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## **Multimodality in Arabic Virtual Learning Environments**

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### **Abstract:**

Our research focus is a survey of current use of Virtual Learning Environments - VLEs - in Saudi Arabian University teaching, and recommendations for the future. This paper reports our findings on the use of VLE multimodal features in language and linguistics teaching in Saudi higher education. VLEs offer mixed use of text, sound, video resources in learning modules. We will present a range of examples of these multimodal learning resources from Saudi VLEs as well as some of their features. For instance, these resources (texts, sounds and videos) can be downloaded and re-used. They are, in addition, of a reasonable length which makes them appropriate for use in language and linguistics teaching. As disadvantages of these resources, most videos have no subtitles, most audios do not have transcripts, and both were not professionally recorded, which decreases their re-usability. The current state of VLE systems in Saudi Arabian universities shows that they are suitable for language and linguistics teaching while taking into consideration that they still need more improvements to be more effective.