Using (digital) mind maps for teaching vocabulary, translation & creative writing

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What are mind maps?

- Organizational charts arranged “center-out”
  - To focus or structure ideas
  - To show relations between terms (deeper understanding)

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Added value of digital maps?

- neater handwriting
- colours, fonts, pictures, hyperlinks …
- expanding/collapsing branches
- easier error correction and re-arranging
- collaborating & exporting → re-use

→ The use determines the added value, not necessarily the software itself.
Scenario 1: translation practice

- collaboratively analysing common pitfalls (see example by U of Cambridge)
- creating an organised (visual) study guide
Heidelberg

- best loved
- centred
- founded
- of the same name
- to cast their votes
- soil

- jmdn. anführen (trennbar)
- oft: Hitler
- -r/-e Vorsitzende, -n (Partei)
- -r Anführer, -
- -r Führer, -
- als Formatangabe
- sich auf etw. konzentrieren
- ausgerichtet
- gleichnamig
des gleichen Namens
- -e Erde
- -r Boden,

- gegründet
- etw. gründen
- -e Gründung, -en
- etw. wählen
- -r Wähler, -
zur Wahl gehen
- seine Stimme für etw. abgeben
Scenario 2: vocabulary learning

- **Analyse** and **show** semantic relations, e.g.
  - word families
  - grouping
  - synonyms
  - collocations
  - ...

→ Promote deeper structural understanding of the language
Scenario 2: vocabulary learning

- **Test** semantic relations and **aid** memory
Scenario 3: creative writing

- Brainstorm and activate vocabulary
Scenario 3: creative writing

- Brainstorm and activate vocabulary
- Scaffold the writing process
- Create a visual structure of the text (e.g. focussed on chronology, causality, processes, exemplifications, …)
Some general guidelines

- Train how to use the technique (and the software)
  - provide feedback & resources (thesaurus, dictionaries, etc.)
  - analysing through peer-assessment?
- For digital software:
  - provide logins
  - special characters?
Over to you…

- Do you think you will use mind maps in your teaching?
  - If yes, how so?
  - If no, why not?
Which software is available?

- **mind42** (Web) - free; collaborative
- **coggle.it** (Web – Google account necessary) - free public diagrams; collaborative
- **bubbl.us** (Web, iOS app) - commercial; 3 mind maps for free; sharing but not collaborating
- **mindmeister** (Web, iOS app) - commercial; 3 mind maps for free; collaborative
- **mindmapper** (Win) - commercial, collaborative – up to 10 users per session
Thank you!

Any questions?