Ho Chi Minh City Open University
Graduate School
97 Vo Van Tan, Dist.3, HCMC, Vietnam

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET AND REPORT
GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TESOL

Name of candidate: NGUYỄN AN KHƯƠNG
Student No: 1781401110009
Email address: khuongna.178t@ou.edu.vn
Name of course: Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL)
Assignment: FINAL PROJECT REPORT
Name of lecturer: Nguyễn Ngọc Vũ, Ph.D.

STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP:

I certify that the above assignment is my original work; it is based on my own research. All sources used by me have been documented. No other person's work has been used without due acknowledgement. This piece of work has not previously been submitted for assessment in this or any other subject or course at this University or elsewhere.

Student's Signature…………………………………………   Date…………………………..

Contents

Acknowledgement

Being an English teacher, I have never had much chance to learn how to build a website. Through the Computer Assisted Language Learning 2018 from the Tesol Master course, I have learned the basic knowledge about HTML and been able to create a simple website for my lesson. However, the completion of this study would have been not possible if there had not been great support from my instructor, my friends and my family.

First of all, I would like to express deep gratitude to my instructor, Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Vu. He has guided me step by step from getting used to the basic concepts about HTML to building a complete website for ELT. Whenerver I had any questions, he explained them all clearly without any annoyance. Also, the lessons are well-organized in sections with clear instruction, so it is easy to follow them. The knowledge from this course is really useful for my career, as I can build many more websites for my lessons in the future without hiring a website developer.

Another support that I highly appreciate is from my classmates. It is lucky that we had a chance to study together. They gave me support whenever I got stuck with my project. They also gave me advice on how to make my websites more beautiful and easy to use.

Lastly, my mother has made great contribution to my project completion. She was the one who took care of everything in the house, so I have more time for the webquest project. She also gave comments on how my websites look like and told me what I should change to give it a friendly interface.

Thank you all for supporting me in completing this project.

1. Webquest

1.1. Definition of webquest

The Internet has been around for more than a decade now and schools are gradually getting connected to the web. Many teachers have, until now, failed to really innovate language learning and teaching. It is true that an increasing number of teachers have discovered the internet as a resource for downloading materials and many have an email address. Many materials, though, are used in a very traditional way. Many websites with grammar and vocabulary activities, fill-in-the-gap, true-false and multiple choice exercises that are of questionable value for language learning. Although some of these materials may be useful, they do not exploit the full potential of the Internet for language learning. More and more schools now finally have the possibilities to use the computers with (fast) Internet access. Moreover, many students have Internet access at home. However, many language teachers are at a loss what to do now in making use of this tool in teaching and learning.

An interesting development and a way to exploit the Internet for good language learning practice is the concept of a webquest. A webquest is an inquiry-oriented activity in which some or all of the information that learners interact with comes from resources on the internet. The concept of webquest was developed by Bernie Dodge of San Diego State University. The teacher selects websites and then creates a web page that guides the students through 6 stages: Introduction, Task, Process, Resources, Evaluation, and Conclusion.

Introduction: provides key background information and should motivate students with an intriguing question or problem.

Task: describes the final product expected of the students. The final product may be as elaborate as an oral presentation using Power Point, or as basic as poster depicting the students' findings.

Process: gives step-by-step instructions for completing the task

Resources: a list of resources needed to complete each step. Students are provided with links to Internet resources selected by the teacher, as well as a list of additional off-line sources needed to complete the task. Webquest resources might

include government or educational websites, online searchable databases, e-mail addresses of experts, and sources physically available in the classroom.

Evaluation: explains how learners will be assessed on their final product.

Conclusion: summarizes the main goals of the activity and encourages additional investigations on related topics.

1.2. Benefits of webquest in language learning

What is important is that learners get the possibility to get a lot of exposure to the language by surfing on the web. For other subjects teachers are often worried that students spend too much time surfing the web without finding the appropriate information. By providing the necessary resources (web links) this problem can easily be overcome.

In webquest, surfing the web, skimming websites, scanning web documents for relevant information, trying to decode the meaning, possibly making use of translation programs on the web as provided by search engines are all very good for language learning. The learners can interact with authentic materials, they can use the language for real communication if they can ask an expert or somebody else a question by email. By allowing the learners to make their own choices, a sense of ownership can be created. It is not the teacher who sets the task and determines all the steps to be taken, but students can be given possibilities to choose their own strategies to obtain information and to plan their work.

2. The accomplishment of my webquest project
2.1. Content Preparation

The first step of this project began with preparing the content for my webquest. Creating interesting and meaningful activities for students require careful consideration. Being an animal lover, I decided to choose topic about animal to help raise students' awareness of protecting them. One useful resource suggested by Dr. Vu is Webquest.org, which is a great source for webquest's content. There are tons of models for webquest with various topics to choose. Of course, I just click 'search webquest' and started looking for key word 'animal'. There are hundreds of webquest content for animals. After looking through the list of content, I decided to

choose the webquest which require students to research and choose the suitable animals to keep in the zoo for protection.

The content from the webquest.org is basically sufficient for my project. However, it lacks something fun for students and guests when they visit my webquest. Therefore, I had to search for funny videos and challenging quiz related to animal topic. I want to create a multiple choice test about the sound of animals and the players will guess. Due to some difficulty of collecting the sounds of real animals, I tried to search online if someone has already recorded them. Then I found a website, Playbuzz.com, which provides quiz of various topics. There was exactly the quiz I needed on this website. One spcial thing about Playbuzz.com is that it provides me the script code to embed in my own website. This would make my website simple and convenient for navigation. In the 'teacher's corner', the benefits of using webquest are introduced to teachers and website's guests so that they know the objectives and purpose of this project. The final tab of web is 'about me', in which I introduce myself, some of my hobbies and my personal email for any contact.

2.2. Tool selection for building website

After preparing the content for webquest, I had to choose the tool for building website. Webquest require students to work online, therefore there are some requirements that I set for my website. First, the website could be used anytime and anywhere. This means the server connection must be stable and the website can be displayed responsively on any devices (laptop, mobile phone or tablet). It's very difficult for user to learn if the server connection is slow and the web layout is broken on different device's screen solutions. Second, it must be well designed and friendly to users. The users could navigate and move between parts easily.

At first, I tried using Adobe Dreamweaver to create a website. The website can be built easily and it can be adjusted manually. However, I didn't know how to add responsive function to my website so that it can automatically adjust the size on any screen resolutions of devices. In addition, I am not good at decoration and graphic design. Therefore, I decided to use online tool to create website. Although there are various websites that can help you build a website online for free, I decided to

choose Weebly.com because of some following reasons. This website can let you create free website for free with a small watermark 'powered by weebly' at the bottom of of your website, which is not a big problem. The main reason why I chose it to build webquest is because it is very easy to use. It took me only 15 minutes to get used to all the tools in Weebly before building website. Below is the screenshot of the control panel with all the tools to adjust the website.

The left vertical column contains tools for building websites. All you need to do is dragging the tool components that you want to add to your websites, such as: text, image, gallery slideshow, map, contact form or embedded code section. They will appear on the specific position on your page. On the top horizontal toolbox, you can select the theme, adjust the number of pages in your sites, changes fonts and size and other advanced settings. You can click on the computer symbol at the end to preview what your product looks like on different types of devices. At the end, you click 'publish' so that everyone with the website address can get access to it
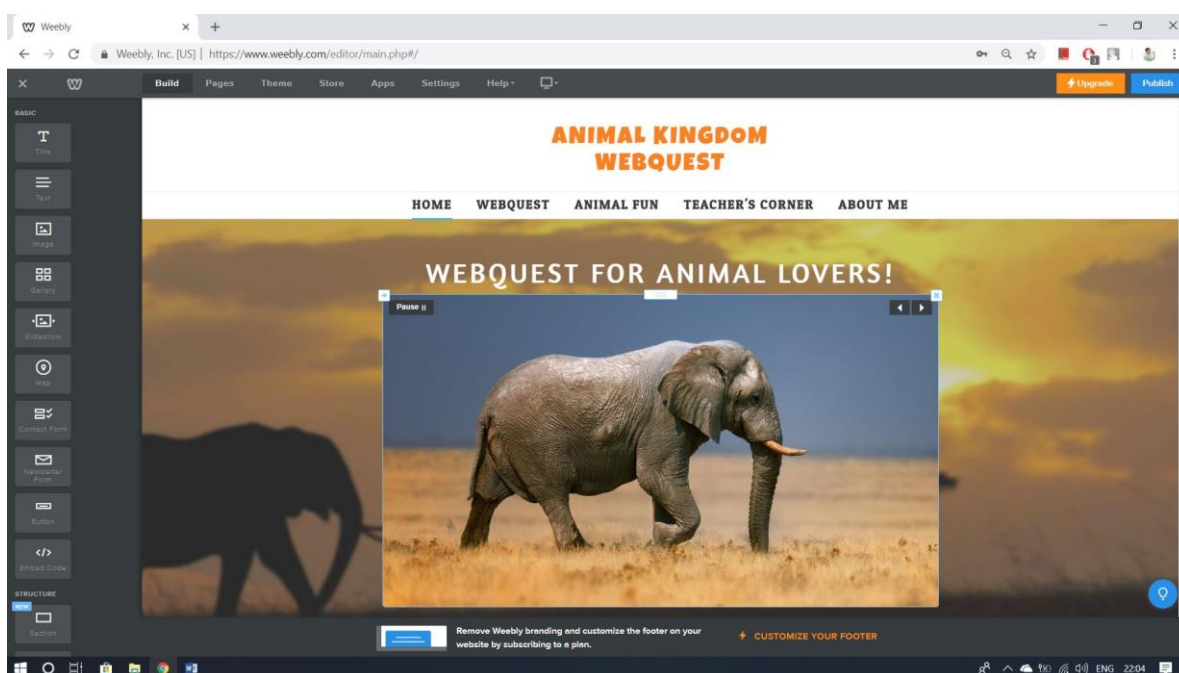

Figure 2.2.1. The control panel of Weebly.com

3. The parts of web design I most enjoyed

There are 3 things I enjoyed while designing the webquest by using Weebly.com. First, I really like the way Weebly allowed me to customize the content section. I simply dragged the text , image or video to the position I wanted on the page. I could add a new section or divide a section into 2 parts. I could also adjust the structure with just a few clicks. This was very convenient when I wanted to make changes to the layout of the website suddenly.

The second greatest thing it brought was how to create the navigation menu. I could appoint the new page as the main page or the subpage. You could drag the page to the second level to assign it as a subpage. The subpage would be displayed as a pop-down menu when users hover the mouse over the navigation menu. I didn't have to learn the code to create the pop-down menu because Weebly did it for me. Whenever I added or deleted page, the navigation menu would also be updated automatically.
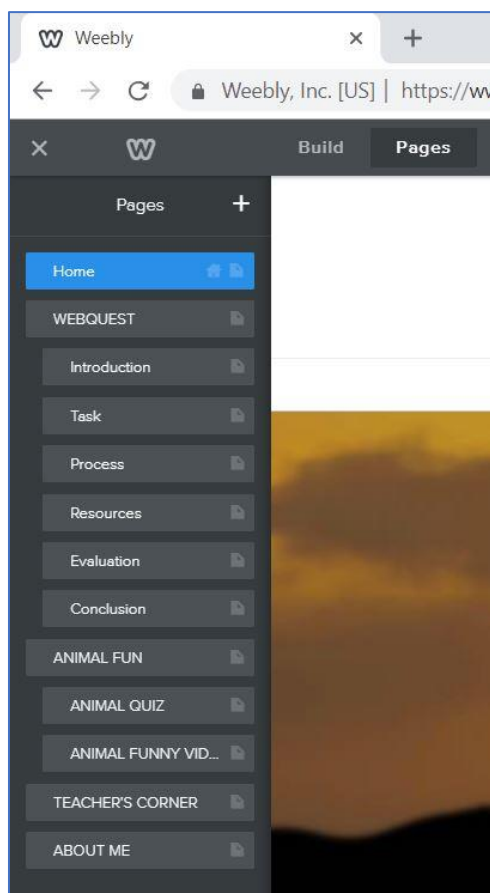

Figure 3.1. Page management

The final thing that Weebly made my webquest building project easy was the decoration. It gave me 2 choices to make the website's title, including text or image. I chose text to be displayed as the tile. The font and size of the text could be adjusted in the theme section. Users can choose the favortite font from the lists of hundred of fonts and change the color of the text right in the color padlet of Weebly. About images, it allowed me to resize, add filter or adjust them after I uploaded it and even after I have published your website. Everything seemed to be very simple and convenient for users.

4. The parts of web design I found difficult or absolutely despised

Webquest requires students to work online, therefore a friendly website's interface would bring good experience and effectiveness. Students should be able to access the webquest from any device without any difficulty. The website with responsive ferature, which can adjust the size itself on different devices, is quite difficult to a newbie web designer like me. When I used Dreamweaver, I downloaded a responsive template to edit. However, the responsive feature diappeared whenever I modified the website's structure. The text and and image became a mess after I edited some sections. This editing work took me two days, but I still could not add this feature to my webquest. Therefore, I decided to use Weebly instead of buidling the website by myself.

The pop-down menu is also a difficult stuff that I wanted to add to the navigation menu. The webquest would have a tidy interface if the submenu could hide in the menu. I tried to search for online tutorials about this, but it didn't work effectively. Even I could create the pop down menu, the other sections changed the position on the menu bar. In addition, the pop down menu I created by using the code from online sources looked terrible because it did not match the theme of my website. However, Weebly allowed me to create the menu I like automatically without caring about the code. The font, size and color of the menu and submenus can even be adjusted easily in the control panel. Below is the screenshot of pop-down menu.
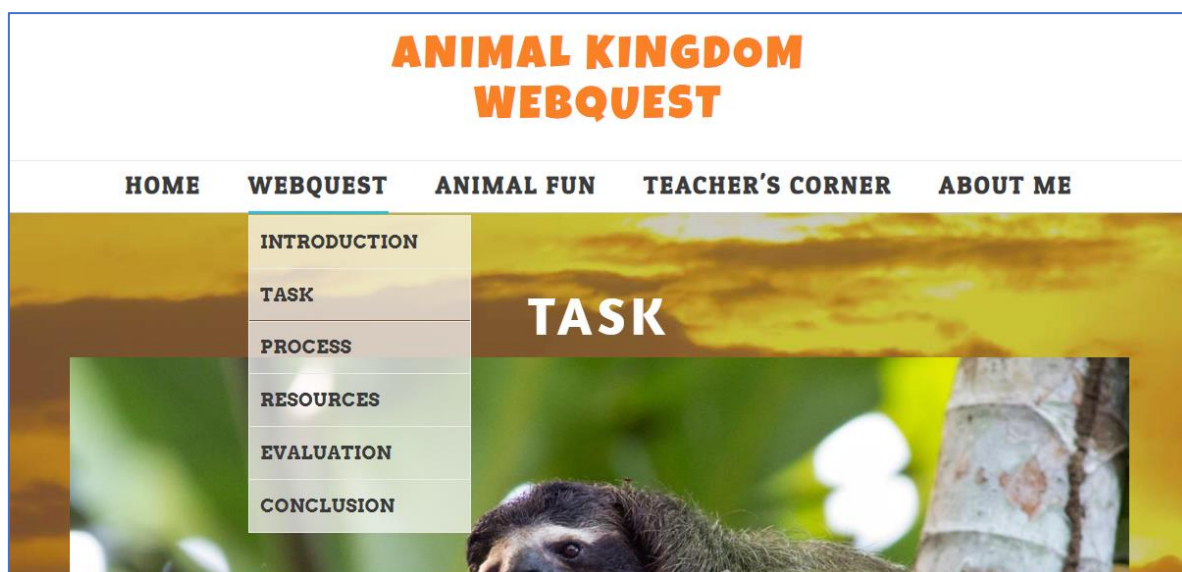
Figure 4.1. Pop-down Menu

5. The various design changes I made

Initially, I had to choose the theme before starting building website on Weebly. There is a theme store where users can choose different type of layout and purpose.

After choosing the themes on Weebly, there are various changes I made to customize the website. Initially, I added the text logo on top of the website. Next, I replaced the original image under navigation menu by the slideshow of images of animals.

With regard to navigation menu, I increased the size of the text and changed the fonts. About the text, I chose the fonts, increased the size and changed the color. The headings are colored green, and the text is black.

6. Special features of my website

There are four key features that I highly evaluated my website. Responsive feature is the first feature I expect from an online product of education. Some of my classmates' websites become a mess when they view them on different devices's screen resolution. The compornents change their position and it was difficult for students to read them. My website is enhanced to be displayed perfectly on whatever devices. The content is resized to fit perfectly on desktop or mobile gadgets. Here are some screenshots as examples:
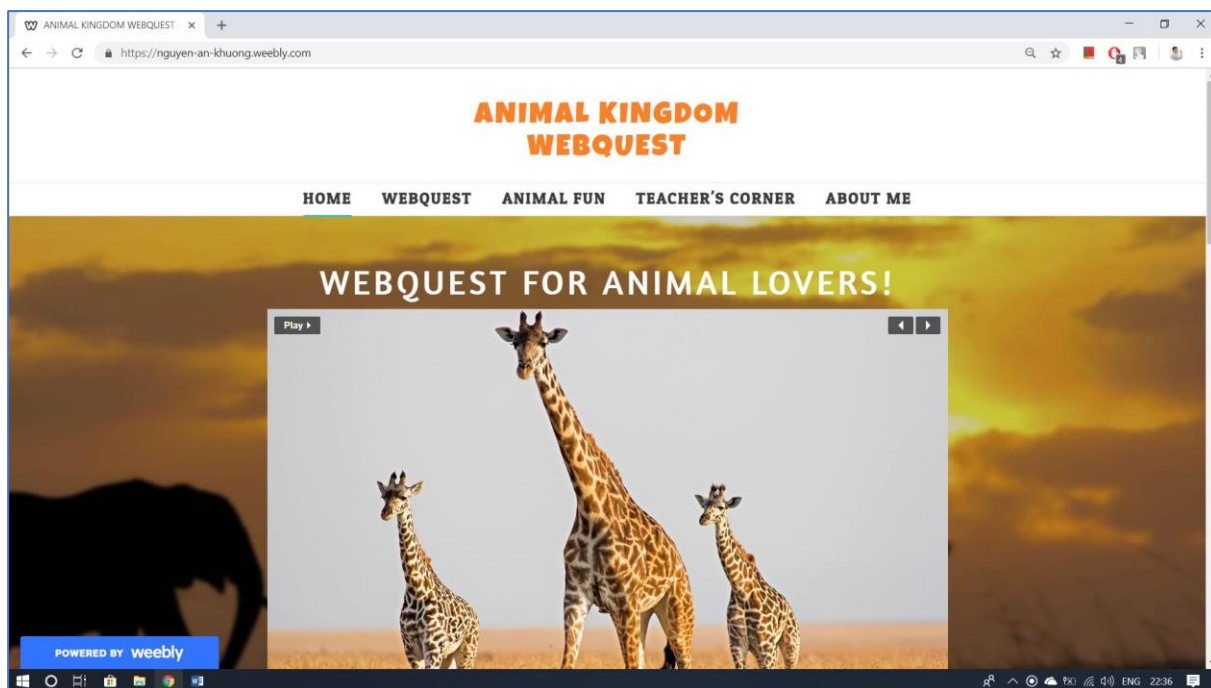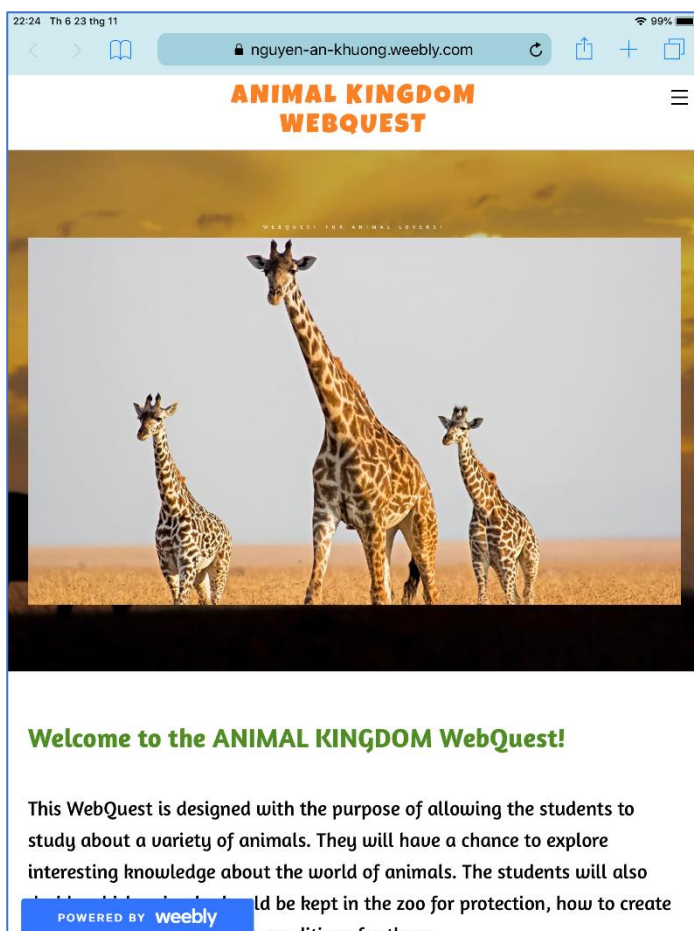
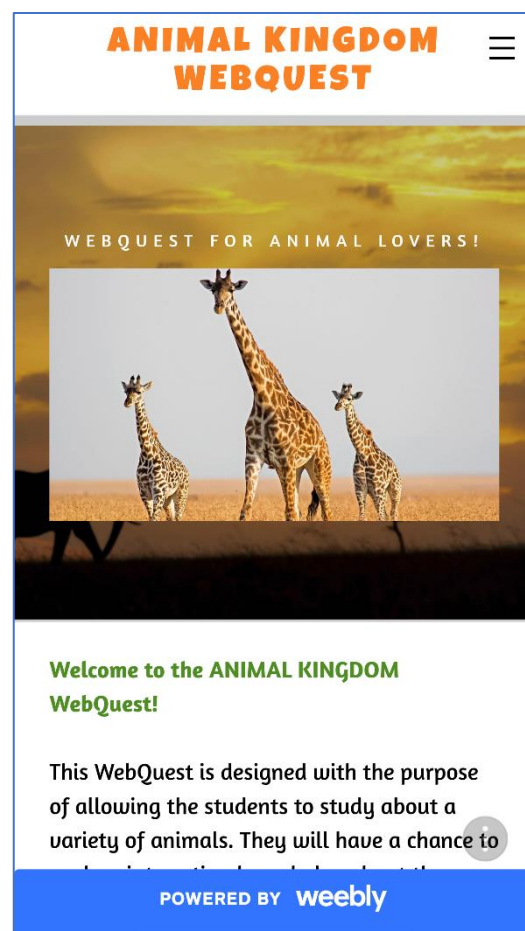Figure 6.1: Desktop site

Figure 6.2 : Tablet site

Figure 6.3: Mobile site

The second thing that may improve the learning experience is theme with flat design. Flat designed website should be simple, focus on content, eliminate 3D or shade effects of the text and images. This design is modern and become the trend of modern website. It is simple, but beautiful. The students are not distracted by complicated decoration and graphic effects.

Another amazing point that accommodates the learners in using website is the navigation. The content is designed like a story. After reading the homepage, learners can click 'next' at the bottom to move on the next part of webquest. They don't have to scroll the page up to click on the navigation menu, which is easy to follow.

Lastly, it took me about five days to complete the webquest project. All the webpages were linked together automatically whenever I added a new page in Weebly. I did not have to link each component to the others within the site. Any modification about font, size or spacing can be updated at the same time. This is time-saving for teacher in the modern era.

THE END