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Submission Type: **ORAL**

Text Publish Type: Publication of the paper as a book chapter in a peer-reviewed C-crcs volume

Authors Count: 1

Thematic Section: **Education and Technology**

How Learning a New Language Can Benefit Business Professionals

Mehryar Nooriafshar - Dr, Senior Lecturer, Australia (mehryar@usq.edu.au)

Problem Statement: There are both challenges and benefits in acquiring and utilising even some basic conversational skills in another language.

Research Questions: How and why one should acquire the necessary skills in learning some conversational skills in a new language?

Purpose of Study: To establish how a new language can provide new dimensions and outlook on life and allow one to tap into different parts of the brain. It can help an individual to understand others and oneself better; and expand the boundaries of their actual and virtual worlds.

Research Methods: Real cases are utilised to establish connections between language and culture. Innovative methods of learning a new language using the latest and emerging technologies such as those associated with speech recognitions are utilised in the methods.

Findings: Language and culture influence each other. Some basic knowledge of language and culture will place a Business Professional in an advantageous position. A number of multimedia language learning environments, which encourage creativity and right brain functions are identified and recommended.

Conclusions: Using even the very basics of a newly acquired language can establish a closer connection with the native speaker of that language. This initiative can send positive signals of acceptance, trust and interest to the native speakers. A Business professional can certainly benefit from establishment of such a positive relationship.

Key Words: Language, Business, Innovative

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Authors Count: 3

Thematic Section: **Second Language Teaching**

(Inter)National Bilingual Networking: Maximising the Educational Potential of the Australian NBN

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Patrick Danaher - Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Southern Queensland, Australia

Problem Statement: The Australian National Broadband Network is being developed nationally, but debate continues about its likely take-up. Its potential impact must be maximised, including the enhancement of bi- and multi-lingualism.

Research Questions: How can the NBN promote (inter)national bilingual networking and how can that networking enhance second language teaching and learning in Australia?

Purpose of Study: The study seeks to develop a conceptual, policy and practice-based framework for using the NBN to expand (inter)national bilingual networking programs in three areas of Australia. The framework is derived from the authors' research projects and scholarly literature related to bi- and multi-lingualism and national policy about broadband provision.

Research Methods: The paper presents a comparative, exploratory case study, with the three sites of NBN take-up as contextualised cases. The study integrates multiple forms of data gathering, including policy and documentary interpretation, conceptual analysis, and empirical evidence from the authors' promotion of multi-cultural and multi-lingual networking among their doctoral students within and across their respective universities.

Findings: The framework distilled from the case study presented here presents an evidence-based and theoretically informed platform for the development of dynamic and sustainable bilingual networks with national and international dimensions. The authors acknowledge several potential challenges to the application of the framework that encapsulate broader economic, political, socio-cultural and technical elements of the Australian educational landscape.

Conclusions: The framework arising from the study is useful in articulating a scenario for future Australian schooling, teacher education and community networks related to bi- and multi-lingualism. This is significant for Australia's social cohesion and for valuing diverse cultural expressions and experiences. It is also a timely identification of the capabilities needed to harness and sustain widely dispersed broadband technology.

Key Words: Australia, bilingualism, broadband, education, NBN, networking

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Text Publish Type: Publication of the paper in Procedia-Social and Behavioral

Authors Count: 2

Thematic Section: **Adult and Continuing Education**

Capacity-Building for Western Expatriate Nurses and Australian Early Career Researchers

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Problem Statement: Debate abounds about the character of adult and continuing education for professional workers in contemporary institutions. In particular, the link between capacity-building and professional learning requires ongoing scholarly attention.

Research Questions: What are the key elements of the two sites of continuing professional development and what do they mean for understanding capacity-building's contributions to that development?

Purpose of Study: The study's purpose is to distil lessons for conceptualising capacity-building from two locations of professional learning. This is based on the assumption that the provision of effective continuing professional development is neither easy nor uncontested. The onus is on providers to present evidence of effectiveness for their professional communities.

Research Methods: The paper presents a comparative, exploratory case study, with the two sites of professional development as contextualised cases. The study integrates multiple forms of data gathering, including documentary analysis, guided discussions with selected participants, and the authors' critical reflections on their own and their colleagues' experiences of professional learning and the impact of such experiences on their capacity-building outcomes.

Findings: One major finding of the case study presented here was the diversity, complexity and politicised character of the professional development opportunities and experiences provided for the Middle East expatriate western nurses and the Australian early career researchers. The second major finding was the dynamism and fluidity of the capacity-building approaches and outcomes demonstrated by both groups of professional learners.

Conclusions: The significance of the study's findings lies in identifying the challenges, opportunities, limitations and successes associated with capacity-building strategies and their influence on the outcomes of professional development for the two groups of professionals. More specifically, capacity-building emerges as a potential lynchpin for integrating formal and informal learning in professional workplaces, thereby rendering such learning more effective and sustainable.

Key Words: academics, capacity-building, learning, nurses, professionalism, researchers

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