Proposal Summary

Project Title

Participating Faculty:

1. Lead PI
Name: Dr. Ling Luo
Rank: Assistant Professor
Department: Modern Languages Department
Campus: BMCC

2. Co-PI
Name: Dr. Alberta Gatti
Rank: Professor
Department: Institute for Language Education in Transcultural Context
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Campus: CUNY Graduate Center

(Please insert additional PIs as necessary)

Abstract (200 words maximum):

Novel Adaptive Learning Based Mobile-Assisted Language App for Mandarin Chinese

Mobile-assisted language learning (MALL) was first introduced in 1993 and became a sub-area of the growing field of mobile learning research. It has inspired learners to make use of the “anytime” and “anywhere” technology, the key concepts in MALL, in language learning. Though some mobile apps for Mandarin learning are available, many challenges of the current MALL technology have been recognized.

In order to tackle these challenges, we have designed a mobile app (Android and iOS) as a Mandarin supplementary learning tool, using adaptive learning theory. Learning content can be easily customized as needed according to the textbook, which allows both seamless alignment with college curriculum and more quantitative study of MALL technology, with a large group of students over a long period. In addition, the data of students’ behaviors and performances, including how often the student used it and what the results are, can be traced. The analysis of these data allows the use of adaptive learning for both students and instructors, which facilitates the language learning. We will pilot the app and conduct various experiments in multiple sections of Chinese I in BMCC and other CUNY colleges to assess the effectiveness of the proposed app. The app can be also applied to other foreign languages with little effort.