

LBST 330 – Fall 2018

Module 2 – Research in Context

Response paper #1 to Chapter 1 Ways of Seeing

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Response paper # 1

What kind of information will you use?

Reading John Berger Ways of seeing, Chap 1, reminds me of a popular anonymous quote, “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder”. The referred text made me also question how I want my Graduation Project to appear. Do I want to create a documented evidence of a comparison between Spanish and Canadian educational system, or do I want to mystify my presentation, creating a subjective experience of an English Conversational Assistant (CA) who had the chance to taste the colors of Spain through the eyes of an educator assistant in an elementary school in Barcelona.

How to inspect reality not just as “data” but phenomena in a sense-making context, your own perception included in that context?

When I started to work on my first tutorial with Josema, I thought that my paper would be a qualitative research design, making sense of data in the form of graphics and text. I wanted to elaborate accurate documented evidence, a rigid survey of the facts and evidence. I made my research, I gathered my data, I conducted my interviews, and when I started to write down my outline, I realized that there are so many personal things and emotions which I had to leave out from my presentation. I had to choose on which side I should be, so I chose to present my own perspective of my experience as a CA in a Spanish school. I chose to create descriptive research without making any accurate predictions, or determination cause and effect. I chose to write my tutorials and my projects based on observational methods and drive my conclusion based on the direct observation of educational phenomena in a Spanish elementary school. My decision was reasoned by my personal likes and traits. I am not the type of technical orientated person who enjoys playing with numbers in front of a computer. I do not like rigid statistics, or surveys. I would rather wander the world and taste the essence of a cultural environment, than to stay in a library reading documented evidence about different cultures.

How is the world changed by the way we see it? Does my view make sense to preserve life (social, environmental) as a whole?

We live in a very complex world and no matter how many encyclopaedias and documented evidence we absorb, there is always something that we may be unaware of, and we learn about it throughout our direct experiences. From this perspective it made sense for me to go to Spain and live my own experience and share it with others. At the end of the day, it's all because of this experience that I have truly recognised the way I think, the decisions I make, and the actions I take.

What alternative, non-hard-data-driven, ways of doing research in your field do you foresee?

Since I decided to create my own subjective descriptive comparison of Spanish and Canadian education systems, my Graduation Project research methods are pretty much as they sound — they describe situations. I will include photographs and images from my research process and I will investigate the comparative advantages of including foreign languages and physical education into the curriculum structure of educational systems of Canada and Spain. As my emerging fields of interest are languages, sports and education which are all meant to expand someone's intellectual and physical capabilities, it makes sense to have them investigated in my graduation project. To go beyond expectations, I might even consider creating a film, including photography and video material to enhance my project.