

# NARRATIVE REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS OF MALL RESEARCH ON L2 SKILLS

## AUTHORS

Hongying Peng  
Sake Jager  
Wander Lowie

## JOURNAL

ReCALL

## YEAR

2020

## WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM THIS SECONDARY RESEARCH?

How can mobile devices and MALL applications be used more effectively in language learning and teaching?



## WHAT DOES IT FIND?

- With mobile technologies, learners have more opportunities to practise their language skills outside the classroom
- One of the advantages of MALL over paper-and-pen learning is the combination of media which enables multimodal communication
- MALL can be more effective for learning second language skills than traditional classroom-based instructions
- Asynchronous interaction can be more effective for language learning as learners can have more time to reflect on their language utterances and revise them if it is necessary, which can give them more confidence in their real-time interactions
- When several sources of input are presented to learners, learners are required to coordinate and integrate the sources which can result in cognitive overload
- MALL can be more effective when the course is not too long (e.g., four weeks)
- Learners' enthusiasm to engage in language learning using technologies may start to decrease over time
- Learning conditions can determine the effectiveness of using mobile technologies in language learning

## KEY TERMS

### Mobile-assisted Language Learning (MALL):

*It refers to the use of mobile devices to assist or enhance language learning*

## WHAT EVIDENCE IS SUMMARISED?

A total number of

**17**

studies were included in this synthesis

## HOW CAN I USE THE FINDINGS IN MY TEACHING?

- When incorporating MALL in their lessons, language teachers are advised to start small, focusing on a unit or module
- To start with, teachers may want to limit the use of MALL because multimedia components can sometimes mean extra workload for learners who need to process the information
- Language teachers should consider the combination of asynchronous and synchronous language activities enabled by MALL

