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twitter in a Spanish Conversation Course (And Maybe in Yours)

Pilar Munday
Sacred Heart University

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twitter

IN A SPANISH CONVERSATION COURSE
(AND MAYBE IN YOURS)

By Prof. Pilar Munday,
College of Arts and Sciences

But first, some important notions

A Tweet is a 140-character message posted via Twitter

A Retweet is someone else's Tweet that you chose to share with all of your followers

You follow people to read their tweets

People follow you to read your tweets

The # symbol, called a hashtag, is used to mark keywords or topics in a Tweet

For example



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For example



The image shows a screenshot of three tweets from Barack Obama (@BarackObama). Each tweet includes a profile picture of Obama, his name and handle, the time since posted, the text of the tweet, and an 'Expand' link. The tweets are as follows:

- Barack Obama @BarackObama** 2h
"That vote could take place today. The shutdown would be over."
—President Obama [OFA.BO/FTLirH](#) cc [@SpeakerBoehner](#)
Expand
- Barack Obama @BarackObama** 3h
It's time [@SpeakerBoehner](#) ended this shutdown. Tell him to
[#JustVote: OFA.BO/NqxoJn](#)
Expand
- Barack Obama @BarackObama** 5h
"It hurts our credibility around the world. It makes us look like we
don't have our act together." —President Obama on the [#shutdown](#)
Expand



What are students required to do?

Follow each other in the class & four native speakers from Spain

Follow famous people or institutions (that they choose)



What are students required to do?

Write ten tweets per week



What are students required to do?

Write ten tweets per week



Include one Re-Tweet



What are students required to do?

Write ten tweets per week



Include one Re-Tweet



Have a “conversation”



How is it used?

To practice vocabulary (in class and outside)


To read native speakers' Tweets

To observe culture in action through Twitter's "trending topics" and popular hashtags

United States Trends · [Change](#)

- #LGG2  Promoted
- Texas
- #Halloween
- #Flyers
- Congress
- Romo
- #Obamacare
- #SingleBecause
- #shutdown
- New York

Tendencias: México · [Cambiar](#)

- #LGG2  Promocionado
- #Puebla
- #AunqueTeDuela
- #heartbreaker
- #iHeartARTPOP
- #Entérate
- Buen Lunes
- Belisario Domínguez
- Senado
- Peña Nieto



How is it used?

But also:

To ask questions about the class

To collaborate

To keep practicing Spanish in an easy way



How can you use it in your class?

Create a hashtag for your class

Ask students to tweet interesting links

Use Twitter as a backchannel during your lectures



Example

Professor Jason Farman's course

American Studies 260:

American Culture in the Information Age

University of Maryland, College Park

Hashtag: **#amst260**

Students have to tweet DURING lectures.



Alex Rifkin @riffycan

We perform different selves based on our cultural environment. That doesn't mean that we change who we are. #amst260

Expand

30 Sep



Matthew Beinart @mattbeinart

sites like tumblr warn users against allowing anonymous questions on their site, for the purpose of avoiding harsh comments #amst260

Expand

30 Sep



Grace Jones @terpgirlAMST

#amst260 This is actually really interesting but also little bit frightening. blogs.wsj.com/digits/2013/09...

Hide summary

Reply Retweet Favorite

WSJ Wall Street Journal

Facebook Woos TV Networks With Data - Digits - WSJ

Facebook says it will begin sending weekly reports to America's largest television networks, offering a glimpse of how much their shows are generating on the social network.



Ben Wright @Wrighty_Bulger

#Amst260 getting a Facebook was like a right of passage in the transition from middle school to high school

from College Park, MD

2 Oct



Alice Mercer @aliceNwondrInd3

I can't believe how much the MySpace website has changed since the last time I've been on it. #amst260

2 Oct

Expand



Dez Wells @Dez32Wells

The idea of Facebook being exclusive to only invite and college only at the start was genius by Mark Zuckerberg #amst260

2 Oct

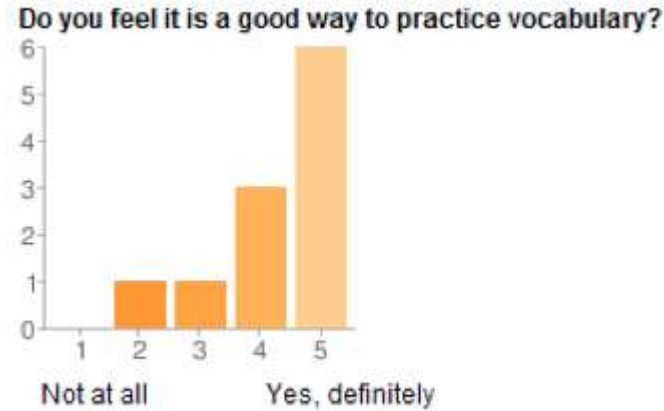
Expand



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What did my students think of Twitter?

Why?

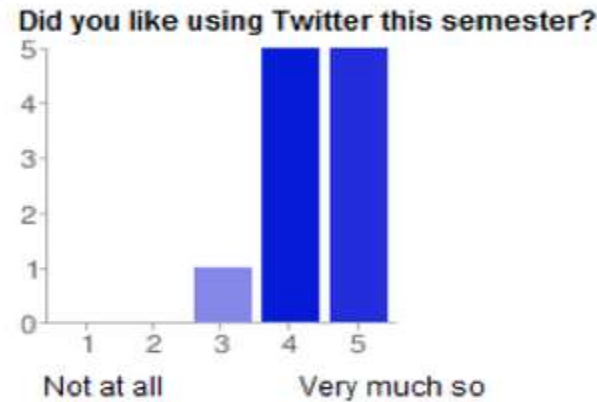


Because **just memorizing words isn't enough**, applying them to real parts of your day helps the words to stick in your head forever, not just for a quiz.

Twitter is something that **relates to our life** since it is similar to other **social networking sites** and it was **easy** to use.

I was able to see the different ways vocabulary words were used and **seeing it from someone else's perspective** and not just mine was very helpful.

What did my students think of Twitter?



Why?

I liked twitter because it allows you to **incorporate Spanish in your every day life**. It is easy to manage and really does help with your Spanish and using the vocabulary from the class.

I like it because it was a way to **continue thinking in spanish** outside of the classroom. Instead of only talking in spanish for 2 1/2 hours a day, it was continued throughout the week

I enjoyed Twitter because it was an **easy way to contact** my classmates and the professor. It also allowed me to practice my Spanish outside of the classroom and with my classmates. Twitter was also easy to use and I **recommend it for other Spanish classes** or just regular classes so that they can contact one another.

Shelter the homeless

¡¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!!



La profesora Munday
@SPCONV



Pilar Munday
@mundaysa



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Ransom the captive

Bury the dead