

OPENLang MOOC on Language OER – Week 2: Module 4

What is a language OER of good quality?

A language OER of good quality is one that has been carefully evaluated by experts based on specific criteria before its final publication. This is very important because by co-sharing quality language OERs, the teacher who is a language OER creator contributes to a wider language teachers' community, which saves time and effort. In this way, the OER co-sharing process also promotes language teachers' collaboration and creativity.

Why is it important to evaluate a language OER?

It is highly important to ensure language OER quality control, assurance, and evaluation if we want the OER to be reused by others. Finding an OER of good quality is really important for language teachers because they can safely use it, remix it with their own educational material, and redistribute it to the wider language teachers' community via OER repositories. This OER co-sharing process also promotes collaboration, creativity, and the philosophy of open pedagogy.

Unfortunately, OER quality is not guaranteed because OERs are not always reviewed before being published online. For that reason, language teachers need to be able to evaluate the quality of a language OER.

How can I evaluate a language OER?

You can evaluate any OER using useful evaluation tools based on specific evaluation criteria. There are plenty of rubrics and evaluation tools available, as well as extensive research on OER evaluation. An evaluation tool recommended for language OER is the **OpenLang OER Evaluation Checklist**, created in the context of the OpenLang Network project and based on the OpenLang Quality Framework for language OERs.

Helpful tips:

- Before you create or search for a language OER and then evaluate it, ask yourself: *What do you want to do with this language OER?*
- Check the language OER's licensing status first. If the item appears to be openly licensed or its status is unclear, evaluate the resource against the proposed criteria.
- If the license is very restricted, the resource is not really a language OER.
- Remember that each repository or directory of OERs provides different platform services and tools. Dedicate some time to explore them before you start searching for OERs.
- Don't forget to disseminate exemplary cases of quality language OERs, repositories, directories, or useful quality assessment tools.