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## **Spanish Department: Integrated computer help to conjugate Spanish verbs**

One of the major problems our students face when learning a foreign language is the learning of all the conjugations and tenses of the Spanish language. In order to help them, and to make it easier for them to learn, I would like to prepare a program that would teach them how to spell correctly all six forms for each tense in Spanish. Everything I have seen on the internet or on the market is already set and fixed and it does not allow for changes. It might be used with one book but it will be defective if another book is used. Since we also teach different levels of the language, it would be very nice to have a bank of verbs from which to draw according to our needs. If done according to my planning, this program could be later used with other languages.

### **1. BACKGROUND**

I would like to have a program that helps students learn how to conjugate verbs in Spanish. However, I need a program I can control, a program I can use in conjunction with any textbook (beginning, intermediate or advanced). Also I need a program to which I can add or delete words as needed, since not all language levels use the same number of words, and not all the textbooks use exactly the same bank of words. The program I would like to create would do the above-mentioned functions, but it would also be a model that other languages might be able to use.

### **2. DESCRIPTION**

In order to create the program, we will use WebObjects (Java applications server software) and an OS X server available in the Academic Technology Center. The conjugation program will be developed as an on-line Java applet. The applet will have an instructor and student level. The instructor level will allow words to be added and deleted to form a customized tool for students to use in learning to conjugate Spanish verbs.

### **3. TIMELINE**

I would like to be able to work on the program during the summer, so that it can be ready to be tested during the Fall Semester of 2003. During that semester I would be able to modify, improve, and correct any problem that might appear.

### **4. TECHNOLOGY**

The OS X server and WebObjects Java development software required for this project are available in the Academic Technology Center at Sewanee as well as technical support and experience. Once developed, both instructor and student levels of the Java applet will be available on-line through any web browser.

## **5. OTHER SUPPORT**

The other support will come from the students testing the program and the reports I will be getting from my colleagues in the Spanish Department. I still will need help from the ATC to perfect the program.

## **6. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The new program itself will be a learning tool to be used in all our language classes. It is being designed to help students to memorize verbs, to learn how to conjugate them, and to learn the correct spelling; in the long run, I hope the students will be able to assimilate the information so that they can perform as native speakers.

## **7. CURRICULUM**

This program will be fully integrated in the first two language levels (100's and 200's) and be used in the Advanced Grammar Class.

## **8. ASSESSMENT**

In order to evaluate the performance of the program students and professors using the program will respond to a survey, which will provide information from both ends of the spectrum.

## **9. DISSEMINATION**

This program is going to be web based, and my hope is for the program to serve both Mac and Pc platforms. This way the program will have the possibility of being distributed to any Spanish department interested in using it. In the long run, if the program works as I expect, it will become a tool that other languages will also be able to use.