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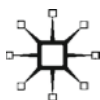
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Contents

<i>List of Figures and Tables</i>	viii
<i>Series Editor's Preface</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Chapter outlines	2
1.2 Why English?	3
2 Informal Learning and Languages	7
2.1 What is informal learning?	8
2.2 What is informal language learning?	10
2.3 OILE and the learner autonomy model	12
2.3.1 Incidental acquisition	14
2.3.2 Out of class learning	16
2.3.3 Task-based approaches	18
2.4 Situating OILE within CALL	19
2.5 Complexity and dynamic systems theories	21
2.6 OILE and input hypothesis	24
2.7 OILE and CREED	25
2.8 Interlanguage or intertextuality?	28
2.9 Situating OILE: Some conclusions	29
3 The Practices of OILE	31
3.1 Quantitative surveys of the activities associated with OILE	31
3.2 Listening to MOD	39
3.2.1 Patterns of use	40
3.2.2 Listening activities and the law	49
3.2.3 Characterising learning from MOD	50
3.3 Subtitling and language learning	51
3.3.1 Research into subtitling	52
3.3.2 Subtitles and online video	53
3.4 System level characteristics of OILE	55
3.4.1 The intention to communicate with known interlocutors	56

3.4.2	Changes in register	57
3.4.3	Learner interactions across a range of online media	58
3.5	Inside the online informal learner's private world	61
4	Language Acquisition from Online Informal Learning Activities	63
4.1	Developing a corpus of informal listening contents	64
4.2	Learner perceptions of acquisition through informal activities	70
4.2.1	Diary studies	70
4.2.2	Blog studies	74
4.3	Language development through Tomasello's general learning processes	75
4.3.1	Establishing joint attention through focus on task	76
4.3.2	Understanding the communicative intentions: Focus on meaning	78
4.3.3	Forming categories, a task management tool	79
4.3.4	Detecting patterns: Exposure to real language in real contexts	81
4.3.5	Imitation: Interaction that mirrors partner discourse	82
4.3.6	Noticing novelty: The good thing about "other foreigner talk"	84
4.3.7	Have the social drive to interact with others: Involvement in real cognitive tasks	85
4.4	Measuring vocabulary knowledge	89
4.4.1	Viewing habits survey	89
4.4.2	Vocabulary knowledge scale (VKS) test	97
4.5	Analysis of written production	102
4.5.1	Results from fan fiction study	105
4.6	Some conclusions about language development and OILE	110
5	The Theoretical Implications of OILE	113
5.1	Implications for the research landscape	113
5.1.1	Construction-based views of language development	114
5.1.2	Implications for CALL	118
5.1.3	The learner autonomy model	119

5.1.4	Out of classroom learning	120
5.1.5	EFL and ESL	121
5.2	Implications from learner practices	122
5.2.1	Implications for language acquisition	123
6	OILE and the Classroom	125
6.1	Surveying teacher attitudes to OILE	126
6.1.1	Teacher perceptions of OILE activities	127
6.1.2	Language skills	129
6.1.3	Influences of OILE on teaching practices	130
6.1.4	Perceived problems	131
6.1.5	Qualitative perspectives	132
6.1.6	Mediators of discourse	135
6.2	New roles for teachers and learners in the classroom	136
6.3	Implications for the resource centre	139
6.3.1	OILE and the Wulkow memorandum	140
6.4	Conclusions on OILE and the classroom	143
7	Studying OILE: Research Methodologies and Perspectives	147
7.1	Quantitative approaches	148
7.2	Qualitative approaches	149
7.3	Future perspectives	151
7.3.1	OILE and historical linguistics	151
7.3.2	OILE and communicative skills	153
7.3.3	English in other countries	155
7.3.4	Other languages	156
8	Conclusions	157
8.1	Bringing the wild into focus	161
	<i>Appendices</i>	162
	<i>Notes</i>	166
	<i>Bibliography</i>	167
	<i>Index</i>	173

Figures and Tables

Figures

3.1	Listening frequency comparison 2009–2012	33
3.2	Listening comparison 2009–2012	34
3.3	Listening examples comparison 2009–2012	35
3.4	Frequency of online reading	36
3.5	Listening vs reading	36
3.6	VOIP use in English	37
3.7a	Social networking 2009	38
3.7b	Social networking 2012	38
3.8	Listening at home and on the move	41
3.9	Daily hours of music listening	42
3.10	Proportion of English music	42
3.11	Most frequently mentioned performers	43
3.12	Interest in understanding lyrics	44
3.13	Impression of comprehension	45
3.14	Use of controls	45
3.15	Use of lyrics websites	47
3.16	Sources of files	48
3.17	Subtitle choice over time	54
4.1	Ranking correlation between HHOLD and BNC	69
4.2	Cognitive processes in meaningful tasks	87
4.3	Viewing frequency percentages	90
4.4	Subtitling	91
4.5	Access modes	92
4.6	Respondents who feel they learn expressions	93
4.7	Regular viewers who feel they learn expressions	94
4.8	Regular viewers' perceived percentage of comprehension	95
4.9	Non-regular viewers' perceived percentage of comprehension	95
4.10	Reasons for watching series in English	96
4.11	VKS breakdown	98
4.12	VKS level four responses	99
4.13	Translation test error frequency	101
4.14	Comparative viewing frequencies	103

4.15	Target structures per thousand words	107
4.16	Frequent 3-grams: Frequent viewers	109
4.17	Frequent 3-grams: Infrequent viewers	110
6.1	Teacher estimates of numbers involved in OILE	128
6.2	Teacher estimates of effects of OILE on language skills	129
6.3	Perceived problems with using OILE in the classroom	131
6.4	OILE and formal learning compared using Engeström's activity triangles	144
8.1	Relationships between OILE and other paradigms	158
8.2	Elements of an online informal learning system	159

Tables

3.1	Lyrics websites used	47
3.2	Download sites used	49
4.1	Frequently occurring 4-grams in the HHOLD corpus	66

Series Editor's Preface

One of the great pleasures for an editor is to welcome a new book into our series, especially one that speaks to a topic as timely and important as the role of informal learning. “New Language Learning and Teaching Environments” aims to bring together the very latest research and innovative practice in language education and Geoff Sockett does an excellent job in tackling an area that hitherto has been neglected: the ways in which learners acquire languages informally, and in particular online. Geoff offers a comprehensive overview of the different conceptualisations of informal learning and how this relates to Computer Assisted Language Learning. He covers a wide range of online learning practices and the ways in which these can be linked back to the classroom. Particularly impressive is that Geoff then considers how our insights into informal learning can inform our theories of language learning and teaching, and what research methodologies can help us to further expand our understanding. In this way, *The Online Informal Learning of English* represents the best of what the series offers: a meticulous coverage of innovative practices in language learning and teaching, grounded in theory and offering new insights for the future of our field.

Hayo Reinders
February 2014

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