

Successful Online Seminars

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What Works?



Overview

- Central elements of online seminars
- Development of online seminars
- Empirical results for online seminars with tips for your own online seminar

Online seminars are

asynchronous, formal organised, interactive events, that take place via the internet.

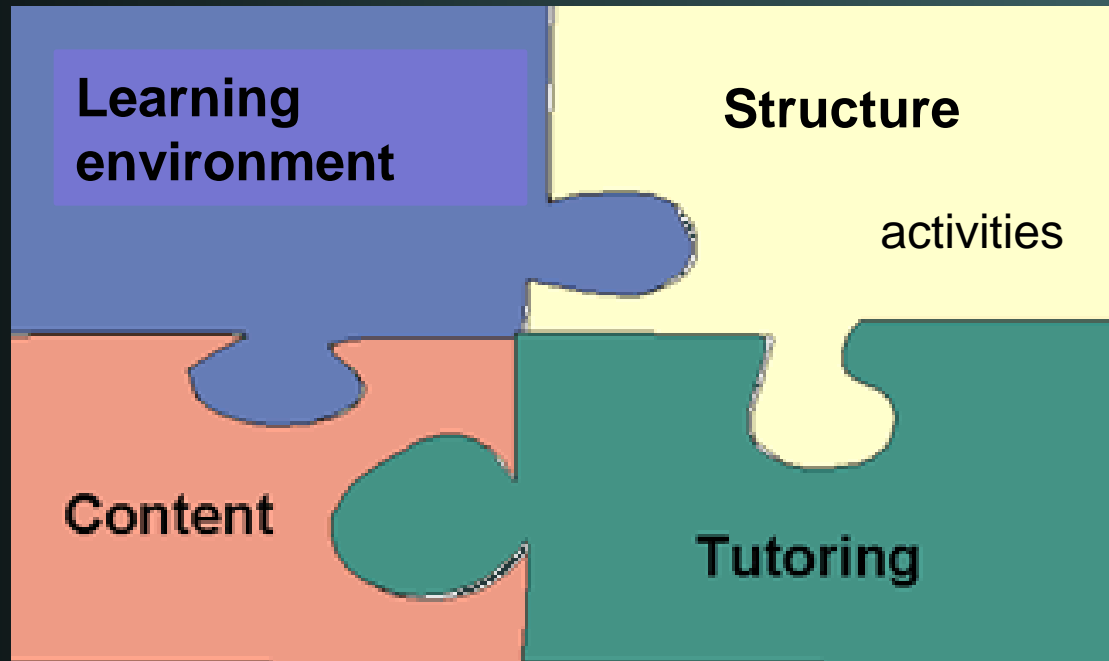
The structure of an online seminar is similar to a face-to-face seminar. The seminar is organised and anchored by an online tutor.



Indications for online seminars (Bloh & Lehmann 2002)

- Didactical planned structure, different methods
- Clear starting and end point
- Real person support: Online moderation, tutoring
- Closed virtual learning environment
- The learners are not anonymous
- Included social interaction
- Included instruction, information and assignments
- Individual learning rhythm within a given structure

Development of online seminars



General structure

- Duration and work-load
- Seminar phases
 - Start-up
 - Main phase
 - Closing phase
- Methods
- Online-assignments
- Planning the communication



Learning environment (Course-design)

Planning of the environment:

- Concept of the course structure: thematic, timed, group focused...)
- Decision about the necessary tools
- Development of all necessary files
 - Information about the structure, the rules, the tutor ...
- Graphical design

Arrangement of the environment:

- Adding of the tools: forum....
- Uploading the files
- Configuration of the tools
 - E.g. forum, wiki...



Online seminar structure and design example

The screenshot displays the TBDL-Basic Online-Kurs interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Gruppen, Lernressourcen, Gruppenverwaltung, Benutzerverwaltung, and TBDL-Basic. The main content area is titled "TBDL-Basic Online-Kurs" and contains a welcome message and several informational boxes. A sidebar on the left lists the course structure, and the right side features panels for course tools, groups, and general resources.

Navigation Bar: Home, Gruppen, Lernressourcen, Gruppenverwaltung, Benutzerverwaltung, TBDL-Basic

Left Sidebar:

- TBDL-Basic
 - Einschreibung
 - TBDL-Basic Online-Kurs
 - Willkommen
 - Ablauf und Aktionen
 - Allgemeine Infos
 - Teilnehmerhomepages
 - Allgemeine Foren
 - Phasen Foren
 - Wimba classroom
 - Online-Lehrtext
 - Mail an Tutorin

Main Content Area:

TBDL-Basic Online-Kurs

Hier gelangen Sie nach der Einschreibung zum eigentlichen Online-Seminar. Herzlich willkommen 😊 Die unten stehende Übersicht gibt die Struktur der Lernumgebung wieder. Ausblenden

Willkommen

Ablauf und Aktionen

Hier erfahren Sie, was in den nächsten Wochen zu tun ist und wie das Online-Seminar insgesamt abläuft.

Allgemeine Infos

Hier informieren wir Sie über die allgemeinen Rahmenbedingungen zu TBDDL-Basic, inklusive Spielregeln, Tipps, Betreuung usw.

Teilnehmerhomepages

Wiki

In diesem Wiki sollten Sie Informationen zu Ihrer Person einstellen (siehe Phase 1).

Allgemeine Foren

Hier finden Sie die organisatorischen, technischen und sonstigen allgemeinen Foren sowie eine Online-Cafeteria für den privaten nicht kursbezogenen Austausch.

Phasen Foren

Hier finden Sie die Foren für die einzelnen Seminar-Phasen.

Wimba classroom

Virtuelles Klassenzimmer

In dem virtuellen Klassenzimmer finden die synchronen Meetings des Kurses statt

Online-Lehrtext

Grundlagen des E-Learning

Hier erhalten Sie einen Überblick über die zentralen Aspekte zum Thema E-Learning, insbesondere einer

Right Side Panels:

- Kurswerkzeuge**
 - Kurseditor
 - Gruppenmanagement
 - Rechtmanagement
 - Datenarchivierung
 - Bewertungswerkzeug
 - Statistiken
- Betreute Gruppen**
 - Tutoren
 - TBDL-Basic
- Allgemeines**
 - Kalender
 - Glossar ein / aus
 - Detaillansicht
 - Notizen
 - Bookmark setzen
 - Kurs-Chat verbinden

2 Kursteilnehmer anwesend

Online tutor, e-moderator, online instructor

Online-tutor = process designer

Online instructor dimensions (Zane Berge 1995, Hemsing 2008):

- Pedagogical (39 %)
- Managerial (37 %)
- Social (18 %)
- Technical (6 %)



The content

- Use of existing content, new arrangement of existing content or production of new content
- Distribution: online or offline
- Time of distribution
- Format: text, audio, video, screencast
- Length
- Linear, hypertext

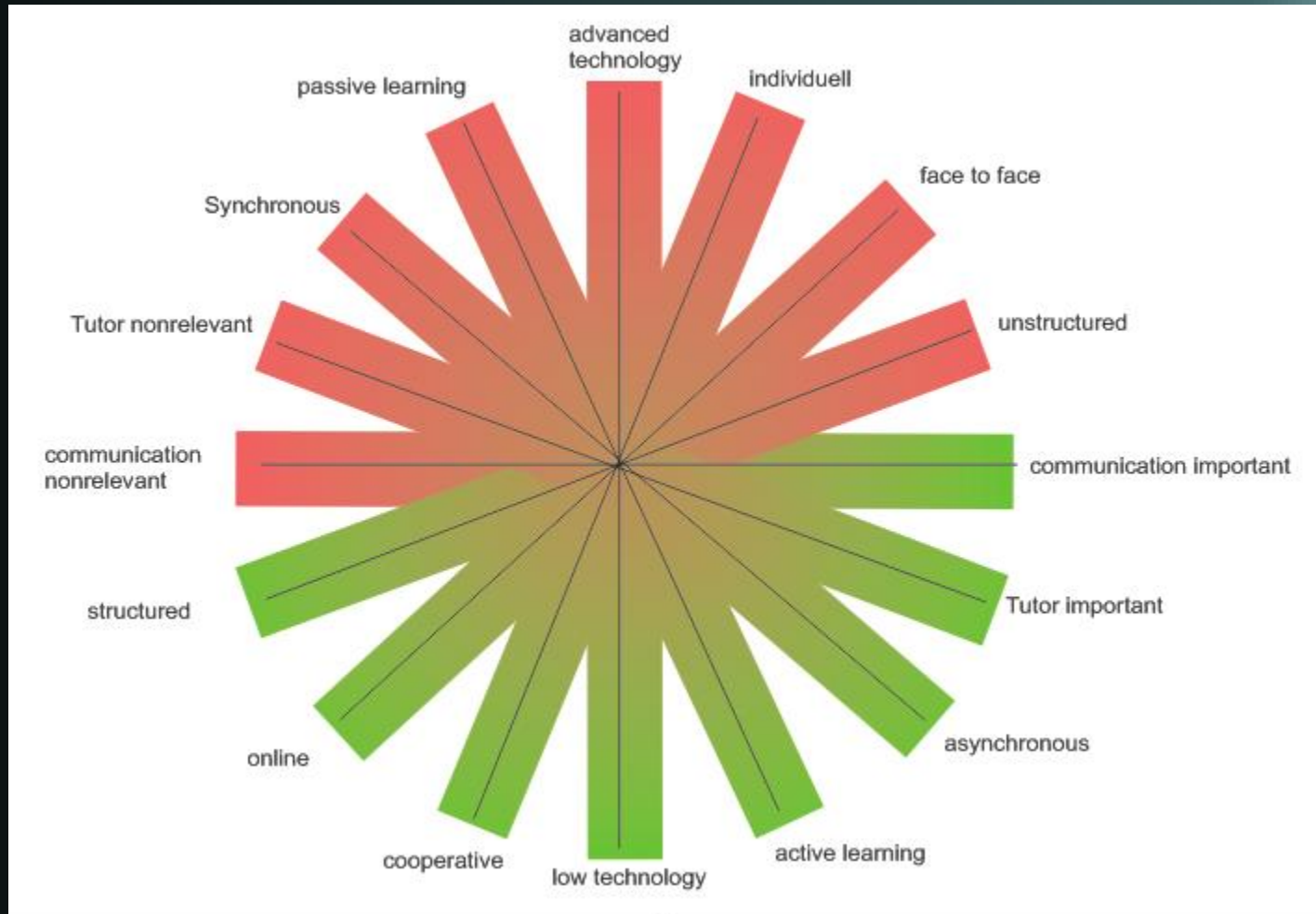


What about the learner?



Use the learner wheel!

The learner wheel: Is an online seminar the right choice for me?



Which factors influence the success of online seminars?

Empirical study:

- Online-tutor postings (12 OS, TBDL programme)
- Questionnaires of the learners (18 OS)
- Automatically generated LMS statistics of activity

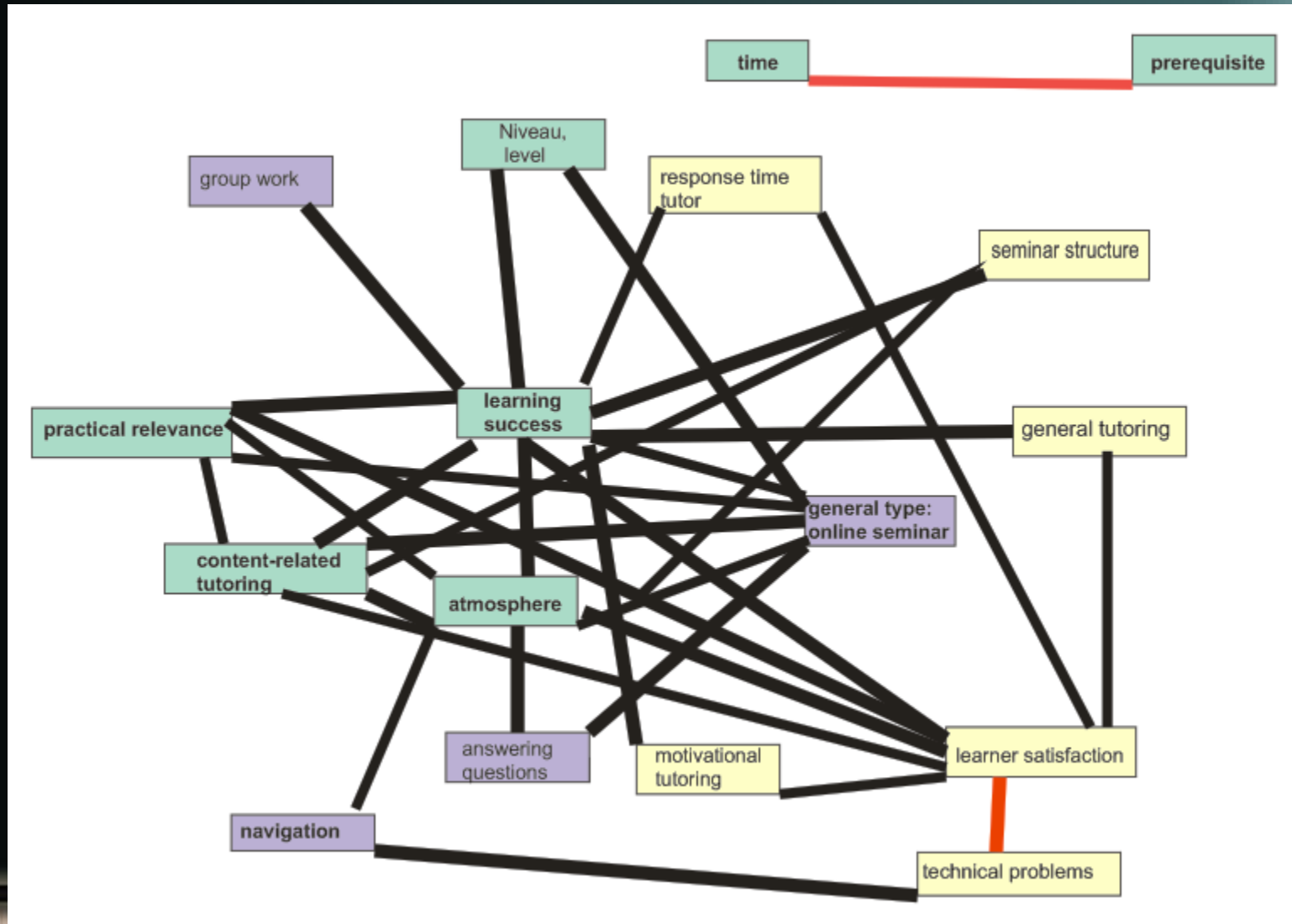


Online tutoring, instructor

How do online-tutors act in online seminars?

- 25% of the total postings
- most postings are statements
- 94 words in average per posting,
 - more words = more reference to learner postings
 - influenced by the possibilities of the LMS
- no interrelation between the posting number of the tutor and
 - the total sum of posting
 - the number of participants

Central significant interrelations



Recommendations for the online tutoring

- Regular support, ideally on a daily basis
- Fast response-time on questions and problems (-> learning success)
- Postings: not too short, referring to students posts, with address and conventional ending
- Active tutoring, 20-30% postings lead to a regular distribution of student postings
- Thematic + motivating moderation (learning success + atmosphere)
- Support social interaction

Recommendations for the learning environment

- Offer possibilities for learner activities: user homepage, blogging, interactive learning material
- Easy navigation, not too many elements, no uncalled tools
- Graphical elements, harmonic choice of colors (atmosphere)

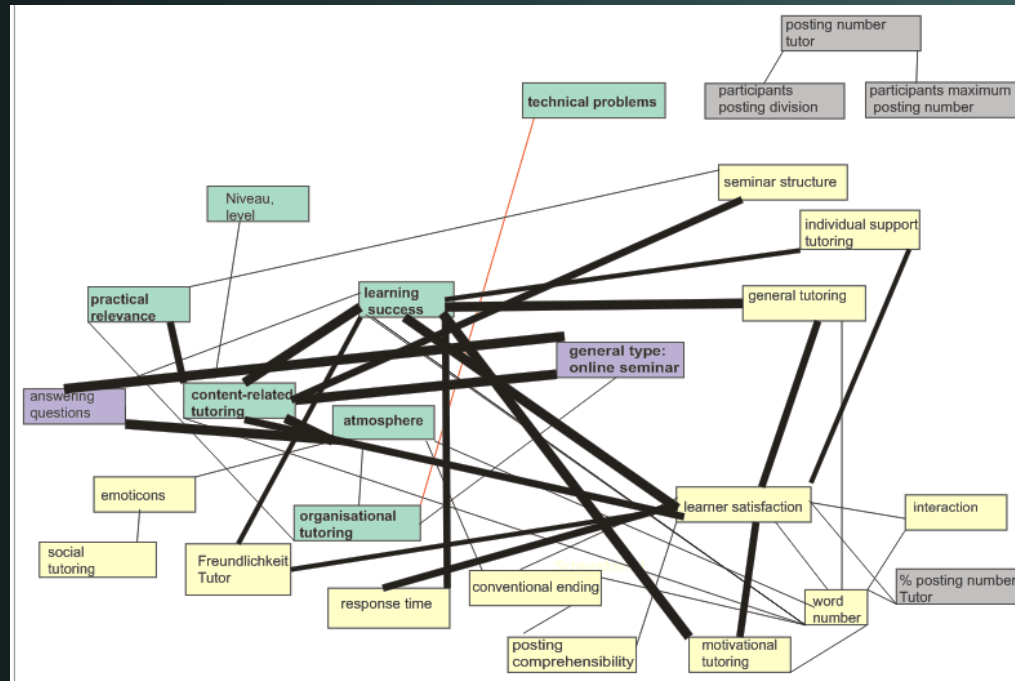


Recommendations for the seminar structure

- Use the strength of the asynchronous mode (flexibility)
- Support personal interaction and personal relation (learning success)
- Support group work (learning success, atmosphere)
- High level, real challenges (learning success): complex and praxis related tasks
- Take care of a pleasant ,friendly atmosphere

To sum up:

There is no perfect recipe for online seminars but the online tutor has a lot of options to influence success of the online seminar.



Many thanks for your attention :-)

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