



LSLP Micro-Paper 101: #booktok/booktoking

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Defining the Term

BookTok is a subcommunity within TikTok where users ("BookTokers") create short, engaging videos to share book recommendations, reviews, and emotional reactions. This platform makes reading accessible and exciting, contrasting traditional classroom [literacy](#) instruction by reducing [oppressive systems](#). It empowers users with control, agency, and ownership of the content they create.

BookTok is an alternative, enjoyable way for [second-language learners](#) to practice languages such as English. By following book recommendations or reading stories on platforms like Wattpad, learners can explore different writing styles and cultures in a more engaging context. This [multimodal](#) space incorporates video, audio, text, and performance, making it a digital literacy practice that aligns with modern, informal learning environments. TikTok not only serves as a space for adolescents to escape reality but also as a [critical](#) site for [identity](#) formation and community building, fostering [digital literacies](#) around [shared interests](#) that traditional educational settings may not notice.

Moreover, TikTok's influence on young literature markets has been profound, as the platform has encouraged an increased interest in literature. Books popularized on platforms like Wattpad have even found dedicated sections in bookstores. This growth has shown the power of social media in shaping reading trends and expanding literacy practices.

Connecting it to LSLP

At LSLP, we aim to understand how second-language literacies can be supported through alternative, often digital, practices. BookTok serves as an ideal example of this. Given its multimodal content, it offers second-language learners an immersive, low-pressure environment to practice language skills. This engagement with digital content aligns with LSLP's focus on how [digital platforms](#) foster meaningful language learning by emphasizing real-world engagement and cultural exchange.

Just as LSLP encourages the exploration of diverse literacies beyond traditional classroom settings,

BookTok invites learners into a safe space to engage with language in dynamic, context-rich ways. The informal nature of BookTok challenges traditional literacy pedagogy, allowing learners to adopt language practices that relate to their interests and identities, making learning both meaningful and enjoyable.

Expanding Second Language Research

Promoting reading passion through digital platforms like BookTok, YouTube, and Wattpad provides an opportunity to inspire young learners to engage with literature in a way that aligns with their interests. Educators and researchers should explore how these platforms can be integrated into pedagogical curricula to promote language acquisition. Teachers can play a pivotal role in guiding students to share their reviews and engage with digital content, offering students an authentic context for language practice.

BookTok, with its widespread appeal, could also serve as a tool for language educators to incorporate content that aligns with students' interests, promoting deeper engagement with reading. Additionally, it provides valuable insights into the role of digital literacies in modern language learning environments. Due to the popularity of current trends, literacy promoters (such as educators and librarians) can motivate students to explore complex literary texts, which might enrich their learning experiences.

References

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Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted Technologies in the Writing Process

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