**Supplementary material**

**Appendix.** Twenty-five initial quality indicators identified in learners’ evaluation comments of LMOOCs

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| No. | Initial indicator | Statement |
| A1 | Overall quality of the course | The LMOOC has a good quality as a whole. |
| A2 | Teacher’s oral language proficiency | The teacher’s spoken language in the LMOOC is fluent and accurate at a speed which is easy to follow. |
| A3 | Teacher’s personal image | The teacher in the LMOOC has a decorous and appealing appearance. |
| A4 | Teacher’s teaching style | The teacher in the LMOOC has an infectious/humorous/charming teaching style. |
| A5 | Teacher’s teaching ability | The teacher in the LMOOC can impart the knowledge in an effective way with a high efficiency. |
| A6 | Teacher’s teaching method | The teacher in the LMOOC uses an appropriate teaching method which is suitable for the specific type of language course. |
| A7 | Teacher’s engagement and interaction with students | The teacher is deeply engaged in the implementation of the LMOOC and has a lot of teacher–student interactions. |
| A8 | Instructional design | The chapters of LMOOCs and activities are systematically designed to effectively guide the language learning process. |
| A9 | The effectiveness of teaching content | The teaching content of the LMOOC provides helpful, useful and inspiring guidance and boosts learners’ language competence. |
| A10 | The richness of teaching content | The teaching content of the LMOOC covers a wide range of language knowledge or skills. |
| A11 | The good taste of teaching content | The teaching content of the LMOOC provides interesting, inspiring and meaningful knowledge or skills. |
| A12 | The availability of the videos | The videos of LMOOCs can be downloaded or found on the platform. |
| A13 | The quality of the videos | The videos of the LMOOC are well produced with good visual effects supported by advanced technology. |
| A14 | The subtitles of the videos | The videos of the LMOOC provide English/bilingual subtitles. |
| A15 | The availability of supporting resources | The supporting resources of the LMOOC can be downloaded or found on the platform. |
| A16 | The quality of supporting resources | The supporting resources of the LMOOC provide helpful and useful materials for language learning. |
| A17 | The assignment of exercises and teacher’s feedback | The LMOOC’s teaching group assigns homework and exercises from time to time and provides timely feedback to the students. |
| A18 | Management of discussion forum | The LMOOC’s teaching group publishes discussion topics and organises effective activities in the forum. |
| A19 | Certificate issue | The platform issues certificate to students after they finish studying. |
| A20 | Learner support | The LMOOC’s teaching group provides materials, explanation and suggestions to support learners who meet problems online. |
| A21 | Peer review | The platform and teaching group of the LMOOC organise effective peer review and the members in one group rate each other in a fair and honest manner. |
| A22 | Assessment criteria and implementation | The LMOOC has a scientific and efficient assessment for the course and teaching group successfully carries out the assessment of the course online. |
| A23 | The convenience of the platform | Learners of the LMOOC have easy access to the platform and easily learn how to use it. |
| A24 | The functions of the platform | The platform has a big variety of functions, such as providing online learning and mobile learning. |
| A25 | Platform stability | The platform provides stable use for users to log in. |