Introduction

- Larger study
- Evidence of socialization in conversation closings
- *Livemocha* environment
Social Networks

- Construct a profile within a bounded system
- Articulate a list of other users with whom they share a connection
- Explore their list of connections and those made by others

(Boyd & Ellison, 2007)
Livemocha

- Over 9 million members
- 195 of countries
- 35 of languages

(livemocha.com, 4/2011)

- Livemocha members who submit a spoken or written language exercise receive an average of 3 reviews from native speakers.

(businesswire.com, 6/25/2009)
Communities of Practice

- Defined by membership and practices (Lave & Wenger, 1991; Wenger 1998)
- Ideal for language learners
- But - Lacks attention to social structures (Tusting, 2005)

Affinity Spaces

- Focused on spaces, not membership (Gee, 2004)
## Is Livemocha an affinity space?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Applicability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common endeavor, not race, class, gender, or disability, is primary</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newbies and masters and everyone else share common space</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some portals are strong generators</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content organization is transformed by interactional organization</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both intensive and extensive knowledge are encouraged</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both individual and distributed knowledge are encouraged</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispersed knowledge is encouraged</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacit knowledge is encouraged</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are many different forms and routes to participation</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are lots of different routes to status</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership is porous and leaders are resources</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Previous Spanish Study</th>
<th>Social Networks</th>
<th>Initial thought</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cammy</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2nd BA (Biology)</td>
<td>Radio Program Assistant</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Livemocha, Facebook, Myspace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Senior (Foreign Languages and Chemistry)</td>
<td>ER tech</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Methodology
Data Collection Procedures

11 in-class sessions in computer lab

- 6, 30-minute bi-weekly (1st semester)
- 5, 60-minute tri-weekly (2nd semester)
Description of the data

Cammy:
- 12 conversation closings analyzed
- 15 conversations total

Brandon:
- 15 conversation closings analyzed
- 22 conversations total
Methodology

Data Analysis Procedures – Conversation Analysis

- Well suited for analysis of SCMC interactions (González-Lloret, 2007)
- Approach “…singular bits of data, each in its embedded context, and seek out what – in that instance – the speaker appeared to be doing…” (Schegloff, 2007, p. 8)
## Brandon

- Friending instances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of conversation</th>
<th>Livemocha or Facebook</th>
<th>Initiator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/11/09</td>
<td>Livemocha</td>
<td>Brandon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/17/10</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>Interlocutor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/10/10</td>
<td>Livemocha</td>
<td>Interlocutor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/10</td>
<td>Livemocha</td>
<td>Interlocutor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/10</td>
<td>Livemocha</td>
<td>Brandon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/21/10</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>Interlocutor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/21/10</td>
<td>Livemocha</td>
<td>Brandon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example 1 (3/10/10 #1):

1 Brandon: disculpa me, mi amigo, debo salir | excuse me, my friend, I should go
2 Interlocutor: ok..
3 Interlocutor: entonces.. | so..
4 Interlocutor: voy agregarte en el livemocha.. | I am going to add you on livemocha..
5 Interlocutor: ok???
6 Interlocutor: hablamos otro dia! | we’ll talk another day!
7 Brandon: si, porfavor | yes, please
8 Interlocutor: chevere hablar contigo! | cool talking with you!
9 Brandon: si muy pronto.....ciao! | yes very soon.....bye!
10 Interlocutor: sii! | yes!
11 Interlocutor: ciao! | bye!
12*** Interlocutor ‘s IC window is closed
Example 2 (4/21/10 #2):

1 Brandon: oie, amigo, tengo que irme en 5 minutos.... | hey, friend, I have to leave in 5 minutes.....
2 Brandon: la classe terminando | the class is finishing
3 Interlocutor: jaja ok | haha ok
4 Interlocutor: yo tambien voy hacer otra cosa | I also am going to do something else
5 Interlocutor: despues hablamo hasta con mic if possible | after we’ll even talk with a mic if possible
6 Brandon: si, me gustaria ...¿yo puedo te añadir como amigo? | yes, I’d like to …can I add you as a friend?
7 Interlocutor: si hice lo mismo | yes I did the same
8 Interlocutor: jeje | haha
9 Brandon: ok... hasta luego | ok… see you later
10 Interlocutor: ok
11 *** Interlocutor 's IC window is closed
Example 3 (4/21/10 #1):

1  Interlocutor:  im leaving this
2  Interlocutor:  for today
3  Interlocutor:  see u in facebook
4  Brandon:  gracias! Ciao | thank you! Bye
5  Interlocutor:  ciao
6  *** Interlocutor 's IC window is closed
Results

Cammy

- Self-motivated engagement with *Livemocha*
  - 3 outside-of-class conversations

- Continued engagement in *Livemocha*
  - Sharing of the space in *Facebook*
I love, love, love LiveMocha.com! Really. If you have a certain language you want to learn, or would simply be amused picking up a few phrases in Russian and Nepali - go to this site. There's courses you can buy, but mainly it's free (and fabulous), and you can chat with international peeps if you wish:
http://www.livemocha.com/invite/r:fD9gZr91

x0

Language Learning with Livemocha | Learn a Language Online - Free!
www.livemocha.com

Livemocha is the world’s most popular language learning site. Learn online with our award winning course and practice with native speakers. Best way to learn a new language.

October 7, 2010 at 10:24pm · Unlike · Comment · Repost

You and 3 others like this.

I'm checkin it out. Hey...are you feeling better?
October 7, 2010 at 10:50pm · Like

Thanks for sharing! This looks amazing and I can't wait to try it out.
October 8, 2010 at 12:21am · Like
I just learned 40 new Norwegian (Bokmal) phrases—can you top that?

January 4 at 6:16pm via Livemocha Website · Like · Comment · Try Livemocha for Free.

👍👍👍 and 👍👍👍 like this.

👍👍👍👍 uffda!
January 4 at 6:51pm · Like

👍👍👍👍 How do you say “pass the lutefisk, please”?
January 4 at 7:50pm · Like

👍👍👍👍 nyet? nein? halt!
January 4 at 10:18pm · Like

👍👍👍👍 ja?
January 4 at 10:24pm · Like

👍👍👍👍 no thanks
January 4 at 10:26pm · Like

👍👍👍👍 I keep thinking I should use Livemocha again. Quizas puedo hablar contigo?
January 5 at 1:12pm · Like

👍👍👍👍 iPor supuesto
January 10 at 6:18am · Like

Write a comment...
Livemocha is an affinity space
There is evidence of socialization into this space
Engagement in this space extends to other spaces
Engagement in this space can lead to longer-term, self-motivated engagement
Thank you!