

Learning08: Methodologies and Practices for Approaching Learning as a Social Phenomenon Inside and Outside of School

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Describing and measuring learning in multilingual settings from a socio-interactive perspective

The talk will discuss some methodological issues in studying language development as a social phenomenon. First, the notion of development will be defined in socio-interactive terms. How do socio-interactive competences develop? How can they be set apart from other competences and, possibly, be related to them? After reviewing some recent exemplary studies, a research project following the language socialization approach will be presented. Data come from a one-year observation of a Moroccan girl learning Italian as a second language.

The analysis will focus on her participation strategies, which changed over time, demonstrating that learning is at the same time a social and linguistic process. Based on this example, a more general discussion will follow on the notions of comparability and generalizability of results in socio-interactive studies of language acquisition.