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Collaborative Story Construction and Telling for Second Language Learning

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Abstract: Though utilizing information from the internet is common in language learning, it is often a spontaneous behavior and is not supported by computer programs that are specialized for language learners. In this project, we create a collaborative learning environment for Mandarin Chinese that implements the idea of learning by teaching. The students will learn and practice their language skills by collaboratively designing interactive presentations, such as introducing a place or a type of food with a computer agent, and the scenarios can be used later on by their peers for practicing. During the design process, storytelling techniques such as making an analogy, foreshadowing and flashback will be automatically suggested by the agent for making the presentation more interesting and clear.