

Micro-Paper 57: *Personal Learning Environment*



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Defining the Term

A personal learning environment, or PLE, is a customized environment designed by a learner with the intention of enhancing the learning processes. Learners can construct PLEs with any kind of tool. What matters in crafting a PLE is to personalize it based on the learning necessities of a specific learner. Each person has different learning preferences. Some learn through visual modalities, others through listening and others through reading. Having these preferences in mind the learner should build an environment that has tools designed to appeal to his needs.

Technological environments are very important to develop PLEs, as these offer different [multimodal](#) tools and websites in which the students can also feel motivated to work with. Learners should first make a self-assessment in order to understand their own learning processes. Then, they should utilize different tools or websites in order to know which of these they find more comfortable to use. After understanding what works well and what does not, the person is on track on building an environment in which these useful tools appear, allowing them to improve learning results.

Connecting it to LSLP

Here, at LSLP, the research team wishes to study the language practices that have been established and the ones that are in process of being solidified in the society. Personal Learning Environments are among these language learning practices, as it is a learning strategy planned by the learner to make the learning of something a much more interesting task.

Understanding how people build personal learning environments for language learning is, on its own, a method of understanding language trends, as this kind of information allows us to know what type of tools

people prefer and why. A PLE designed for English learning can be, for example, a place where the person can interact with other English-speaking people in order to enhance the language management with the community. Knowing which places and which elements of an environment are used is something that would bring a lot of information to the team.

Understanding language learning PLEs is not only understanding the practices outside of the classroom that a person utilizes to learn the language. It also means understanding what happens inside and outside of the school.

Expanding Second Language Research

The role of the teacher figure is very important in the process of building the PLE as the teacher is the one in charge of giving the student assessment, on the strengths and the weaknesses the student has. If teachers give students [formative assessments](#) that give them an idea on how to improve some aspects, then they are helping students to build a PLE.

If teachers bring different types of tools and websites to the classroom that allow the students to learn a lesson, then they are giving students the opportunity to test tools that they perhaps would not have found on their own, improving students' PLEs. Classroom practices define a huge part of the PLE a person constructs.

References

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