

New Literacies and Popular Cultural Practices University Students in Hong Kong

Winnie Siu Yee HO

The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)

winhosy@hku.hk

Abstract

Students nowadays tend to become more demanding in terms of the inputs from teachers in a classroom. As up-to-date educators, we should endeavour to put ourselves into our students' shoes by exploring the world they are living in and keep reviewing how we can make good use of their popular cultural practices to motivate their interest and boost their confidence in learning English language as a second language.

To have a better understanding on my students' viewpoints and practices on new literacies and popular culture, I first conducted a questionnaire survey with students from a private university then collected their viewpoints in an informal interview session with a couple of them. To gain a more objective data on students' practices on using electronic devices during the lessons, a class observation is held.

With reference to the existing literatures in theories, my study would like to address the following research questions:

- (a) What are the popular cultural practices of these learners?
- (b) How are these popular cultural practices mediated?
- (c) What and how do these learners learn from engaging in these popular cultural practices?

I first critically review the literature on new literacies then record the popular cultural practices of my students in the Web 2.0 world. The world is undergoing rapid changes so having more new developments in information literacy or the emergence of the Web 3.0 world in the near future are foreseeable. There is a need to encourage both our current and younger generation to be well-equipped with the global challenges ahead.