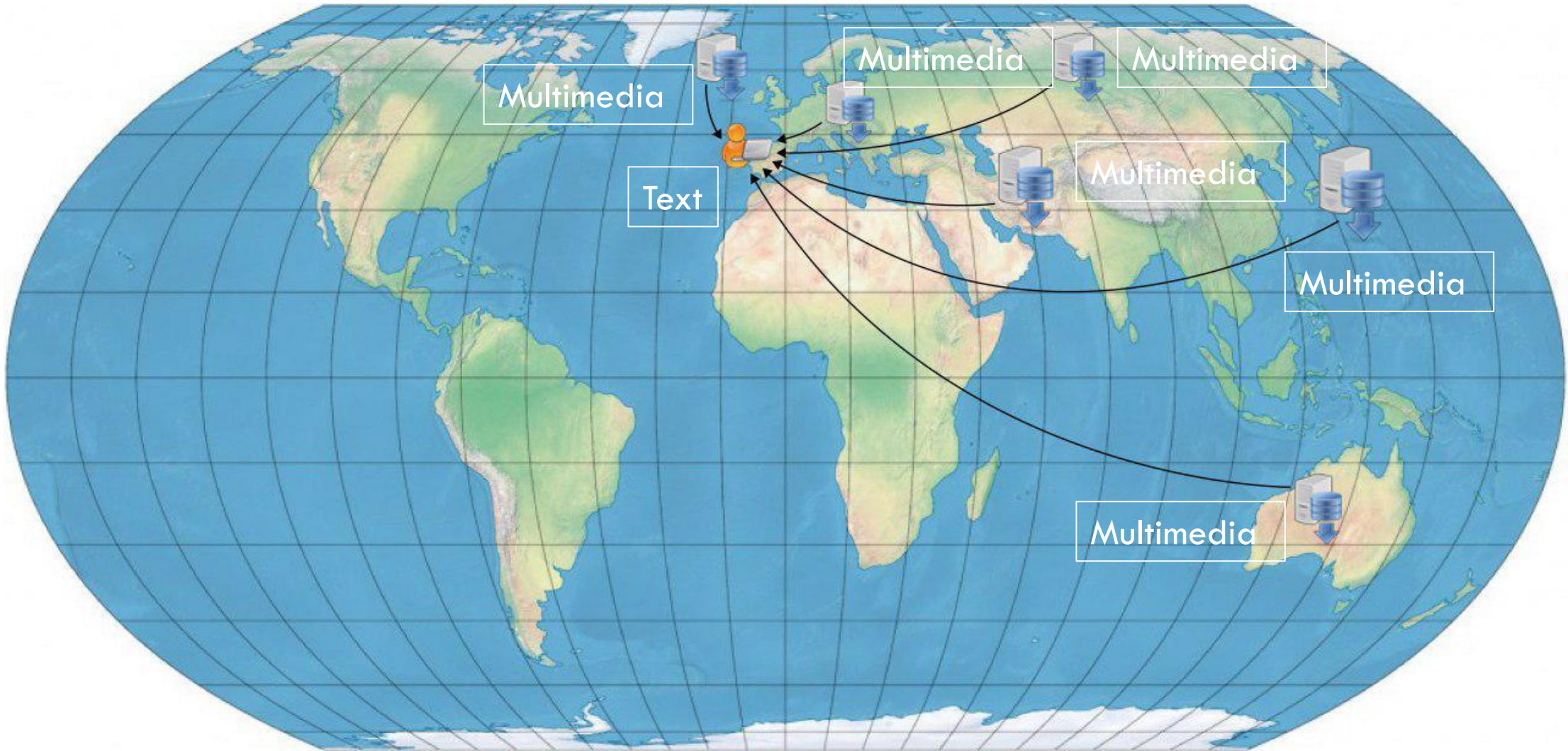
← Peter never stopped **running** or looked behind him till he got home to the big fir-tree. 🗣️

← when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes **ran** close by her. 🗣️

DISTRIBUTED LARA: MOST CONTENT IS MULTIMEDIA



DISTRIBUTED LARA: DISTRIBUTED CONTENT





Pedagogy and User Testing:

A Case Study of LARA for Icelandic

MOTIVATION

Initial idea

- Text content to help people learn a language by reading
- Key questions that LARA helps answer:
 - Where have I seen that word before?
 - How is that word/sentence pronounced?
 - What does that word/sentence mean?



Pedagogy

- Reading comprehension is the product of three main factors:
 1. Considerate texts,
 2. The compatibility of the reader's knowledge and text content, and
 3. The active strategies the reader employs to enhance understanding and retention, and to circumvent comprehension failures.

(Palincsar & Brown, 1984)

EXISTING LARA CONTENT : ICELANDIC

Tína fer í frí

Tína á hleri

come; arrive

"Mamma, komdu og sjáðu,

ég get gert

með tveim boltum."

Tína kemur inn

um bakdyrnar.

"Mamma, hvar ertu?"

að koma

come; arrive

Translation: English

Grammar information

← Hún hvíslar: "**Komið** þið sæl. Þakka ykkur fyrir að leyfa mér að heimsækja ykkur. Takka fyrir mig. Góða nótt, sofið rótt. Þakka ykkur fyrir daginn. Verið þið blessuð og takka fyrir mig."



inn. Það eru Bói og Rósa.

únn kemur að rútunni. "**Komdu** sæl Tína og

kkur fyrir að leyfa mér að heimsækja

dur.

hér."

ur ekki.

su frænku hvað kom fyrir.

er Elsa frænka. Hún ætlar að tala við þig."

USER TESTING OF LARA FOR ICELANDIC

Methodology

Questionnaire (31 questions):

- Participant's background
- Perceived usefulness with a Likert-scale (1-5) (Davis, 1989)
- Open questions about assessment of digital tools (Nesbitt, 2013)

Place: language classroom at University of Iceland

Participants: learners of Icelandic

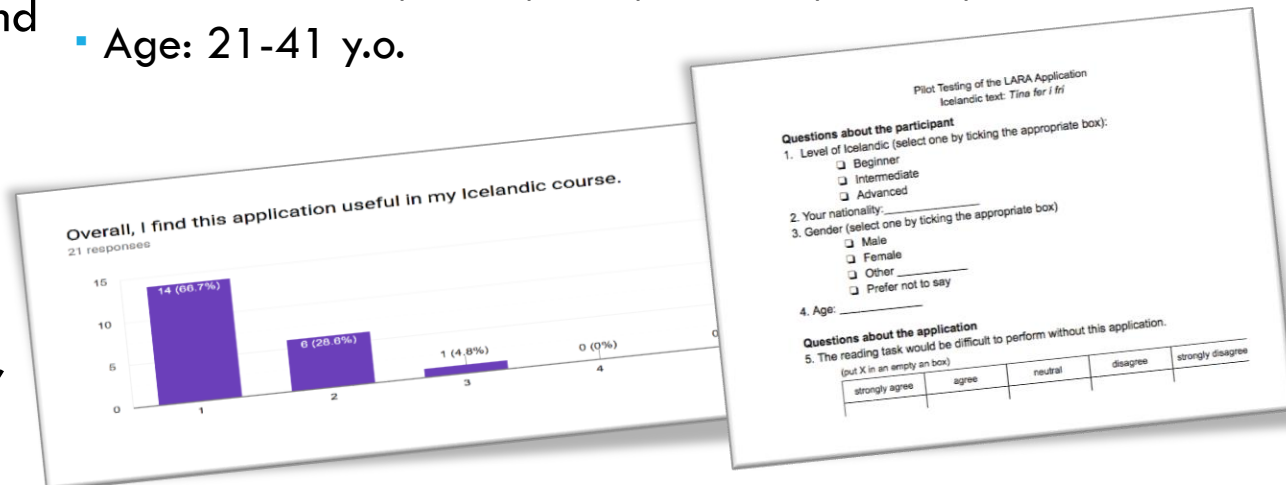
Device: laptop computer & headphones

Text: *Tína fer í frí* by Esther Skriver (2700 words)

Time: 10 min. for instructions, 60 min. for reading, 20 min. for questionnaire

Pilot testing

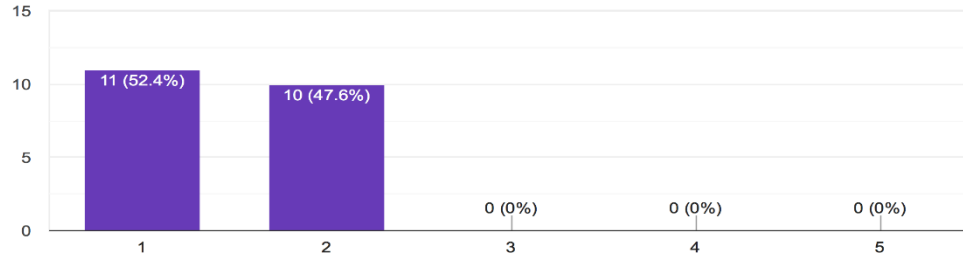
- 21 learners of Icelandic as a second language
 - 19 beginners, 2 intermediate
- Gender: 10 women, 8 men, 1 other, 2 don't want to say
- Nationality: 11 Filipinos, 2 South Koreans, 2 N. Americans, 1 from Canada/Israel/Italy/Pakistan/Tunisia/Vietnam
- Age: 21-41 y.o.



Questions about the application and learning effect

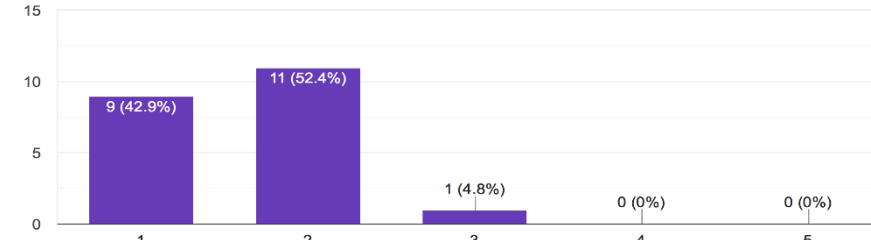
Using this application gives me greater control over my reading task.

21 responses



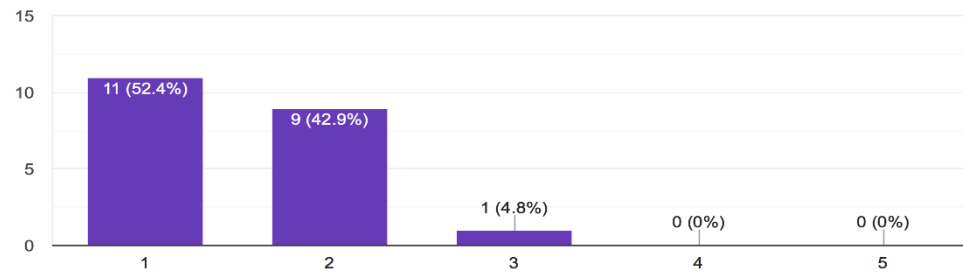
This application enables me to accomplish reading tasks more quickly.

21 responses



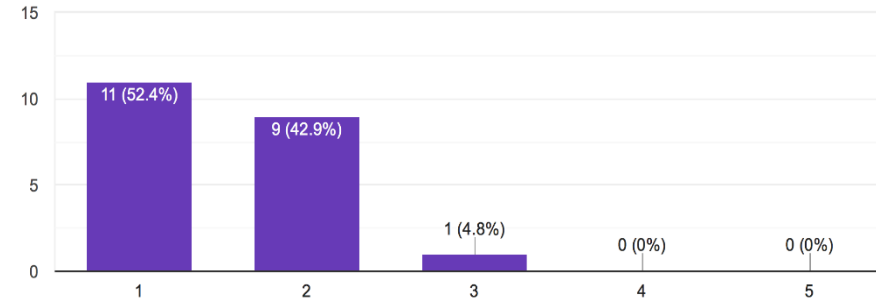
Using this application improves my understanding of the Icelandic text.

21 responses



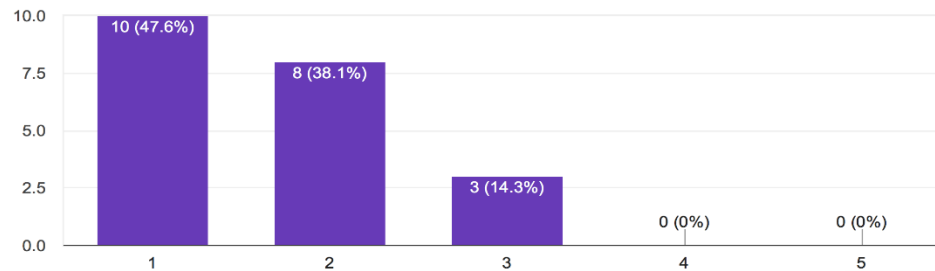
Using this application saves me time.

21 responses



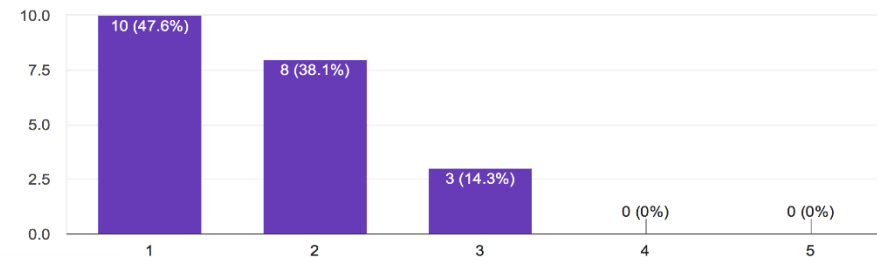
Using this application allows me to accomplish more reading tasks than would otherwise be possible.

21 responses



Using this application allows me to accomplish more reading tasks than would otherwise be possible.

21 responses

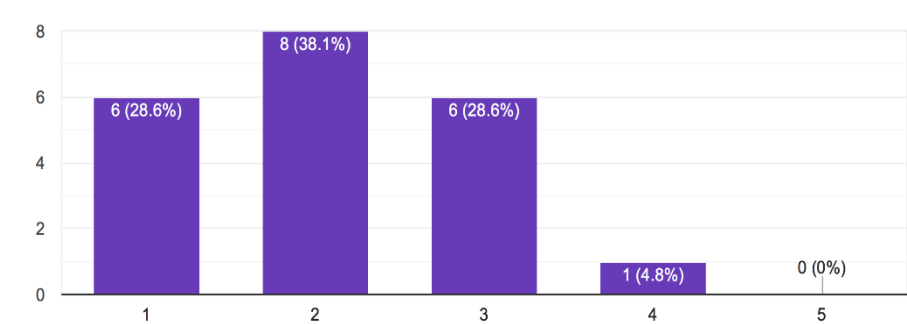


1 2 3 4 5

Strongly agree ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Strongly disagree

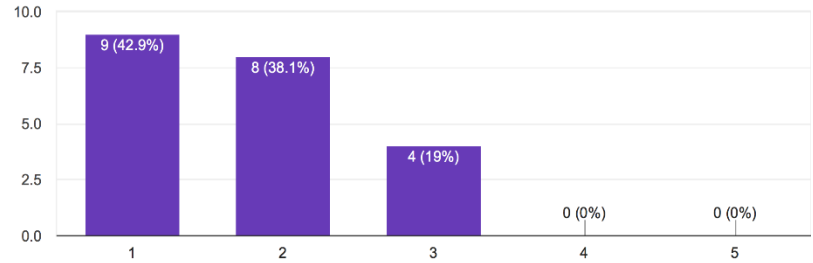
The reading task would be difficult to perform without this application.

21 responses



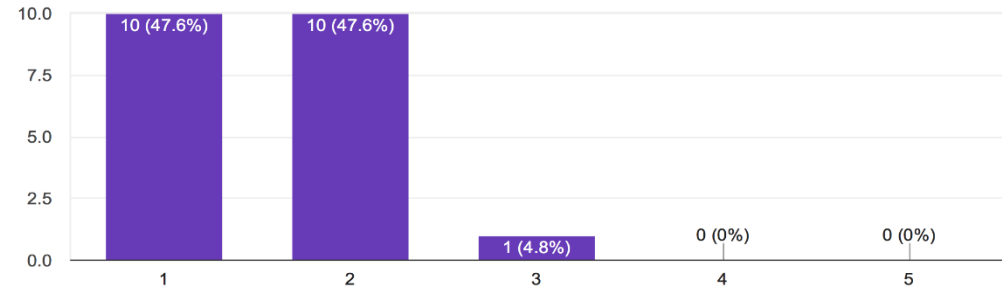
Using this application makes it easier for me to learn vocabulary.

21 responses



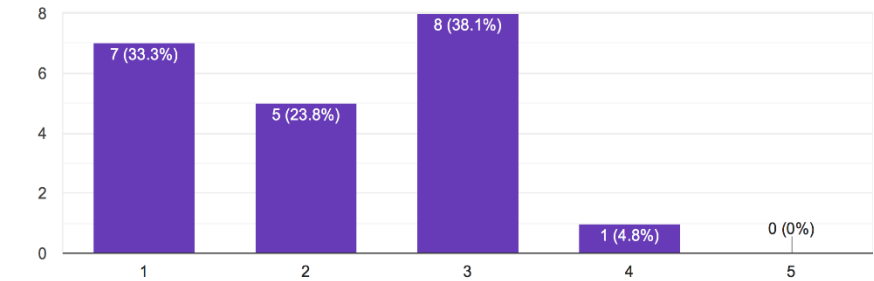
Using this application enhances my effectiveness in reading.

21 responses



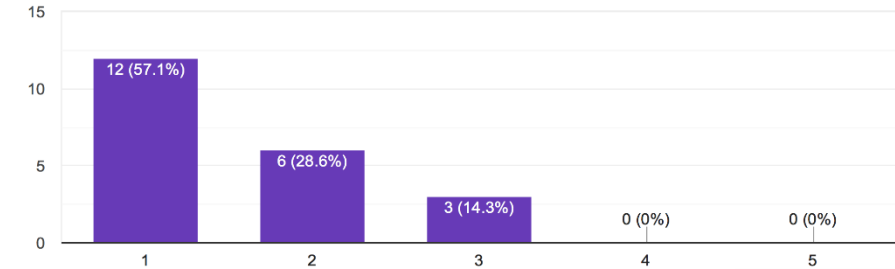
Using this application makes it easier for me to learn grammar.

21 responses



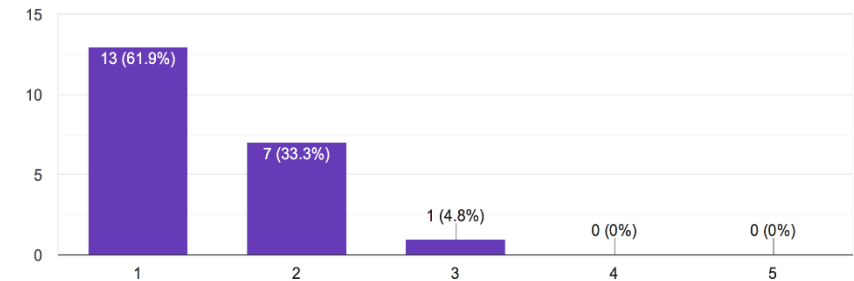
Compared to using books, using this application improves the quality of reading Icelandic texts.

21 responses



Using this application makes it easier for me to learn pronunciation.

21 responses



Do you like this application?

- yes, helps me a little rather than reading alone, I like it because of the things it allows to do simultaneously, ...

Have you had any problems while using this application?

- no, minor issues, at first yes but when I will use it often then I will use it properly, text can accidentally move sideways, not adaptable to many browsers, slow on iPad otherwise great, some mistakes in translations and voice, ...

Would you like anything changed or added?

- no, meanings of colour coded words, adding a short introduction, maybe the translation of the whole sentence, add explanations about grammar, add synonyms and antonyms, add also a female voice, ...

How is the design?

- good, perfect, beautiful, basic, simple helpful, well organised, monotonous but functional, spacing could flow smoother, do not segment the text too much, more pictures and larger text, add some interactive activities, ...

How are the on-screen instructions?

- clear, could be improved, easy to navigate, I was clueless in the beginning but when I tried to explore it it is worth it, I don't get the use of back to alphabetic text,...

How were the explanations your lecturer gave you in class before you used this application?

- good, clear, helpful, ...

Does this application meet your needs as a learner?

- yes, funny story and useful grammar, personally I need to practice more with examples but this is definitely helpful and saves us a lot of time, almost completely – some questions about sentence structure came to mind that were not explained

Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

- let's use it in class, maybe some colour, some words didn't have a sound, unlike google translate this application in all in one, you can also open it using a phone in the Puffin browser, more grammar examples and sentence composition explanations, ...

THANK YOU!

