

Micro-Paper 26: *Literacy in Social Networks*

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Defining the Term

Literacies in social networks (web services that allow the user to create a profile [within a system] in order to communicate with friends over the internet) are changing the way today's students learn and use languages all over the world. The new ways of connecting with friends through networks which gives individuals the chance to talk to people who they would normally have no contact with. In addition to these connection people have access into the lives of their friends on these social networks through the posts that their friends decide to share with them and this actually allows them to see and comprehend the different preferences and likes about what nowadays we call "media" their friends have; creating a shortcut to something that before was really tough to understand.

Literacy is the ability developed by human beings in order to interpret and comprehend, the trending expressions or ways to communicate messages. Most of them handcrafted commonly used or applied in nowadays society, for instance: "acronyms", "slang", "visual signs", and so forth allowing them to be able to receive the message not taking care of the extension of it.

Literacies in these social networks are expanding and changing everyday due to the sheer size of these online communities. Acronyms like TTYL (talk to you later) BRB (be right back) and ILY (I love you) are becoming more and more common place due to their usage in these networks. Through a mixture of texts, videos, pictures and sounds, these social networks are giving way to new literacies. These new forms of communication are exclusively being formed from the interaction of diverse cultures that interact within the realm of social networks.

Connecting it to LSLP

LSLP is on the lookout for new and creative ways to look at literacies and the effect it has on cities and its people. This new way to look at literacies can be a way of adding more information to current and future projects that LSLP has in mind.

Looking at how individuals are using these social networks as a tool to further advance their abilities in the use of second languages can result in valuable additions to our research.

Expanding Second Language Research

Nowadays we are witnessing how people in different contexts are using second languages in this case "English Language" with the only purpose to interpret through mass media today's new ways to express and communicate with just a few characters which is a really big concern for the field of literacy, and at some point we as researchers of this field should be aware of this through the usage of the devices that society is offering us to use for example: mobiles, tablets, phablets, and the different apps that are popping up these days.

Human beings are always developing brand new ways of speaking and getting in touch with other people all over the world so we have to keep up with all of these social phenomena and keep an eye on those specific points because all in a sudden we could be facing a new stage on search about second language usage in the world.

References

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