SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING WITH SOCIAL NETWORK SITES

OLIVIA RHINEHART
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
LECNY CONFERENCE
THE MODERN STUDENT

• Modern students are considered “digital natives” (Yunus et al., 2012)

• Most college age students use at least one social network, many check it daily

• Motivated to use social media because of social connectivity (Acar & Kimura, 2012)
BRIDGING THE GAP

• Virtual extension of the classroom, adding to class time and collaboration (Lomicka & Lord, 2011)

• Bridges the gap between classroom learning and real-world experiences, contextualizing material (Boonkit, 2011)

• A neutral “third space” for students
ROLE OF THE TEACHER

• Maintain strategic, consistent digital presence (Mills, 2011)
• Preserve student autonomy (Omar et al., 2012)
• Facilitate dialogue (Mills, 2011)
• Create specific reading or writing tasks
• Assign minimum number of postings
REDEFINING LITERACY

- Technological and collaborative literacies are the new norm
- A general increase in exposure will help to build multiliteracy (Blattner & Fiori, 2011)
- Interacting with diverse texts: videos, photos, casual postings, linked articles (Boonkit, 2011)
SOCIOPRAGMATICS

• Facebook and Twitter are corpora of authentic language use

• Gathering cultural and linguistic knowledge (Reinhardt & Zander, 2011)

• Pair with explicit discussion in class

• Apply this knowledge to other scenarios
COLLABORATION

• Shift towards student-to-student interaction

• Social media provide an informal platform for student collaboration (Mills, 2011)

• More focus on function of language rather than form (Mitchell, 2012)

• Increase in audience size also leads to global interaction (Yunus et al., 2012)
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Seek out tutorials; become well-versed in the technology (Lomicka & Lord, 2011; Wang & Towey, 2011)

• Consider the privacy preferences of the students (Reinhardt & Zander, 2011; McBride, 2009)

• Focus more on sociopragmatics and collaboration (Mitchell, 2012)

• Avoid explicit error correction online (Mitchell, 2012)

• Make a plan to ensure access for all students
REFERENCES


