Chapter 6

Enhancing ESL Learners’ Creative and Critical Thinking through Blogging

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Introduction

Blog is a type of website functioning as a web-based journal that depicts dated posts about a topic arranged from the most recent to the oldest. Furthermore, it is also a web publishing tool enabling individuals to publish their thoughts or commentaries. It is arguably the first from native to the web (Blood, 2003) that allows the bloggers—persons who do online journals, to keep records of their daily happenings on websites prior any Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML) knowledge or programming experience. This shows blogging is as simple as sending email, which almost everyone can publish their views online, in a global forum. Later when web experts like Justin Hall and Adam Greenfield for the first time used Moblog or MoBlog – a contraction of mobile weblog, it symbolised a further dimension in the development of blog. Moblog has the ability to upload posts through mobile technology. In 2003, The First International Moblogging Conference (1IMC) in Tokyo was organised (Döring & Gundolf, 2006).

The rising power of blogs cannot be disregarded. In 1999, dozens of blogs have increased to millions at present. According to Döring and Gundolf (2006), the Blogcensus project (http://www.blogcensus.com) has registered over two million blogs worldwide, while the Technorati blog index (http://www.technorati.com) records three million. Blogs gained an abrupt surge of fame after 11 September 2001, which the war on terrorism became the hottest topic among bloggers worldwide. According to Bartlett-Bragg (2003), there are claims of over five hundred thousand (500,000) blogs published on the Internet and the