

Learning with Smartphones: Students' Lived Experience of Using Smartphones

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Research Rationale

**Malaysia is a
significant
context to study
the phenomenon**

**No hermeneutic
phenomenological
research in this
area**

Research

Aim

To discover from the learners' perspectives how they use mobile technologies to learn in their daily lives, and to uncover the meaning of this learning.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What does it mean to learn with smartphones?

Question 1

- What is this experience of learning with smartphones?

Question 2

- How do these students perceive the nature of their learning with smartphones?

Question 3

- Are they learning in different ways as compared with previous generations?

Mobile Learning is...

“the processes of coming to know through conversations across multiple contexts amongst people and personal interactive technologies.”

- Sharples et al., 2007

“a process of meaning making through acts of conversation on the basis of a pre-given, objectified cultural world” that is bound “by rapidly changing socio-cultural, mass communication and technological structures”.

- Pachler et al., 2010



Hermeneutic phenomenological approach
(Heidegger, 1962; Gadamer, 1998)



Research methods....Semi-structured interviews,

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Sex	Age	State/City	Education	Race	Type of SP
1. Al	M	19	Kedah	Private Tertiary College, Diploma	Eurasian	Sony Ericsson
2. Stevie	F	16	Penang	Form 4, National Secondary School	Chinese	iphone
3. Jack	M	19	Kedah	Private Tertiary College, Diploma	Malay	Nokia EG
4. Andy	M	19	Kuala Lumpur	Private University College, A Levels. Biz Degree	Chinese	iphone
5. Eng	M	18	Kuala Lumpur	Private University College, A Levels	Chinese	Sony Ericsson
6. Ben	M	17	Kuala Lumpur	Form 5, National Secondary School	Indian	HTC, iphone
7. Bloggergirl	F	16	Kuala Lumpur	Form 4, National Secondary School	Chinese	iphone
8. Mei Ling	F	18	Malacca	Form 6, National Secondary School	Chinese	Samsung
9. Eunice	F	18	Malacca	Form 6, National Secondary School	Eurasian	Samsung
10. Chuck	M	17	Penang	Form 5, , National Secondary School	Chinese	Samsung
11. Deepzter	F	19	Penang	Private Tertiary College, Diploma	Indian	HTC
12. Zeros	M	18	Penang	Private Tertiary College, Diploma	Malay	Sony Experia

Essential Meanings of Learning with Smartphones

- Learning is Different with Different Types of Learning and Different Ways of Learning
- Learning has Value: Increasing and Diminishing Value with the Sum being Greater than its Parts
- Learning is Associated with Self-Identities, Personal Communities
- Learning is influenced by Friends, Families and the Community

The Paradox of Increasing and Diminishing Value

- “I value the ability to know..like have..to have the Internet wherever I am, to learn anything every time I want, you know, so that curiosity, normally always satisfying...It allows me like before debates, if I’m nervous, if I don’t know enough, I have the ability to read, the ability to browse through ten articles or something, so I like this idea of being able to know anything I want to know at any time, ya.”

Ben, 17 yrs old, Form 5 student

- “At times, learning on the go, sometimes you want answers to certain questions, it just is like wanting to know the answers for the sake of knowing the answers and nothing else... So certain things ..you tend to forget the answers and you’ve solved whatever you want to solve.....”
- “...when you look at it, it actually..everyone is self learning and all that, but the general knowledge of certain youngsters today is very, very low and I feel maybe, it’s because of this. Because they are being spoon fed with everything on the Internet. And they’re not street smart. Their general knowledge is quite low, which is a very bad thing”.

Deeptzer, 19 years old, private college student

Dictionary App

- “Just one type. There’s a free application. Individually you can download from this app what dictionary I want.
- I feel okay lah. Sometimes when my friends talking, I don’t know what they’re saying, it’s ok to find the word and try to understand what they’re saying. Sometimes they may be talking to us in Chinese. So, I try to understand.
- I think what goes on in my mind is that a little bit of hard as I have to learn many languages. My friends like to speak in Chinese and then I have to learn French in my Culinary Arts and English, I can also understand but sometimes there’s a word, I don’t understand, so I search for it.
- Learning French words, like I’m learning Culinary, so a lot of French terms and I have to learn it. Um, I feel happy because I know a lot of terms and their names. This can improve me in my tests, in mid terms come out.”

- Zerros, 18 year old, private college student

Learning and My Selves

“..you can go to a person’s Facebook page, and Twitter page, and you can find that there are an entirely different person on each. On Facebook there are cheerful and all that. But on Twitter they post things like, “I am facing depression”. Facebook is how you want people to see you. Twitter is who you really are. Because Facebook is too public, errm there is also the question of ‘face’, on Facebook there is the unconscious part where we don’t want people to judge us, and in Twitter it’s more like a personal group.”

Stevie, 16 years old, Form 4 student

“My wife. Well...girlfriend, you can switch and you can have a lot. This...I...I don’t think I’m going to part ways with it (smartphone). And besides I use it way too often and it’s always there for me. It helps me through a lot of things. What wives or husbands do... I can say I’m married to it.”

Chuck, 17 years old, Form 5 student

This is My Learning, Not Yours

- When you use a smartphone, you'll be more independent and you..would have ways of learning things even faster cause when you search for things you want to know...for once you've read, you..it actually sticks in your mind. When people say to you something, you won't really get caught in your mind. But when you read something and search for it, you really know the effort you use. It makes you learn better.”

AI, 19 years old, private college student

- “I go to school because I have to, but I don't really learn that much. As much as they want children to learn...It's very much forcing information into your brain. Especially in Malaysia
- where they try... exam orientation.... their learning is sort of put on to you and you are obliged to do it. Not because you want to do it. As opposed to subconscious learning or learning by yourself, then you sort of have the passion or the initiative to do it yourself.”

Bloggergirl, 16 yrs old, Form 4 student

Thank you.

Any Questions?

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