



A Pedagogical Perspective of Translanguaging in the ASEAN Context: A Lesson from Blogging

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Abstract

The focus of this study is to highlight how multilingual society such as in the Philippines and Singapore use *translanguaging* (Garcia, 2009), an umbrella term which is more than *hybrid languages* (Gutierrez et al., 1999) and *code-switching and code-mixing* (Bautista 2004; Mahootian, 2006) in journalistic blogs provided by *yahoo.sg* and *yahoo.ph*. Translanguaging is a linguistic resource used by various respondents to express their thoughts and feelings. The data in this study suggests that the majority of the participants exhibit a high degree of social intolerance mainly because their blogs are uncensored. The interaction among the participants through translanguaging was maintained using linguistic resources such as their varying language abilities and other semiotic devices found in journalistic blogging. This present paper focuses on one area that was of topical interest in Singapore and The Philippines: *education*. The implications of this study may well be that diverse ethnic backgrounds, allied to diversity in societies illustrate that people's linguistic repertoires, "reflect the polycentricity of their environments" and is important to education specifically in language learning (Blommaert & Backus, 2013, p.20).

Keywords: Translanguaging, hybrid language, heteroglossic languages, blogging, language learning

Introduction

For the first 20 years of the evolution of the internet, to the launch of the first major web browser in 1993, cyberspace and the 'real' world were effectively parallel universes. Those working in cyberspace believed that the internet was about to flatten organizations, globalized society, decentralized control and helped to harmonize people (Taylor, 2014). The network would be about the rise of a new digital generation and it would see that generation gather into a collective network of powerful peers such as the social media where people use texts to perform social action (Jones, Chik & Hafner, 2015). Blogging is one of these where a person can write openly about their views, thoughts and feeling. According to William & Jakobs (2004) "Blogs have evolved along similar lines to other forms of human communication in that they are the product of convenience rather than design...this engage people in collaborative activity knowledge sharing, reflection and debate" (p. 232). Like many social networking site such as Facebook and Twitter, *yahoo.sg* and *yahoo.ph* have something in common: 'a willingness to communicate' or being in 'touch'. It is about exchanging information and creating ties or segregates with others.

This channel of communication can change people's views about human connections and the way they communicate. More than that, 'Blogs are supposed to be