

Micro-Paper 4: *Multimodality*

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Defining the term

Multimodality is the integration of a set of modes (e.g. sound, color, text, images, etc.) as resources for sending a message. Multimodality helps to improve learning processes, as it makes messages simpler to understand, as the result of said integration of modes (or synaesthesia). In this sense, the use of different resources can improve comprehension: an image shows what would take more time to read, written words say those things difficult to represent through images, and color highlights important elements.

The use of multimodality in text creation allows, at the same time, for people to internalize concepts by using and integrating different mental skills, thus building knowledge by themselves. It can provide people with a deeper look at the world and help them achieve those capabilities.

Connecting it to LSLP

Multimodality, at LSLP, has helped us understand better how texts appear in the city, and their influence in people's comprehension. The nature of the text we discovered in our two research projects required to include a multimodal perspective to analyze all the features which contribute to meaning-making. It refers to the modes and semiotic resources that appear in the city and how they help determine the meaning of a text.

In our project, we recognize the importance of noting how urban spaces are the source and target of multimodal texts, contributing into the contact with

languages. As we keep exploring this concept, we are wondering how these learning and communicating processes are taking place outside schools, as well as in educational contexts.

Expanding Second Language Research

Second language research can explore multimodal research further, since learning and teaching processes are not only happening in academic contexts; but also in urban and cultural environments. Languages nowadays are emerging almost anywhere with some features that multimodality could help us better understand. Possibilities for research using multimodality include expanding the perspective of meanings that people create when using different languages. Second language research can benefit from extended multimodal analysis (combined with polylinguaging, for example) to see how languages become yet another resource that people use to create even deeper message with richer meanings in today's communication dynamics.

References

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