

## **Proposal for presentation**

**Title:** Using Social Media for peer-feedback in a translation class: a case-study

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### **Abstract:**

The omnipresence of collaborative learning in British Higher Education has been made possible partly by the emergence over the past couple of decades of a vast array of digital tools. Web 2.0 in general, and Social Media in particular, have recently demonstrated the possibilities offered by the Internet and specifically its effects on participatory and informal learning. Their applications have proved to have particular relevance to skill-based learning, notably to language learning.

In an attempt to illustrate the advantages of informal learning over direct instruction (Warschauer, 2003) in language teaching, this presentation proposes to examine the set-up and use of a social networking site as a means for students to share ideas and provide peer-feedback to one another.

This presentation sets to highlights the benefits of using a closed social network in a translation class, providing a small-scale social learning environment. The process is aimed at providing participants with a feeling of ownership over their learning processes, allowing them to move away from the need for external legitimacy. This leads to redefine their role as learners, as well as that of the tutor (Levin & Wadmany, 2008). Social Media is used with the intention of enhancing the participants' critical thinking, communication skills and media literacy, three factors contributing directly towards undergraduate employability.

This presentation sets out to provide tutors of languages, or any other skill-based subject, with a set of practical observations and strategies aimed at implementing successful use of social media for academic purposes. The speaker will discuss the specificity of the chosen social networking website (Ning) as a learning environment as well as the technicalities of the creation of a safe and productive online learning environment, in order to bring to practitioners a comprehensive, useful and easily accessible solution.

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