國立中山大學100學年度碩士班招生考試試題

科目：英文作文【外文系碩士班乙組】

● **Instruction**

Read the passage below and compose a two-part essay. In the first part, you should write a 150-word summary of the major features of blogs mentioned in the passage (do <u>not</u> use bullet points) (30%). In the second part, you are asked to discuss the benefits and challenges of employing blogs to facilitate foreign/second language learning. The second part should be approximately 250 words in length (70%).

● **Reading passage**

Blogs
The collaborative environment which has sparked the most intense interest in recent years is blogs or Web logs. If one thinks of blogs as being essentially on-line journals, it may not be evident how they could be used in collaborative ways. But actually looking at a few blogs ... demonstrates how interactive they can be. Writers typically make rich use of hypertext to connect to what others have written on a topic or to resources on the Web. Blog entries are normally followed by a comment button, allowing readers to write a reaction, which is then logged and linked, along with all other comments, into the original text. While most blogs are created and managed by individuals, group blogs are also possible. Blogs are easily linked and crosslinked, to create larger on-line communities. That is now the case with technology-related blogs, which form what is essentially one, large, loosely interwoven net of information, as blog entries are linked, referenced, and debated.

While blogs of all kinds abound today on the Internet, most are personal or journalistic. However, there has been increasing interest in using blogs in education. Blogs are well suited to serve as on-line personal journals for students, particularly since they normally enable uploading and linking of files. Language learners could use a personal blog, linked to a course, as an electronic portfolio, showing development over time. By publishing the blog on the Internet, the student has the possibility of writing for readers beyond classmates, not usually possible in discussion forums. Readers in turn can comment on what they've read, although blogs can be placed in secured environments as well. Self-publishing encourages ownership and responsibility on the part of students, who may be more thoughtful (in content and structure) if they know they are writing for a real audience. This same degree of personal responsibility is lacking in discussion forums.

No knowledge of HTML (or of Web authoring in general) is needed for blogging. Typically a student creating a Web site using a tool such as Blogger registers as a user, and sets up a page using one of several available templates (or creating a new look).

This passage is based on the following journal article:
Godwin-Jones, R. (2003). Emerging technologies, blogs and wikis: Environments for online collaboration. *Language Learning & Technology, 7*(2), 12-16.