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Twitter as a Pedagogy of Possibility in Second Language Teacher Education

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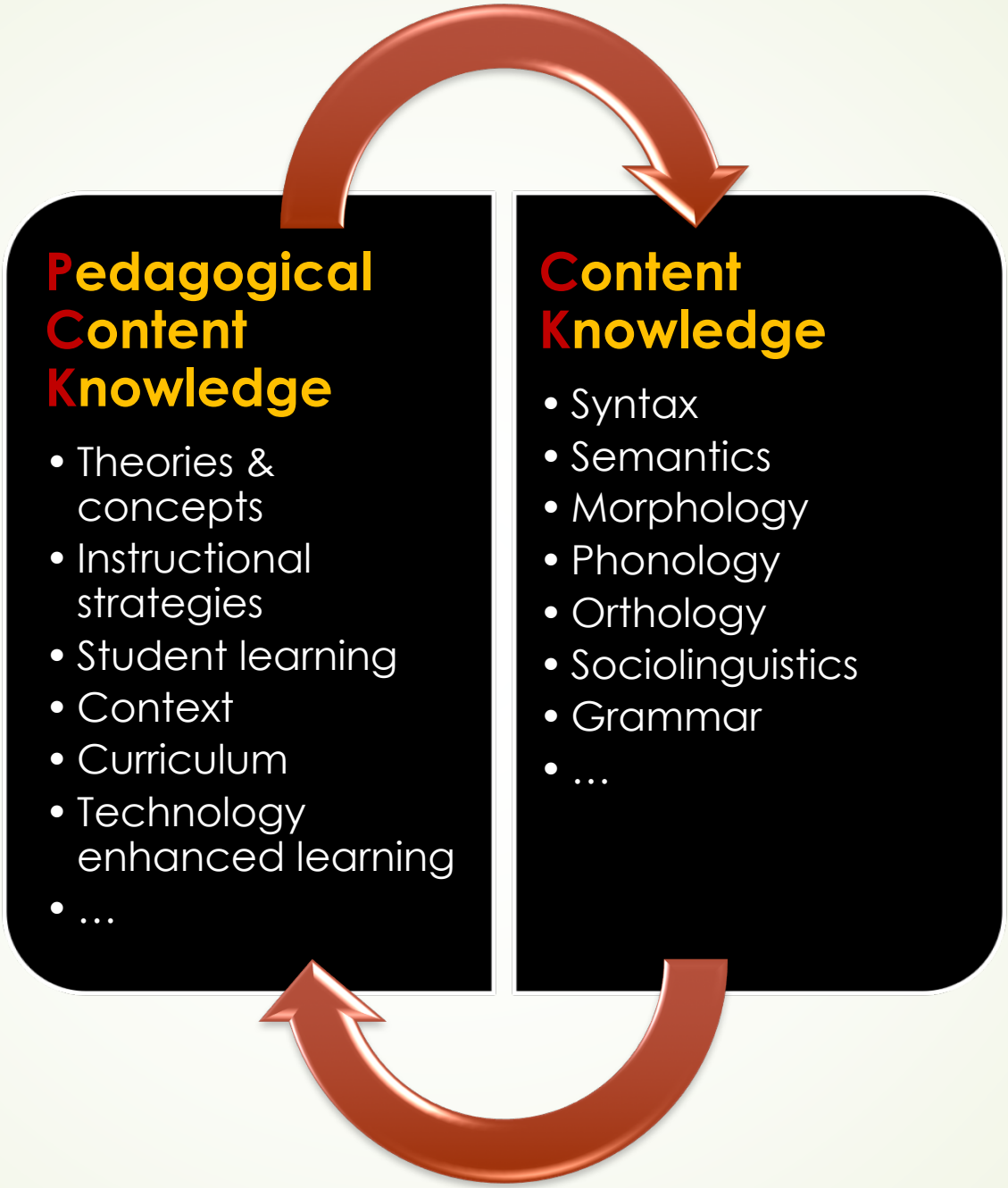
Presentation overview

1. Unpack the knowledge-base of L2 language teacher education
2. Explore the potential of *Twitter* as a tool for developing that knowledge-base (from student-informed perspective)
3. Consider the challenges in terms of instructional design

Unpack the knowledge-base of second language (L2) teacher education

- What knowledge-base is essential for the L2 teacher?

The essential knowledge-base of L2 teaching



It would appear that an advanced proficiency in the L2 should underpin a teacher's instructional practices.

Explore the potential of *Twitter* as a tool for developing that knowledge-base

- This paper reports on how *Twitter* supported pre-service elementary teachers in developing the essential knowledge-base of second language teaching

Participatory culture as a pedagogical framework (*Twitter* as medium)

- Assigned weekly *tweet* (defined focus):
  - Demonstrate understanding
  - Submit responses to prompts/readings
  - Share and acquire resources and ideas
  - Ask questions and seek clarification
  - Give feedback
  - Analyse, evaluate and create resources
  - Make connections and reflect on learning

Ag tvuíteáil tvuíte @MNaG

- Cruthaigh cuntas tvuíte. Tá na treoracha ar fáil ar Moodle.
- Ní mór tvuít amháin a phostáil bunaithe ar ábhar an ranga/léitheoireachta na seachtaine seo.
- Agus cuntas tvuíte ranga ar leith cruthaithe agat, (i. ainm úsáideoraMNaG2016)
- Lean MNaG2016
- Cuir #MNaG2016 le gach tvuít
- Bí linn ag tvuíteáil!

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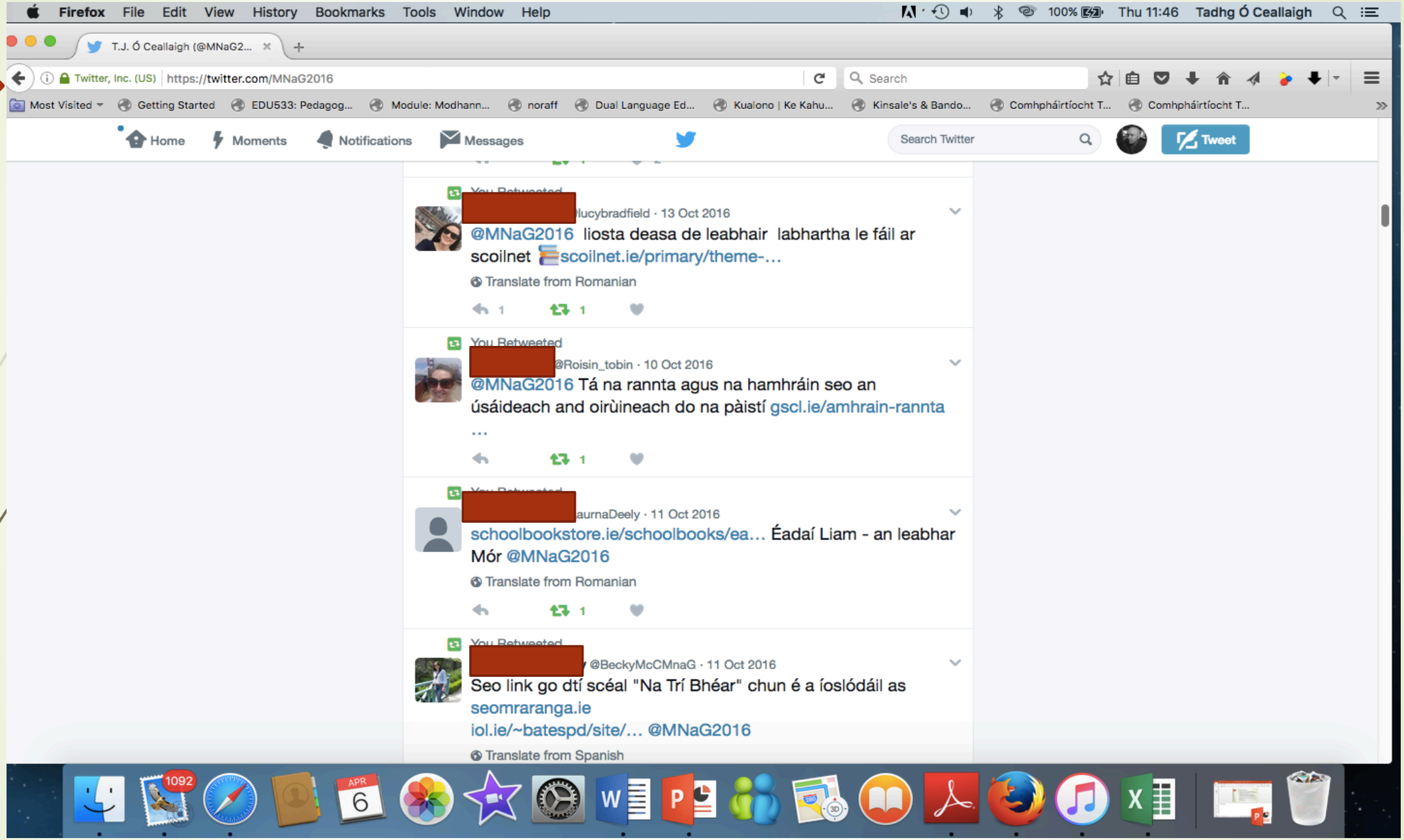
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[redacted] lucybradfield · 13 Oct 2016
@MNaG2016 liosta deasa de leabhair labhartha le fáil ar scoilnet scoilnet.ie/primary/theme-…
Translate from Romanian
You Retweeted
[redacted] @Roisin_tobin · 10 Oct 2016
@MNaG2016 Tá na rannta agus na hamhráin seo an úsáideach and oirùineach do na pàistí gscl.ie/amhrain-rannta …
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You Retweeted
[redacted] @BeckyMcCMnaG · 11 Oct 2016
Seo link go dtí scéal "Na Trí Bhéar" chun é a íoslódáil as seomraranga.ie iol.ie/~batespd/site/… @MNaG2016
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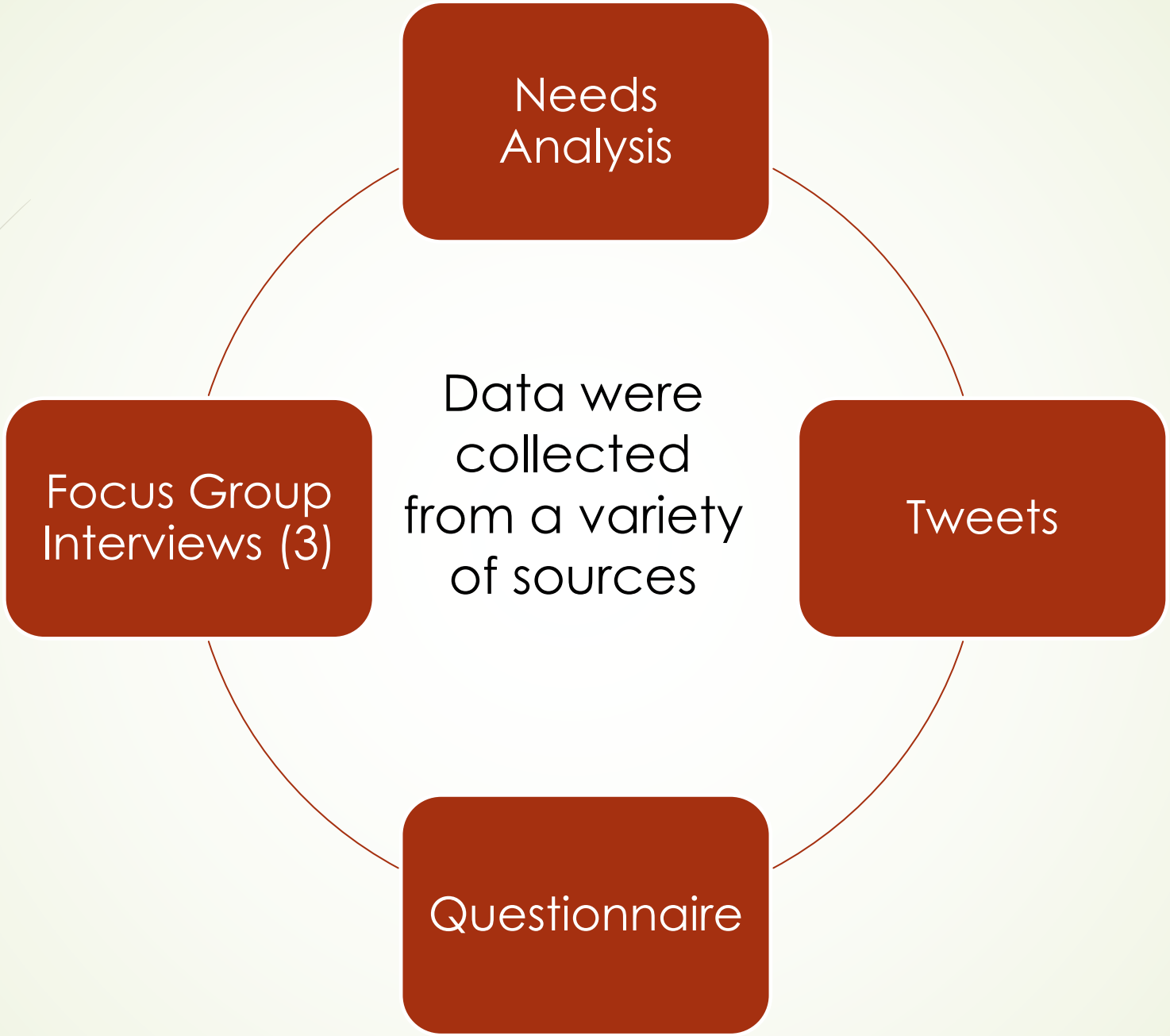

Needs Analysis
Tweets
Questionnaire
Focus Group Interviews (3)
Data were collected from a variety of sources

Findings

In your opinion what are the advantages of using *Twitter* as a teaching method?

sharing and exchanging

building community and limiting isolation

building resource bank

authentic interaction

clarification of ideas

self-directed practices

discovering new teaching ideas

easy and fast to use and access

collaborating - think-share-pair

support network

inspiring confidence

motivating to read short pieces

positive learning experience

encourages us to use Gaeilge on daily basis for a reason

realistic engagement

enhanced discussion and learning

The use of *Twitter* developed my Irish language skills?

Using Irish in everyday life developed my language skills and gave me *more confidence* in using the language in a *real* way. I became *more accurate* as a user and *more aware* of my language use.

Traolach, Questionnaire

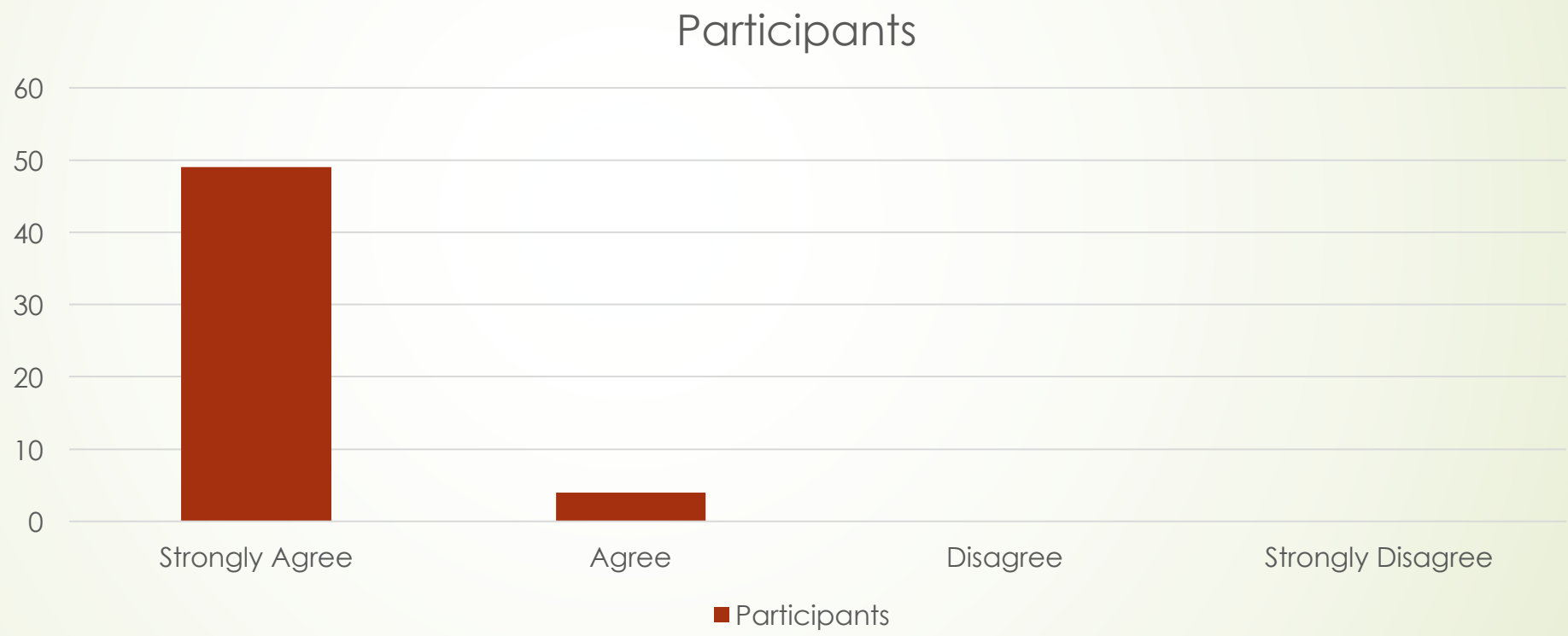
I was *conscious* of ensuring my posts were gramatically correct and I brushed up on my grammar from reading other tweets. Seeing as the tweet had to be so short, I was determined to get the *sentence structure* and *vocabulary* right!

Síle, Focus Group Interview

It made me think about my Irish and make sure my grammar was right before putting it online! I suppose I had to become *more aware* of what I was writing as Gaeilge – it meant looking up *new words* and checking *spelling* etc.

Aisling, Questionnaire

Twitter enabled me to develop my skills in relation to the teaching of Irish as an L2?



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As the tweets focused on Infant Placement, it gave me an insight into age-appropriate and stimulating methodologies. It gave me time to think and learn and research and share and make EAL connections and even enjoy it!

Máire, Questionnaire

It gave me the space to think about ways of teaching and motivated me to learn with and from others in the group. It became an addiction. It had added benefits like building a resource bank and a community with a common purpose not to mention immediacy,

Seán, Focus Group Interview

It encouraged me to research and look up ideas for how to teach a second language. It motivated me to critique online resources and ideas and seek out appropriate ones.

Éabha, Questionnaire

So what…

- Findings suggest that *Twitter* is effective as a pedagogical tool in second language pedagogy (from a student-informed perspective)
- The collaborative nature of online interaction was central to developing both students' linguistic and pedagogical resources in Irish (CK & PCK)
- L2 pre-service teachers need a reason to attend to language and engage in language practice in meaningful, relevant and realistic ways to ensure reflection, development and self-directed learning.

Consider the challenges in terms of instructional design

Twitter as a pedagogy of possibility in second language pedagogy - Instructional design challenges…

- Alleviating concerns regarding privacy and academic integrity
- Managing the *always-on nature* of social media…
- Crafting tasks which simultaneously develop CK and PCK
- Directly or indirectly encouraging peer-peer interactions
- Untapping the full educational potential of *Twitter*
- Navigating the new media environment

Grazie!
Míle buíochas!

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